

UI Centre for Human Rights: Child Labor Research Initiative

Module Title: Child Soldiers by Helen A. Finken	Grade: 6-8	Subject: Social Studies	Time: 10 hours	Topic: Human Rights	Cross-Curricular Components: English, Art
---	----------------------	-----------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------------	---

URL: http://international.uiowa.edu/files/international.uiowa.edu/files/file_uploads/child_soldiers.pdf

Module Description:

In this module (10 lessons), students will learn the scope and impact of the forced recruitment of child soldiers and the actions being taken by individuals and organizations to eliminate this practice. Students will analyze primary and secondary sources, debate, create maps, discuss, design individual action plans, conduct Internet research, and write reflectively as they learn about child soldiers.

- What is the nature and extent of the use of child soldiers in armed conflicts?;
- What are some of the motivations for using children as soldiers?;
- What is the impact of warfare on child soldiers?;
- What actions have been taken by the world community to eliminate the use of child soldiers?;
- How are youths around the world promoting peace?

Lesson 1: Children as Soldiers (2 hours)

This lesson presents an overview of where, why, and how children are used as soldiers. Students examine a slide show, listen to audio reports, and create a map as they learn where child soldiers are used.

Materials:

- Overhead transparency and marker;
- Computer and LCD projector;
- Handout #1: Mapping Child Soldiers;
- Blank world political outline map
<http://www.eduplace.com/ss/maps/world.html>;
- World atlases;
- Handout # 2: Child Soldiers' Testimonies

***Follow the link to see the activities, hand-outs, evaluation, and extension of lesson 1.**

Lesson 2: Child Soldiers Stories (1 hour)

Using oral histories, students will identify the physical and emotional challenges faced by child soldiers and how they cope with those challenges. Students will attempt to evaluate the morality of using child soldiers by responding to a quote by Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

Curriculum Outcomes:

Interactions and Interdependence of Nations; Dynamic Relationships; Resources and Wealth; Power and Authority

- Outcome: IN6.3 (d-e)
Develop an understanding that global interdependence impacts individual daily life in Canada and a selection of countries bordering the Atlantic Ocean.
- Outcome: PA6.1 (a-f)
Examine the relationship between an individual's power and authority and the power and authority of others.
- Outcome: RW6.1 (e)
Examine and analyze factors that contribute to quality of life, including material and non-material factors.

Materials:

- Reading #1: Tom Masland, "Voices of the Children," Newsweek, May 13, 2002, 24.;
 - Web site: BBC World Service, Children of Conflict, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/people/features/childrenrights/childrenofconflict/>. (Additional articles are available by searching for "child soldiers" at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi.html>);
 - Website: Eric Beauchemin, "Child Soldiers of Liberia," Radio Netherlands, [http://www.rnw.nl/en/liberia](http://www.rnw.nl/en/liberia;).;
 - Website: MSNBC, "Children at War," MSNBC, May 45, 2002, <http://www.msnbc.com/news/747688.asp>.;
 - Computer with internet;
 - Handout #1: Child Soldiers' Stories
- *Follow the link to see the activities, hand-outs, evaluation, and extension of lesson 2.***

Lesson 3: Taking Aim at Small Arms (2 hours)

One of the contributing factors to the growing use of child soldiers is the availability of small arms. This lesson examines the use of small arms, their impact, and the actions being taken to eliminate their use. Students will use an Internet exhibit by UNICEF as the basis for creating a presentation about the interrelationship between small arms and child soldiers.

Materials:

- Computers with Internet access;
 - LCD projector;
 - UNICEF Internet exhibit, "Taking Aim at Small Arms," at <http://www.unicef.org/smallarms/exhibit/>.;
 - Handout #1 for Lesson 3
- *Follow the link to see the activities, hand-outs, evaluation, and extension of lesson 3.***

Lesson 4: Strategies to Eliminate Child Soldiers

(3 hours)

Students will study the efforts by the international community to stop the use of child soldiers and to reintegrate former child soldiers into their communities. Students will become familiar with two major inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), namely the ILO-IPEC and UNICEF and some key international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working to eliminate the use of child soldiers.

- Outcome: IN7.1 (a-b)
Investigate examples of conflict, cooperation, and interdependence between Canada and circumpolar and Pacific Rim countries.
- Outcome: IN7.2 (e)
Examine the effects of globalization on the lives of people in Canada and in circumpolar and Pacific Rim countries.
- Outcome: DR7.3 (a)
Analyze the relationship between current and historical events and the physical and social environments in Pacific and northern Canada and in a selection of Pacific Rim and circumpolar countries.
- Outcome: PA7.1 (a-b)
Compare the sources of power for individuals, nations, and regions in a selection of Pacific Rim and circumpolar countries.

Materials:

- Reading #1: United Nations, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, United Nations, 2002. ("The Child Soldiers Protocol"). Available at <http://hrw.org/campaigns/crp/protocol.htm>;
- Computers with Internet access

****Follow the link to see the activities, hand-outs, evaluation, and extension of lesson 4.***

Lesson 5: Soldiers for Peace (2 hours)

Students will learn how youths in Colombia have organized the Children's Movement for Peace in order to create peace in their homes, communities, and country. Students will write a dialogue between a child soldier and a member of the Children's Movement for Peace to show that they understand each group's perspectives and circumstances.

Materials:

- Computer with Internet access;
- Website: CNN/Turner Learning, Soldiers of Peace, CNN/Turner Learning, 1999, <http://www.turnerlearning.com/cnn/soldiers/intro.html>
- Video: Kyra Thompson, Soldiers for Peace, CNN/Turner Learning, 1999, <http://www.unicef.org/vidcat/377/index.html>. ;
- Book: Sara Cameron, Out of War (Scholastic Press, 2001).

****Follow the link to see the activities, hand-outs, evaluation, and extension of lesson 5.***

Resources:

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (concluded 20 November 1989 and entered into force on 2 September 1990), specifically Articles 21, 38 and 39;
- Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts (concluded 25 May 2000 and entered into force on 12 February 2002);
- ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (concluded on 17 June 1999 and entered into force on 19 November 2000)