

Core Cross-curricular Unit

Grade Level: 6

This was an interdisciplinary project combining the study global and local Drought with research in the math/science sphere as well as debate and writing in the humanities sphere.

UNIT 1 Global Case Study:

Semester 1 (4 weeks)



Goals

- Reading for understanding
- Communicative/expressive language
- Increased content knowledge regarding a significant global issue
- Empathetic exploration/connection

6th grade students from United for Success Academy completed a four week case study unit which featured 5 case studies of drought and local solutions in the following countries: Australia, Kenya, Pakistan, Brazil, China and the U.S. (California). Students delved into the social-political effects of drought in the humanities class while exploring the scientific causes of drought in their math and science class, including graph and data analysis.

UNIT 2 Project Based Learning

Semester 2 (6 weeks)

Goals

- Collaborative research/content exploration
- Public speaking skill development
- Commit knowledge to action at the local level for addressing a global challenge

Once the case study research was complete, students began to work in small groups of 4 to identify a stakeholder and solution approach to further research for understanding. Outside of team work, students developed their persuasive writing skills through a 6- 7 page essay detailing their own ideas for solution of the California drought.

FINAL PROJECT:

School Expo (May 2015)

Students created tri-fold exhibition boards to share their findings with local community members along with bilingual pamphlets, fact sheets and easy tips for reducing water consumption at home. Additionally, a select group of students participated in a mock debate in front of 100+ audience members in an effort to demonstrate the complexity of the issue at hand.