

# At Home and Abroad

## Learning about U.S. domestic and foreign policy

**Benchmark:** SS.7.C.4.1 Differentiate concepts related to U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

### Clarifications/Objectives:

- Students will recognize the difference between domestic and foreign policy.
- Students will identify issues that relate to U.S. domestic and foreign policy.
- Students will analyze the domestic implications of U.S. domestic and foreign policy.
- Students will identify the goals and objectives of U.S. domestic and foreign policy.
- Students will recognize the role of the U.S. State Department in foreign affairs.

**Content focus:** alliances, allies, ambassadors, diplomacy, diplomats, doctrine, domestic affairs, embassies, foreign affairs, international relations, Secretary of State, and treaty.

**Time:** One class period; additional time as needed if electing to include extension activities

### Materials:

- At Home and Abroad PowerPoint
- Handout A: Note Taker
- Handout B: F & D for review activity
- Access to computers/tablets

### Lesson Preparation

- Review all handouts and PowerPoints
- Print and review the PowerPoint in “notes view”. The PowerPoint includes notes to guide the lesson.

## Lesson Overview

**Begin with the At Home and Abroad PowerPoint.** Slide 2 will provide students with two fictional newspaper headlines (see below). Ask students to identify the differences between the two headlines. Notes have been included below each headline.

*Headline 1: Congress passes bill to support newly arrived immigrants in the United States*

Primary emphasis: This headline addresses a policy issue *within* the United States. Students may also identify that this is a policy of the legislative branch.

*Headline 2: President issues executive order restoring relations with formerly communist nation*

Primary emphasis: This headline addresses a policy issue *between* countries. Students may also identify that this is a policy of the executive branch.

**Distribute Handout A: Here and There Note Taker.** Continue with the PowerPoint. Students should complete Handout A as the PowerPoint progresses by filling in definitions and other notes. The PowerPoint will define domestic policy, outline the goals and objectives of domestic policy, and identify those responsible for making and carrying out domestic policy in the United States. Encourage students to think

through some examples of domestic policy issues with which they are familiar. Discussion points are provided in the notes of the PowerPoint presentation.

**Continue with the PowerPoint.** The following slides will define foreign policy and international relations, identify key foreign policy issues, outline the goals and objectives of foreign policy, and discuss the role of the Department of State and its employees.

**Divide the class into small groups of 4-5 students.** Provide each group a copy of Handout B: D & F. Either pre-cut the sheet or have students cut/tear the sheet in half. Tell students that they will see a news article appear on the screen. Students will need to work in their small group to identify if the news article addresses issues related to domestic or foreign policy/issues. For each article, they should hold up either the D or the F to show their answer. Following each news article, debrief with the students to analyze the implication of the domestic or foreign policy and how it relates to either domestic or foreign policy goals/objectives.

**Students will now conduct a news research activity.** Working in their small groups, have students find one news article that reflects each of the domestic and foreign policy goals they have written down on Handout A. Students can either print the article or summarize the article on their handout to read to the class.

**Check for Understanding** The final slide will include a question from the End of Course Exam Item Specifications book. Have the students independently write down their answer and ask students to explain how they made their decision.

### **Lesson Extension**

On the FLREA curriculum wheel, use the Discovering Diplomacy lesson to reinforce the concepts found in Benchmark 4.1. This lesson takes students on a Web Quest of the U.S. Department of State's Discovering Diplomacy website where they will provide answers and illustrations to key questions, resulting in a children's book about diplomacy.

As a further extension, students will "Take a Trip" where they will explore the State Department's website to learn about traveling to a foreign country (description of the country, embassy location(s), entry and exit requirements, etc.).

**Also see: iCivics lesson [Foreign Policy: War & Peace and Everything in Between](#)**

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**Directions:** Fill in the chart below as the PowerPoint progresses.

