

LESSON NOTES

SCHOOL: SUVA SANGAM COLLEGE

YEAR/LEVEL: YEAR 12

SUBJECT: HISTORY

STRAND	DIPLOMACY AND FIJI
SUB STRAND	FIJI AND THE PACIFIC REGION
CONTENT LEARNING OUTCOME	Explore and express relationship between people and events in relations to their culture, resources and environment and apply their knowledge and skills to become responsible and productive citizen

WEEK 1: MONDAY 05/07/21- FRIDAY 09/07/21

ACHIEVEMENT INDICATOR:

At the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Fijis trade relationship with regional PIC's.
- Challengers encountered by regional nations
- Diplomatic relations between Fiji and other countries.

LESSON NOTES

UNIT 1: FIJI AND THE REGION

Introduction – Fiji's relationship with the world

- Super-powers from Asia, America and Europe,
 - Large neighbours such as Australia and New Zealand,
 - Thirteen other large and small neighbouring nations in the Pacific.
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- Fiji also has to deal with giant corporations and international organizations that cross the whole globe
 - Fiji's relationship with other nations, nearby and faraway, and with international organizations is managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
 - The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also manages Fiji's signatory role (meaning to sign and agree to a treaty) in many international laws, treaties and conventions.

- For example, in 2013, Levuka became a World Heritage site so the Fiji government is now responsible to maintain the site according to World Heritage rules.
- Fiji is also a signatory nation to the International Law of the Sea, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Pacific Plan and the UN's Millennium Development Goals and others.
- Fiji is also a member of two very important regional organizations – the Pacific Forum, and the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG).
- Fiji does not share a land border with any other nation.
- One small incident did occur in 1972 when Tonga was given sovereignty over Minerva reefs, half way between Tonga and Fiji. In 2005, Fiji complained to international organizations about ownership of the waters around Minerva. In 2010 and 2011, the Fijian Navy destroyed navigation equipment installed on Minerva reef by Tonga. As Fiji is surrounded by ocean it has borders with Tonga, Wallis and Futuna, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, and New Zealand.
- Nations always act “in the national interest”, meaning they try to create relationships with other nations that are friendly and beneficial to each other, to the world generally, but primarily to themselves – in Fiji's interest!!!
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation is the ministry responsible for handling the Republic of Fiji's external relations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RESOURCE

<https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/fiji.htm#:~:text=It%20covers%20about%201.3%20million,economies%20of%20the%20Pacific%20islands.>

LESSON ACTIVITY

BASED ON THE READING (a) AND (b)

1. For each location identify the region (Asia, Africa, Europe, Middle East, or Melanesia)

Golan Heights _____

Nepal _____

New Caledonia _____

Egypt _____

Solomon Islands _____

West Papua _____

2. What do these acronyms mean?

MSG _____

UNDOF _____

FLNKS _____

3. What is the main purpose of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

WEEK 2: MONDAY 12/07/21- FRIDAY 16/07/21

ACHIEVEMENT INDICATOR:

At the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Describe the role played by governments and the media

LESSON NOTES

TOPIC A - FIJI AND THE REGION

- In 1970, Fiji was one of the first Pacific Island nations in the Pacific to gain independence.
- The first new nations were Western Samoa (now called Samoa) in 1962, Cook Islands in 1965 and Nauru in 1969. In 1970, these new nations decided to form a political organization to work collectively on common interests.
- -They invited Australia and New Zealand to join as they were important and friendly neighbours.
- -It was called the South Pacific Forum. Later it expanded as more nations became independent and new partners were admitted as members or observers.
- It is now called the Pacific Forum.
- It is managed by the Pacific Forum Secretariat.

- **The South Pacific Forum** was formed as a protest against the rules of the biggest regional organization, called the South Pacific Commission or SPC (now called the Secretariat for the Pacific Community SPC).
- The South Pacific Commission focussed on regional development in education, agriculture, trade, fishing, tourism and health. It held annual regional meetings but politics and political policies and issues were not allowed to be discussed.
- Over the next fifty years, Fiji, because of its population, economy and trade, was one of the biggest nations in regional organizations including;
 - ✓ Pacific Forum
 - ✓ MSG
 - ✓ Forum Fisheries Agency
 - ✓ SPREP
 - ✓ SOPAC.
- Fiji has taken its turn to be the head of regional organizations, such as being the “Chair” of the MSG in 2012-2013.
- *Fiji is also a convenient hub for airlines, shipping and communications, so many regional and international organizations are located in Fiji.*

TOPIC B FIJI AND THE RIM

- “*The rim*” is an expression in regional politics.
- *It means those nations that are not in the Pacific but do share a border that is the Pacific Ocean.*
- These links go back to the time of the British Empire and USA colonies in the Pacific (for example, the USA still has possessions in Samoa, Guam, and Hawaii.)
- *In the western rim*, in Asia, Fiji has close and regular links with Japan, South Korea, the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan (the Republic of China).
- These Asian Rim nations have links with Fiji through trade, and aid, and historically through migration. Some of Fiji’s small Chinese community settled in Fiji more than a hundred years ago.
- *In the southwest Pacific Rim*, the two most important rim nations are Australia and New Zealand.
- They have long and close ties going back to the 1850s and 1860s. This was a close relationship before and after independence. On some issues Australia and New Zealand disagreed with Fiji, particularly during the four coups in Fiji (1987-2006). On other issues

they form a “bloc” or single voice, in support of, or against, a regional or international problem, such as French Nuclear testing in the Pacific in 1985 or the military intervention (RAMSI) in the Solomon Islands in 2003.

