

01

INVESTIGATE

02

EMPATHIZE

03

ADVOCATE

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING UNIT

Global *Citizenship*

A 3-Week Action Plan for Real-World Changemakers

- **3-Week Pacing Guide** with daily lessons & differentiation tips
- **Student Templates** for research, action planning & reflection
- **Teacher Toolkit** with parent letter, glossary & digital tools
- **4 Global Challenge Briefs** — Climate, Poverty, Conflict, Education
- **Standards-Aligned Rubric** with peer feedback forms
- **Extension Activities** & community showcase guide

GLOBAL CHALLENGES EXPLORED

Climate

Poverty

Conflict

Education

RECOMMENDED GRADE BAND

GRADES 6 – 9

NAVIGATION

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☐ Confirm presentation-day logistics (audience, room setup, timing) before Week 3

PACING

3-Week Project Pacing Guide

This pacing guide is engineered for **45–60 minute class periods** across 15 instructional days. Each day identifies the lesson focus, the core activity, materials needed, a differentiation tip, and an assessment checkpoint. Treat this as a flexible blueprint — if your class periods are shorter, spread Day 1–2 across two days; if you have block scheduling, combine pairs of days into single sessions. The arc matters more than the exact daily boundaries.

Week 1 — Investigate & Empathize

DAYS 1–5

DAY 1

Launch & Challenge Selection

Introduce the Driving Question and the four Global Challenges (Climate, Poverty, Conflict, Education). Read the Challenge Briefs together. Students rank their top two challenge preferences.

MATERIALS

Challenge Briefs (Sec. 18–21), projector

DIFF TIP

Assign challenges by preference, balancing groups

DAY 2

Defining the Scope & Question Building

Students narrow from a broad challenge to a specific country or regional focus. Generate "I wonder..." questions to drive research. Distribute the Research Template.

MATERIALS

Research Template (Sec. 11), question stems

DIFF TIP

Provide question stems for ELLs

DAY 3

Research Day 1 — Credible Sources

Model evaluating one source using the Credible Research Resource List (Sec. 10). Students begin independent research, focusing on the 5 Ws and root causes.

MATERIALS

Devices, Resource List (Sec. 10)

CHECKPOINT

Source Tracker spot-check

DAY 4

Research Day 2 — Going Deeper

Continue research with a focus on human impact. Find at least one personal story or case study. Students should complete Sections 1–5 of the Research Template.

MATERIALS

Devices, Research Template

DIFF TIP

Gifted: add a comparative country

Conflict & Human Rights

- **UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)** — [unhcr.org](https://www.unhcr.org)
Best for: data on displaced populations and refugee stories
- **Amnesty International** — [amnesty.org](https://www.amnesty.org)
Best for: human rights reports organized by country and issue
- **Doctors Without Borders** — doctorswithoutborders.org
Best for: the impact of conflict on health access and humanitarian response

SOURCE CREDIBILITY CHECKLIST

Teach students to ask three questions of every source: **Who?** (Is this an organization with expertise and reputation?) **Why?** (What is the purpose — to inform, persuade, or sell?) **When?** (Is the data recent enough to be relevant?) Source credibility is a skill, not a rule — practice it out loud with students.

STUDENT TEMPLATE

Country & Issue Research Template

Name: _____ • Date: _____ • Challenge Focus: _____

Use this template to guide your research. Look for credible data and real human stories to understand the depth of your global challenge. Complete each section in full sentences — this template becomes the evidence base for your final presentation, so invest in it carefully.

ASSESSMENT

Project Presentation Rubric

This rubric is used to score the final presentation, but it should be shared with students at the start of the unit so they understand what excellence looks like. Encourage students to self-assess with this rubric before presenting — the conversation about the gap between self-score and teacher-score is where the deepest learning happens.

Criteria	4 — Global Advocate	3 — Aware Citizen	2 — Developing	1 — Novice
Research & Content	Uses deep, credible data; thoroughly explains multiple root causes of the issue with specific evidence.	Uses good data; identifies at least one root cause of the issue with supporting evidence.	Uses basic or vague data; struggles to explain why the issue exists.	Lacks credible data; does not explain the root causes of the issue.
Empathy & Perspective	Deeply connects the issue to human impact; tells a compelling real-person story that grounds the data.	Clearly acknowledges the human impact of the issue with a specific example.	Mentions people affected, but lacks depth or emotional connection.	Focuses only on facts; ignores the human element entirely.
Action Plan Feasibility	Highly realistic, detailed steps; includes a clear, measurable way to measure success.	Mostly realistic plan with logical steps and a basic success metric.	Vague or overly ambitious steps; hard to actually complete.	No clear plan, or plan is impossible to execute.
Presentation & Delivery	Clear, loud voice; excellent eye contact; engaging and professional visuals that support the message.	Clear voice; good eye contact; neat visuals that communicate the main ideas.	Sometimes hard to hear; reads mostly from notes; messy visuals.	Mumbles, no eye contact, or missing visuals entirely.

Teacher Comments

Specific feedback celebrating strengths and naming one growth area

Student Self-Score

Which level do you think you reached? Why?

GLOBAL CHALLENGE BRIEF 01

Climate Change



SDG 13 — CLIMATE ACTION

Climate Change

OVERVIEW

Climate change refers to long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. While some changes are natural, since the 1800s, human activities — like burning fossil fuels — have been the main driver, releasing greenhouse gases that trap heat in our atmosphere. The result is a warming planet with cascading effects on every ecosystem and community on Earth.

KEY FACTS TO CONSIDER

- **Rising Temperatures:** The Earth's average temperature has risen by over 1°C since the pre-industrial era, with the last decade being the warmest on record.
- **Extreme Weather:** Climate change causes more frequent and intense hurricanes, droughts, floods, and wildfires worldwide.
- **Ice & Oceans:** Polar ice caps are melting, causing sea levels to rise and threatening coastal communities with flooding and displacement.
- **Biodiversity Loss:** Many plant and animal species cannot adapt fast enough to changing habitats, leading to extinction rates 100–1000 times higher than natural background rates.

WHY IT MATTERS — THE HUMAN ELEMENT

Climate change doesn't just affect the weather; it affects people's lives. Farmers lose crops to drought, families lose homes to floods, and children face health risks from extreme heat. The people who contribute the least to climate change — those in low-income countries — often suffer the most. Climate justice is therefore inseparable from broader questions of equity and human rights.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does climate change in another part of the world eventually affect your own community?
2. Whose responsibility is it to act — governments, corporations, individuals, or all three? Why?
3. What is one realistic action a young person could take to address climate change locally?

UM

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PAGES

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SECTIONS

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CHALLENGES

EVERYTHING INCLUDED IN THE FULL BUNDLE

PART 1 — TEACHER TOOLKIT

- Welcome Letter • Unit Overview • Standards Alignment
- Materials Checklist • 3-Week Pacing Guide
- Differentiation Strategies • Assessment & Grading Guide

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- Empathy Mapping Worksheet • Action Plan Design Packet
- Action Steps Tracker • Presentation Rubric
- Peer Feedback Form • Reflection Journal

PART 3 — GLOBAL CHALLENGE BRIEFS

- Climate Change • Poverty • Conflict & Peace • Education
- Each with key facts, human impact & discussion questions

PART 4 — EXTENSION & SUPPORT

- Glossary • Extension Activities • Parent Letter
- Digital Tools Guide • Celebration & Showcase Guide

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