

Eighth Grade Global Studies Project: Education for all

Guiding Questions:

- *What do we know about the current state of our world?*
- *What exciting possibilities exist and what challenges do we all face?*
- *How might we work together to meet these challenges and make life better for all of us?*

Overview:

In 2003 Jean-Francois Rischard wrote a book called *High Noon: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them*. In this book, Rischard celebrated the possibilities of our changing world, but also outlined three categories of problems that the world would be facing as a planet. He believed that working together country to country was the only way to solve these problems. In keeping with this belief, one of the requirements of this project will be to work with students across distance so we might come up with solutions that go beyond our own place and way of thinking. Specifically, we have contacts in West Virginia, Pakistan and Puerto Rico who are eager to work with us. We will begin by finding out about the current state of our world. Who are we? Which countries have the most wealth and power right now? Who is at war, who is at peace? What can we find out about rights and respect from place to place? How does the health of the world's people vary from country to country? What about the health of the planet itself? Each of you will choose a particular country to find out about and we will share all that we learn.

Once we have our bearings, we will focus specifically on the problem of education for all. Who has access to education and who does not? How is education changing in the twenty-first century? How can technology be used to help our global citizenry? During this project, we will use technology ourselves to communicate and learn all that we can.

Project Requirements:

Part One:

- Read excerpts from *High Noon: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them*
- Research one country in the world --all continents will be covered.
- Oral presentation of what we find out (with notes and visuals)

Part Two:

- Research into the state of education in the world—the issues we face and the organizations working hard to make things better
- Informal presentation of our findings

Part Three:

- Identifying the issues that make education for all challenging
- Brainstorming solutions to these problems
- Working with schools in other places to discuss these issues
- A presentation of our best ideas