**Grade 8 Humanities**

**Global Issues Unit**

**Essential Questions:**

* How do humans impact our world?
* What factors influence environmental systems?
* How do social systems help/harm people?
* How do the past and present affect the future?
* What role do resources play in supply and demand?  Human needs?

**Enduring Understandings:**

* Our world is connected in a delicate balance and decisions have consequences in the present and future. ( S III ..2 and .3)
* Systems within an environment are interdependent.( S III .3 and .4)
* Systems can create inequities. (SIII .3;SIV .1and.2)
* The past and present affect the future. (SIII .2)
* Human needs depend upon available resources. (SIV .1 and. .2)
* Citizens have a responsibility to act ethically, both individually and collectively. (SI.3)

Cornerstone Assessment

**“Never doubt that a small group of committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” Margaret Meade**

**To demonstrate their**

**understanding of the concept of global issues and role of individuals and groups in finding solutions to these, students will**

**Create a media-based presentation for a global issues info-fair. The presentation will provide relevant information that describes the issue, and populations or regions affected by it. It will also spotlight an organization, institution, and/or individual that in students’ judgement models responsible action to address the issue. Finally, the presentation will inform viewers of concrete and appropriate ways they can act locally while thinking globally about the issue.**

**The presentation will synthesize findings re. the following questions:**

* + **What is the problem and how can we recognize it?**
  + **Why is it important & who/what does it affect?**
  + **Where is this issue experienced & by whom?**
  + **What are possible solutions for the problem ?**
  + **What groups, institutions, or countries are currently undertaking action to resolve this problem?**
  + **What related agreements, policies, and/or conventions exist at this time?**
* **Each student group member will reflect on and evaluate action, learning, and resolve on a personal level. This will include:**
* **Your action plan?**
* **Implementation**
* **Reflection ------points of view/empathy**
* **Evaluation (with recommendations)**
  + **What aspects of this kind of activity are “sustainable”**
  + **What changes would be required to make it “more” sustainable?**