

Overview

Students will apply the concepts about interstate war discussed in World101 to current events.

Length

One classes.

Materials

- [What Is Interstate Conflict?](#) (World101)
- A physical newspaper or news website that has good international coverage such as *the New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, or NPR (World101)

Instructional Plan

1. Have students read “What Is Interstate Conflict?” noting in particular the eight forms interstate conflict can take.
2. If using a physical newspaper, spread it out on the walls or tables of the classroom. If using a website, print it, project it, or share it in a collaborative space, such as by making a PDF of the site and sharing it in Google Drive.
3. Have students use Post-it notes, the commenting function in Google Docs, or a similar tool to label each story that describes an interstate conflict, indicating what form or forms of conflict are involved.
4. Discuss with students: Do patterns emerge? Which forms of conflict seem most prevalent? Do you see evidence that violent conflict is uncommon?

Extension

This exercise can be repeated several times over the course of the year to examine trends over time. It could also be adapted to use historical as well as present-day newspapers to look at change over time in the nature of conflict.