Country to Country

Students will develop a timeline for events in their country and another country over the last 200 years and then compare/contrast the timelines to recognize possible relationships between the events in each country.

Grade Level: 9 - 11th
Subject: Social Studies
Length of Time: About 45 - 60 Minutes

Objectives & Outcomes
The students will be able to research events and create a timeline for two countries, compare/contrast and recognize possible cause and effect relationships across countries.

Materials Needed
- paper for creating timelines, colored pencils, access to Internet or other resources, notebook paper
- Prepare ahead of time: A mini-timeline of two countries with two or three related or random events for display.

Procedure

Opening to Lesson
- Ask the question: If a country votes to change the drinking age from 18 to 21, will the decision affect other countries?
- Allow responses but encourage students to back up statements

Body of Lesson
Modeling
- Display mini-timeline
- Ask students if there are any connections across the events shown. Is there a cause/effect relationship, a residual effect, etc.

Guided Practice
- Distribute supplies to the students
- Instruct students they are to research events in their country and plot them on a timeline showing highlights of each event
- Once completed, research events in a second country and plot those on a second timeline showing highlights of each event
- Students are to then compare the two timelines and identify relationships between
plotted events
• Students will write a short explanation of how or why they believe some of the events are connected
• They will research the events they feel may be connected and locate more information to either back up or refute their explanations
• Allow some of the students to present their findings to the class

Independent Practice
• The teacher will assign two random countries for students to research on the own. They will focus on related events and the connection between each country, reporting the results and then turning it in for assessment.

Closing
Ask the opening question again: If a country votes to change the drinking age from 18 to 21, will the decision affect other countries? Allow for more detailed responses.

Assessment & Evaluation
The teacher will review the timelines for accuracy and understanding. Assign students one or two more counties for study.

Modification & Differentiation
Students may work in pairs. Students exchange completed timelines and compare/contrast relationships between two randomly chosen countries. Increase/decrease number of years on the timeline. Limit or set a specific number of events which must be documented.

Related Lesson Plans

President vs. President
Each student will research a past deceased president, review their life, speeches, quotes, term in office, etc., and use it to run for President versus another past President.

Music and History
Students will cooperatively research music from the past 5 or 10 decades and compare and contrast the lyrics with historical events/culture of the decade, answering the question: How does/did history affect music and lyrics?

Mini Debates
Each student will be assigned, or may choose, an historical figure to research, selecting a speech given by the figure, and then write a rebuttal challenging some of its content backed by facts.
Presidential Politics

Students will research a past president’s opinions, promises and goals discussed prior to their election and compare/contrast them during their years in office.