<b>At Home</b>	
<b>Domestic policy/affairs</b>	<b>Definition:</b>  <b>Examples:</b>
<b>Goals and objectives of domestic policy:</b>	<b>Examples:</b>
	<b>Examples:</b>
	<b>Examples:</b>
<b>Who creates and implements public policy within the United States?</b>	
<b>Other Notes:</b>	

<h1>Abroad</h1>	
<b>Foreign policy/affairs</b>  <b>Examples:</b>	<b>Definition:</b>  <b>International relations:</b>
<b>Goals and objectives of foreign policy:</b>	
<b>What agency primarily handles the foreign affairs of the United States?</b>  _____  _____	<b>Mission Statement</b>
	<b>Leader and role</b>
<b>Diplomat</b>	<b>Definition:</b>
<b>Ambassador</b>	<b>Definition:</b>
<b>What is diplomacy?</b>	
<b>Alliance</b>	<b>Definition:</b>
<b>Allies</b>	<b>Definition:</b>
<b>Treaty</b>	<b>Definition:</b>
<b>Doctrine</b>	<b>Definition:</b>
<b>Embassy</b>	<b>Definition:</b>

**D**

**F**

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<b>At Home</b>	
<b>Domestic policy/affairs</b>	<p><b>Definition:</b> The set of decisions that a government makes relating to things that directly affect the people in its own country</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Laws, policies, and actions</p>
<p><b>Goals and objectives of domestic policy:</b></p> <p><b>Protect and help people within the United States</b></p>	<p>Security</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Homeland security efforts, military/law enforcement, border security, efforts to prevent domestic terrorism, etc. <i>more examples possible after discussion</i></p>
	<p>Health</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Creating programs, Healthcare programs (Medicare/Medicaid), funding research programs, providing health guidelines (nutritional labeling, consumer safety measures), <i>more examples possible after discussion</i></p>
	<p>Well-being/prosperity</p> <p><b>Examples:</b> Public education, education loans, home loans/housing, federal subsidies for critical resources (like farms yielding crops for food production), <i>more examples possible after discussion</i></p>
<p><b>Who creates and implements public policy within the United States?</b></p>	<p>Legislative branch makes laws and policies on the local, state, and federal level</p>
	<p>Executive branch enforces laws and policies on the local, state, and federal level. This includes government agencies like the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services</p>
<p><b>Other Notes:</b></p>	

<h1>Abroad</h1>	
<p><b>Foreign policy/affairs</b></p> <p><b>Examples:</b> See slide 7</p>	<p><b>Definition:</b> A government’s strategy in interacting with other nations of the world</p> <p><b>International relations:</b> study of the behavior that occurs across the boundaries of countries, interactions between countries, and the institutions that oversee the interactions</p>
<p><b>Goals and objectives of foreign policy:</b></p>	Protect the United States and Americans
	Advance democracy, human rights, and other global interests
	Promote international understanding of American values and policies
	Support U.S. diplomats, government officials, and all other personnel at home and abroad who make these goals a reality
<p><b>What agency primarily handles the foreign affairs of the United States?</b></p> <p><u>The Department of State</u></p>	<p><b>Mission Statement</b> Create a more secure, democratic, and prosperous work for the benefit of the American people and the international community</p> <p><b>Leader and role</b> Secretary of State; responsible for managing the Department of State</p>
<b>Diplomat</b>	<b>Definition:</b> A person who works to negotiate and maintain relations between nations
<b>Ambassador</b>	<b>Definition:</b> The chief of a diplomatic mission; representative of a country to a country where s/he is appointed
<b>What is diplomacy?</b>	The practice of negotiating and maintaining relations between nations
<b>Alliance</b>	<b>Definition:</b> a relationship in which countries agree to work together
<b>Allies</b>	<b>Definition:</b> Countries that form alliances are known as allies.
<b>Treaty</b>	<b>Definition:</b> An official agreement between countries
<b>Doctrine</b>	<b>Definition:</b> A statement of government policy in international relations
<b>Embassy</b>	<b>Definition:</b> the diplomatic group from one country to another. It is the office of the ambassador to that country and their diplomatic staff.