



RESEARCH PATHFINDER ON TEENAGERS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

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Audience: 9th graders/English
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TOPIC OVERVIEW: Complain, complain, complain. We are very good at complaining! School is too boring. Parents are so mean. We can't do anything. There is nothing to do in Frederick. Why do we have to do this?

But how often do we stop and think about how life is for other people in other parts of the world? How much do we know about people, especially young people, from different places? How much do we even know about some of the people sitting in this classroom who are from other countries? Our world is getting smaller because we have more access to people from many different places, but are we making ourselves more aware of the different cultures and customs?

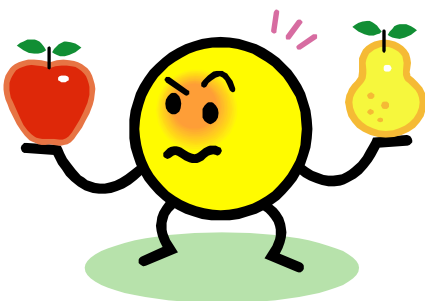


GOALS: This pathfinder will help you broaden your understanding about young people from different countries while reinforcing critical literacy skills.

QUICK OVERVIEW

- Collect information about the young people from at least three other countries.
- Consider their education, ways of living, diet, entertainment, homes, family structure, etc.
- Then compare this data with our way of life here.
- After gathering your evidence, draw (make) conclusions about the strengths and weaknesses of our culture compared to other culture.

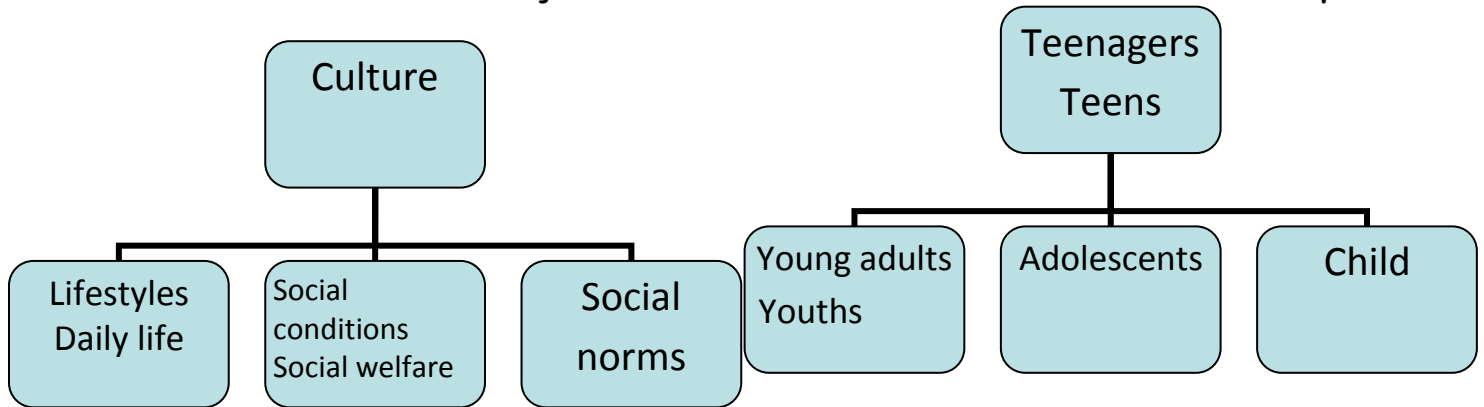
9TH GRADE ENGLISH OBJECTIVES/INDICATORS:



- Summarize, compare, contrast, and synthesize significant ideas in a text. LA.E09.10.03a
- Summarize or synthesize significant ideas across texts and draw conclusions based on the information in more than one text. LA.E09.10.03b
- Draw conclusions based upon information from the text. LA.E.9.10.03c
- The skills we are practicing here also fall under our reading as a process unit and will be helpful for our future research project!

HELPFUL SEARCH TERMS AND KEYWORDS:

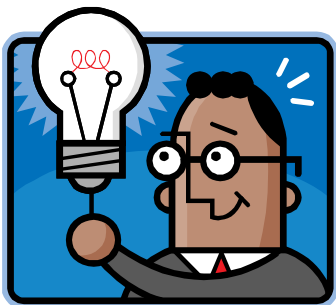
1. First, it may help if you preselect three very different countries and focus on them. For example, perhaps you would like to examine how young people live in Nicaragua, Germany and Thailand. You want to pick very different places in different countries.
2. Then think about all the many different words that could be connected to the topic.



You could also include the name of the country and words like: Education, Poverty, Social Norms, Health and Welfare, Human Rights

If you are physically wandering around the library in hopes that perhaps you may just stumble over a resource or two, you may want to visit these areas:

- Social Sciences: world cultures, issues, etc. in the 300s.
- Geography and History: actual countries, etc. in the 900s.



A wiser choice would be to visit one of the computers and click on the OPAC folder, which allows you to search the materials that are in our library and other FCPS libraries. You can also access the FCPS library OPAC on-line at the [FCPS Research Portal Page](#). This page contains access to not only our library, but other valuable resources, databases, links, etc.

CHECK THIS OUT:

There is a series of books that examine the culture, social norms, lifestyles, history, etc. They are called *Culture and Customs of _____* (name of the country). They should be found in the 940s and higher. Each one has a different author. Try looking them up on OPAC.

OTHER NONFICTION RESOURCES:

Burns, Kate. *The American Teenager*. Greenhaven Press: San Diego, 2003.

[Dewey: 305.235 AME. ISBN: 0737714662]

Examines the lives of American teenagers throughout history.

Brigham Young University. *CultureGrams : the nations around us*. Millennial Star Network, 2001.

