Activity 1: Human Rights Issues in the West Balkans

Website Presentation

Using the example of the West Balkans this Edukit will explore the issues of human rights by working in groups to create either a website with several pages, or a series of posters, representing the content of a website. This is not an activity to learn how to create a website. If the students know how to create web pages and want to present their final work on a computer in a web page, they may. For those who do not have the technological knowledge to create web pages they can produce a series of posters that will have the same content, photographs, or graphics that they would have placed on the Internet.

Using the content in this Edukit, the links, and the directions to search the Internet including key words, the students will find the facts they need to produce the content including written work, graphics, maps, and photographs they can use to complete their project.

Organizing the Groups

This assignment focuses on giving the students an overview of the West Balkans and establishes a foundation for later activities. With such a wide scope, it is suggested that this activity is completed in groups, allowing each participant to make a significant contribution without overwhelming them. The completed work is then shared with everyone in the class providing a more complete learning opportunity.

There are many different ways to organize the groups working on the project. Every participant must have a responsibility and finish the activities they have agreed to complete. The participants could each make a web page completing the content and graphic design. Another option would be a team effort where each student could identify what they do well and contribute more in that area. For example there may be a student who is good at finding photographs on the Internet, down loading them, printing them and writing the descriptions, while another draws well, and another two can divide the research and writing for the posters or web pages.

There must be close cooperation between the entire group to successfully finish this activity because those who are completing the research have to clearly tell those working on the graphics what is needed and where they are to be placed in the project. Those providing the graphics need to let the writers know when there are no graphics or something different than first suggested for a part of the content.

Focus

These questions will help organize the work that is presented in this activity:
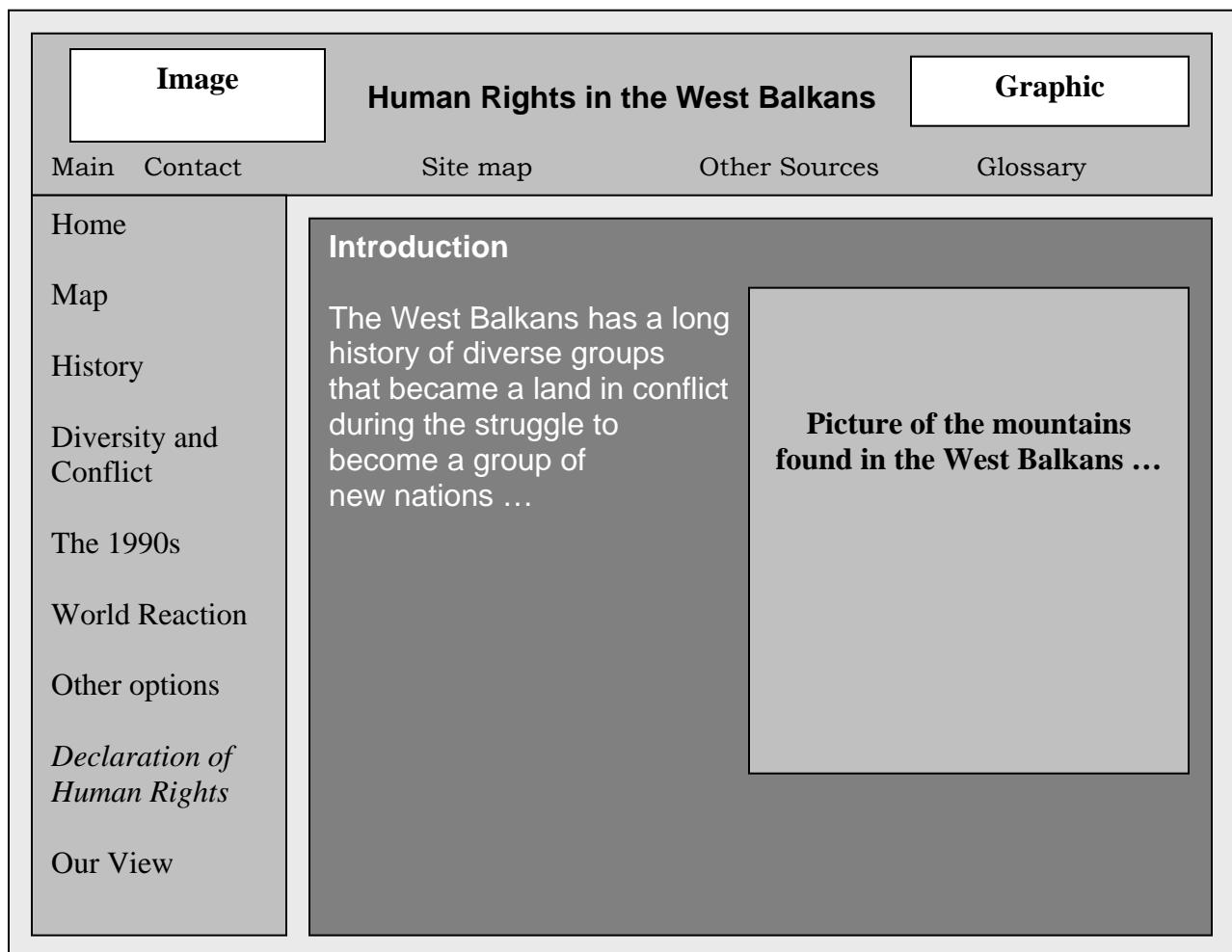
- Where is the West Balkans?
- How did the Balkans become a land of so many different ethnic groups?
- What were the causes of the conflicts between the people of the Balkans?
- What kind of human rights were violated in the Balkans in the 1990s? Remember to use some examples.
- What was the reaction of the international community to the violations of human rights in the Balkans?

- Should there have been a different reaction by the world to what was happening in the Balkans?
- How did the *Declaration of Human Rights* help the people in places like Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina?
- What would you do if you faced the problems of the people you are presenting in this activity?

As a group the participants must decide what questions will be answered on each web page or poster. Divide up the tasks that have to be done. Once the students have started to work on this activity they must remember to keep talking to the others who are in their group, especially if they realize there has to be an additional web page or poster.

Once the students' posters or web pages have been completed they will be posted and shared with the rest of their class. The projects will be discussed and then each person will write a review of what other groups have done.

The following is an example of a web page layout:

Image	Human Rights in the West Balkans	Graphic

Main   Contact   Site map   Other Sources   Glossary

Home

Map

History

Diversity and Conflict

The 1990s

World Reaction

Other options

Declaration of Human Rights

Our View

Introduction

The West Balkans has a long history of diverse groups that became a land in conflict during the struggle to become a group of new nations …

Picture of the mountains found in the West Balkans …

Continue to make each page with the navigation bars and banners. Use the format of web pages to complete the assignment.