

### Child Soldiers

<b>Lesson Title:</b> Child Soldiers	<b>Grade:</b> 6	<b>Subject:</b> Social Studies	<b>Time:</b> 3-5 hours	<b>Unit:</b> Resources and Wealth	<b>Topic:</b> Child Soldiers	<b>Cross-Curricular Components:</b>
<b>URL:</b> <a href="http://www.mickmaurer.com/files/child_soldiers.pdf">http://www.mickmaurer.com/files/child_soldiers.pdf</a>						
<b>Lesson Description:</b> This lesson takes students through a journey of trying to understand how child soldiers are used.		<b>Curriculum Outcomes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outcome: RW6.1 g Compare and contrast the quality of life in Canada with the quality of life in a selection of countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean using various sources of data including a quality of life index, maps, graphs, and charts.</li> </ul>				
<b>Materials:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Computer</li> <li>Internet</li> <li>Projector</li> <li>Screen</li> <li>Quotation</li> <li>Activity Sheets and Map (see link)</li> </ul>		<b>Assessment:</b> Evaluate presentation of child soldier poster.				

#### Procedure:

**Lesson Plan 1:** Introduction: Read the quotation from the child soldier.

1. After reading the quote, have students describe who they think might have spoken those words (age, sex, country of origin, etc).
2. Provide students with Child Soldiers Activity Sheet and have them complete it to the best of their ability. Once students have completed the Activity Sheet, ask which points they found most interesting or surprising.
3. Show the Sierra Leone segment of “Musicians in The War Zone”. Using the questions from the Teacher’s Study Guide, debrief the segment with students.
4. Provide students with a map of the locations of child soldiers all over the world. Students will complete a research project to gain a better understanding of the use of child soldiers. Students will be divided into groups where they will each choose a different country to focus on. Students will be required to gather the following information about their specific countries:
  - approximate # of existing child soldiers;
  - role of child soldiers method of recruiting child soldiers;
  - financial funding for the recruitment of soldiers;
  - conflict for which child soldiers are required;
  - steps taken to eliminate child soldiers.

Provide students with the Organizer for Child Soldier Research, and direct them to the Global Report 2001 at [www.child-soldiers.org](http://www.child-soldiers.org).

5. Based on their research, have students create an educational poster about child soldiers. Students will be assessed holistically for their abilities to work collaboratively with group members during the research project.

1 Quotation can be obtained from: [www.liberia-leaf.org/reports](http://www.liberia-leaf.org/reports)

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Have students present their posters to the class and educate others about their country of focus.

During the presentations, students listening will be required to come up with the answer to the following questions:

- What country has done the most to eliminate child soldiers?
- What else can be done to eliminate the use of child soldiers?
- Is enough being done to eliminate the use of child soldiers?

#### Extension



## Global Education Project

**worldbeat**

[www.earthbeat.sk.ca](http://www.earthbeat.sk.ca)  
(306)757-4669

Students can conduct research about the economic issues that are contributing to the use of child soldiers (e.g. poverty, conflict diamonds, coltan etc).