[Dewey: 390 CUL ISBN: 0894344226]

Information is arranged alphabetically and covers geography, history, culture, economy and social conditions. By examining the culture and social conditions, you may be able to draw some compulsions about the quality of life.



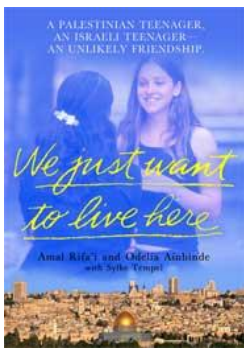
CQ Researcher on teens in America. CQ Press: Washington D.C., 2001.

[Dewey: 305.235 CQ ISBN: 1568026285]

Lord, Richard. *Culture Shock!* Graphic Arts Center; Portland, Or., 2004.

[Dewey: 390 LOR. ISBN: 1558687564]

Provides insight about the culture and customs of Germany, including the social norms, how to people act, etc.



Rifa'i, Amal. *We just want to live here : a Palestinian teenager, an Israeli teenager-- an unlikely friendship* / Amal Rifa'i and Odelia Ainbinder with Sylke Tempel. St. Martin's Griffin: New York , 2003.

[ISBN: 0312318944]

Letters exchanged between two young women living in Jerusalem--Palestinian Amal Rifa'i and Israeli Odelia Ainbinder--in which they discuss their hopes for the future, and share their feelings about the conflict between the Arabs and the Jews.

Tremblay, Helene. *Gerardo's story: a family in Mexico*. Peguis Publishers: Manitoba, 1997.

[Dewey: 972.08 TRE ISBN1894110269]

Gerardo Garcias Hernandez describes his life in the small village of Tancuilin in the mountains of central Mexico where he lives with his parents and his five brothers and sisters.

DATABASES:

(For remote access, you will need passwords from the media specialist. The main databases included here are Facts on File, Issues and Controversies on File, SIRS Researcher. Try putting in the phrase: "Human rights.")

"Child Labor." Encyclopedia. Reproduced in Issues & Controversies. Facts On File News Services. 29 June 2009 <<http://www.2facts.com>>.



Holmes, John. "Losing 25,000 to Hunger Every Day." *UN Chronicle (U.N. Dept. of Public Information) Vol.45 No.2/3* 2008: 14-20. *SIRS Researcher*. Web. 02 July, 2009.

"Treaty for the Rights of Women." Issues & Controversies On File 11 Oct. 2002. Issues & Controversies. Facts On File News Services. 27 June 2009 <<http://www.2facts.com>>.

Trudeau, Alexandre. "The Worst Place on Earth'." *Maclean's* Sept. 8, 2003: 46+. *SIRS Researcher*.

Web. 27 July, 2009.

Ward, Olivia. "Lament for Africa, a Continent in Pain." *Toronto Star (Toronto, Canada)* Dec 14, 2008: A.12. *SIRS Researcher*. Web. 01 July, 2009.

"Wealth, Poverty and Life Expectancy (sidebar)." Issues & Controversies On File 21 July 2006. Issues & Controversies. Facts On File News Services. 28 June 2009 <<http://www.2facts.com>>.

WEBSITES:

[Africa for Kids](http://pbskids.org/africa/myworld/index.html). An interactive website with photos written in a diary-like format from the point of view of a young man in Africa. <http://pbskids.org/africa/myworld/index.html>

[Life in Different Countries](http://www.angloinfo.com/). This provides a general overview of what to expect in other countries, including social customs. <http://www.angloinfo.com/>

[Education in other countries.](#) The UN Literacy Decade.
http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/literacy2003/slide1_a.asp

[My life in Mexico.](#) TIME for Kids profile of a student in Mexico. There are several articles by TIME for Kids that profile students in different countries. Materials is a little basic.
<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/specials/articles/0,6709,176453,00.html>



[Number of years kids must go to school in other countries.](#) This is a pdf document from TIME for Kids.
<http://www.timeforkids.com/TFK/media/teachers/pdfs/2001F/011102WR1.pdf>

[Younger kids and what they do.](#) This site covers a lot of the activities kids do, and includes pictures. Information is grouped by categories, which makes it easy to compare. This is an easy-to-read website.
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/kidsweb/wakeup/index.htm>

FICTIONAL STORIES:

[Stories about Teens in Other Cultures.](#) For enrichment or extension purposes, you may want to visit this site by clicking on the title and finding a fiction text to read more about teens in other cultures.
(<http://sfpl.lib.ca.us/sfplonline/teen/booklists/internationalnew.htm>)

VIDEOS/DVDS/PODCASTS:

Israel. National Geographic, 1995. VID 956.94 ISR

This VHS video covers the life of 12-year-old Naama Greenfield and her family, telling us about her family life as well as Jerusalem's history.

Japan. National Geographic, 1987. VID 952 JAP

This VHS video follows the life of a 12-year-old boy while introducing us to his culture and customs in Japan.

OTHER MEDIA:

[Photographs of teenagers.](#) General photographs of teenagers can be found on corbis.com. Just type in the keyword "teenager" in the search box. By moving your cursor over the picture, a data box will come up with information about the photo.



(<http://pro.corbis.com>)

WISHFUL THINKING:

These are resources that I think would be helpful, but we don't have them . . . yet!

It would be great if our media center had the series *Global Connections* because these books seem to be targeted directly at young people. There is a teenager narrator who describes daily life. [ISBN: 0-7565-3969-2]

Another series that seems worthy of investigation is *Teen Life around the World*, produced by Greenwood Press. This exclusively covers how teens live in many different parts of the world. Each book covers a particular country. For example, one is titled, *Teen Life in the Middle East*.

Also, if you come across a great resource, please tell someone! Tell your teacher or tell me! We are always on the hunt for new, interesting texts, videos, etc.