**Fourth Grade**

**Key Concept 8**

**Social Interdependence Lesson**

**Overview:**

We live in an interdependent world in which people affect others despite geographical, social, and economic barriers. Sister Cities International was created at President Eisenhower’s 1956 White House summit on citizen diplomacy, where he envisioned a network that would be a champion for peace and prosperity by fostering bonds between people from different communities around the world. By forming these relationships, President Eisenhower reasoned that people from different cultures could understand, appreciate, and celebrate their differences while building partnerships that would lessen the chance of new conflicts and build and share business relationships and practices. Since its inception, the Sister Cities International network has played a key role in renewing and strengthening important global relationships.

The mission of Sister Cities International is just as important today as it was when it was founded. With the advent of the internet and new technologies, the world is becoming smaller, and the relationships and interactions between the U.S. and its international counterparts are more complex than ever. Despite this increase in online communication, the face-to-face meetings and personal relationships developed through sister cities are still vital and irreplaceable.

Knowing how important these people-to-people relationships are, Arkansas actively participates in the Sister Cities Program and has made great international connections in the process. In this lesson, students will get to know other students personally, culturally, economically, and otherwise through a pen-pal program with a school in their Sister City. Click [here](http://sistercities.org/) to find out more about Sister Cities International!

**For the teacher:**

Order FREE Arkansas State Capitol Postcards for your class to write their first note to their pen-pals! Order in advance as they go quick! Click [here](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/educational/teachers/Pages/orderingInfo.aspx) to order.

**Materials:**

* Computer
* Sister City contact for your city (or one nearby)
* Arkansas State Capitol Poscards (click [here](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov/educational/teachers/Pages/orderingInfo.aspx) to order)

**Objectives:**

C.3.4.2 Evaluate reciprocal relationships between people and rules, laws, and policies

C.3.4.3 Analyze group actions and responses to local and global problems

E.5.4.1 Examine ways human capital impacts productivity and future incomes

E.6.4.1 Compare methods of exchange in the United States and around the world

E.6.4.3 Examine ways state and local governments pay for the goods and services they provide

E.6.4.4 Discuss effects of unemployment, inflation, and price stability on the economy

E.7.4.1 Illustrate ways trade has led to economic interdependence between Arkansas, other states, and other countries

E.7.4.2 Explain effects of increasing economic interdependence on different regions of the United States

G.10.4.2 Determine effects of movement and distribution of people, goods, and ideas on various places using a variety of print and digital sources, geospatial technologies, and geographic representations

G.10.4.3 Compare push- pull- factors that influenced immigration to and migration within the United States

G.11.4.1 Describe global connections created through increased trade, transportation, communication, and technology

G.11.4.2 Analyze ways communities cooperate in providing relief efforts during and after natural and human-made disasters

H.13.4.1 Describe ways people’s perspectives shaped the historical sources they created

H.13.4.4 Discuss why historians use a variety of primary and secondary sources

H.13.4.6 Examine current or historical events in Arkansas, the United States, or the world in terms of cause and effect

**Instructions:**

1. Go to the Sister Cities International website to find out who your contact person may be and to get information on reaching out to a school for a pen-pal program.
2. After matching with a school, google “live” on your projector with your students (this teaches them valuable research skills if you talk them through it and ask what to search without eating “separate” class time up) to find out information about your Sister City, the Country they come from, things they trade with Arkansas and the United States, (literally the possibilities are ENDLESS here…).
3. Have students write to their pen-pals on their Arkansas State Capitol postcards which you can order free by clicking the link in the materials section.
4. Discuss the “new things” they have learned from their pen-pals and use “guided questions” for information they should be trying to find out from their pen-pals.
5. If you can work it out with your “sister teacher,” set up skype or facetime events so students can get a “virtual tour” of their school or community and vice versa!
6. This should be an ongoing project that you can use to tie into whatever you are studying in your class at the moment. This is a great “real-world” connection for students to begin to understand the globalization that has occurred in recent history and the interdependence, whether it be social, economic, or otherwise.