



For Your Information

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It's All Connected: A Comprehensive Guide to Global Issues and Sustainable Solutions.

Benjamin Wheeler, Gilda Wheeler, and Wendy Church. Seattle WA: Facing the Future: People and the Planet. 2005.

In the 1960s, the school in which I taught created a course for seniors entitled **World Problems** to replace the traditional **POD** class. Would that this text have been available at that time. Materials for the course were difficult to find and teachers became very frustrated adapting content and inventing ways to present it. *It's All Connected* would have been a welcome sight for use in that class. *It's All Connected* defines, explains and illustrates a variety of issues that have far reaching effects.

The opening chapters provide guidelines for using the internet and introduces and defines various terms, as well as issues, that are covered in later chapters. As one peruses the following chapters, it becomes apparent that this is what social studies is all about. This is not a history text, but it certainly illustrates the value of the study of history while making connections with the concepts of anthropology, civics, cultures, economics, education, geography, political science, sociology, and examining possible futures. *It's All Connected* illustrates why **social studies** is **pertinent** in preparing students for life in an interdependent world.

Each unit opens with questions relevant to the topic under study. This is followed by an introduction defining terms and concepts in bold print and providing historical background of the issues at hand. **A Story From the World** offers an

illustration of the importance of the problem. The next section, titled **Youth in Action** highlights involvement of young people in activities pertaining to the questions at hand. The book also provides a **glossary** defining unfamiliar terms and concepts. **Connections** in the book are not only global but cross curricular. Sections in each unit called **Curriculum Connections** provide links to math, literature, science, and technology. There are also suggestions for relevant texts, websites, and videos as well as a large listing of endnotes.

This book could be used as a basic text or as a supplement in many courses including world cultures. It was intended to be used in conjunction with Facing the future: *People and the Planet--Classroom Activities for Teaching About Global Issues and Solutions* which provides hands-on activities, thought-provoking discussion questions, in-depth research assignments, standards based lesson plans, and reproducible handouts.

It's All Connected is published by Facing the Future: People and the Planet of Seattle WA.

Curriculum materials and publications are available through the Website:

www.facingthefuture.org

Here is a social studies text that demonstrates why social studies is essential. This is a multidisciplinary approach.

It's All Connected
demonstrates
that Social Studies is the
Heart of the Curriculum

Serving 103 Years of Excellence in the Social Studies