- *Relationships between nations are described as diplomacy.*
- *“The skill of making the correct decision in foreign policy; also means the actual formal and informal meetings between nations”.*
- Good diplomacy means making decisions with or about other nations that are to Fiji’s advantage or benefit.
- **The relationships with Rim nations are important as:**
- Fiji wants to have neighbours as friends not enemies. At the same Fiji’s diplomats work regionally to help smaller nations as a regional friend.
- The relationship with Rim nations must be balanced against other relationships, for example with Europe, Africa, South Asia (India Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka) and the Middle East.
- Diplomats must balance their time between talking with, for example, Nauru, against time spent talking with the USA and China, two superpowers and also neighbours on Fiji’s Pacific Rim.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RESOURCE

<https://www.nationthailand.com/business/30368791>

LESSON ACTIVITY

BASED ON TOPICS A AND B

1. Give the full name for these organization

UN _____
MSG _____
SPC _____
SPREP _____
SOPAC _____
FFA _____

2. Why was the South Pacific Forum created in 1970?

3. Describe Fiji’s role in international organizations (one sentence)

ACHIEVEMENT INDICATOR:

At the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Identify policies that affected events

LESSON NOTES:

TOPIC C FIJI AND THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

- Fiji is not a major player in international foreign affairs.
- This is because Fiji is a small nation in terms of population and trade and is not located in a hot spot or critical location.

- Fiji is in a peaceful zone in world politics.

- It is a long distance from contested, troublesome regions (such as some small islands in the China Sea, or the Indonesian province of West Papua) and border disputes like those between North and South Korea.

- Being a peaceful nation, and not crucial to world trade in oil or minerals, Fiji is therefore a “minor player” in world affairs.

- Fiji does have a vote at the United Nations, and until it was expelled in 2006 it was a major member of the British Commonwealth.

- Fiji’s leaders have also attended the “PALM” meeting hosted by Japan, and other leader’s meetings hosted by the USA and China.

- In 2013, Fiji hosted *the G77*.

- Fiji’s importance can also be judged by the world leaders who visit Fiji. Pope John-Paul II visited in 1984, Taiwan’s President in 2005 and China’s president Wen Jiabao in 2006, but other world leaders have not made diplomatic visits.

- *The G77 Group is an inter-government organization that works with members of the United Nations on development issues. It began in 1964.*
- *The Pacific Alliance Leaders Meeting (PALM) is a meeting between the leaders of Japan and the independent nations of the Pacific. It began in 1997.*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RESOURCE

<http://unohrlls.org/news/fiji%C2%92s-g77-status-a-%C2%91rare-opportunity%C2%92-for-the-pacific/>

LESSON ACTIVITY

QUESTIONS - INTERPRETING THE MSG HOME PAGE

1 Why does MSG describe itself as a “rising” organisation?

2 Define the word “solidarity”.

3. What do these acronyms in the CIA Fact Book stand for?

IMF _____

ADB _____

UNESCO _____

IOC _____

IRB _____

WEEK 4: MONDAY 26/07/21- FRIDAY 30/07/21

ACHIEVEMENT INDICATOR:

At the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Compare propaganda and policy

LESSON NOTES

- Fiji was a member of the British Commonwealth from 1970, in an organization of former British colonies concerned with trade, development, education and diplomacy with Great Britain.
- Fiji was suspended in 1987-1997 due to coups, and again in June 2000 to December 2001 after another coup. It was finally fully suspended after another military coup in 2006. The CIA Fact Book entry for Fiji lists the organizations where Fiji is a member.

International organization participation:

ACP, ADB, AOSIS, Commonwealth (suspended), CP, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRC, IHO, ILO, IMF, IMO, Interpol, IRB, IOC, ISO, ITSO, ITU, ITUC (NGOs), MIGA, NAM, OPCW, PCA, PIF, SPARTECA (suspended), SPC, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNMISS, UNMIT, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RESOURCE

<https://thecommonwealth.org/our-member-countries/fiji>

LESSON ACTIVITY

BASED ON TOPIC C

1. Which of these events would you consider to be a controversial “incident” (Write yes or no in the bracket)

() Fiji opens a new Embassy in Brazil

() Australia bans Fiji’s military officers from flying to or through Australia

() Fiji signs the international convention on *Elimination of Discrimination against Women*

() Fiji is expelled from the British Commonwealth organization

() Fiji hosts G77 meeting

2. Is Fiji a minor or major player in international affairs? In your answer, mention two reasons for or against.

3. Fiji was made a member of the British Commonwealth in 1970 – why?

ACHIEVEMENT INDICATOR:

At the end of this unit you should be able to:

- Describe the role of the media and its influence in the lives of people.

LESSON NOTES:

- Fiji's involvement in these organizations is not always concerned with diplomacy or the conduct of foreign affairs.
- Some are only related to health (eg., WHO World Health Organization) or banking and foreign loans (eg., IBRD, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) or labour and workplace conditions (eg., ILO, International labour Organization).
- These are all aspects of Foreign Affairs and International cooperation, but they operate quietly and in the background most of the time.
- Foreign Affairs only become controversial when nations disagree on policies or try to influence another country's affairs. For example, Japan has tried to win Fiji's support in Japan's campaign to continue hunting whales, Australia tried to make sure the new head of the Pacific Forum was an Australian, Taiwan (ROC) has tried to win Fiji's support in its struggle with the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Fiji tried to influence Tonga to send back a senior military officer who deserted and fled by ship across the sea to Tonga.
- These friendships, accusations and criticisms become headlines and media "incidents".

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RESOURCE

<http://www.disarmsecure.org/nuclear-free-aotearoa-nz-resources/nuclear-free-and-independent-pacific-movement>

LESSON ACTIVITY

BASED ON READING 3 (NFIP REPORT)

1. What role did Fiji play in this international campaign?

End of Unit Question

Describe the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Typical Exam Questions

Why does Fiji participate with and engage in discussions with other nations?
