

Issues Now in the News, 3/e

* Discussion Questions*

Unit1 Sweden's ABBA Museum to Open

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. What do you know about ABBA?
2. Have you ever been to see *Mama Mia!* or watched the movie?
3. Do you know what Eurovision is?
4. What do you know about Sweden or Scandinavia?

Unit2 Safe Water

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Where does your city/country get its water from?
2. Which water source or sources does your country share with another country?
3. What are some ways you can think of to reduce your personal water use?
4. What is the longest period you have had to live without easy access to water?

How did this experience affect you?

Unit3 NASA Explores Technology to Face Asteroid Danger

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Can you name of NASA's big achievements?
2. Are you worried about an asteroid hitting the Earth?
3. What should governments around the world do to combat the threat of asteroids?

4. What would you do if you heard a large asteroid was heading towards asteroids?

Unit4 World Population Growth

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Is your country's population increasing or decreasing in size? Why?
2. How many children do you want to have? Why?
3. Would you prefer to live in a city or in the countryside? Why?
4. How would you solve the imbalance between population growth in developed and developing countries?

Unit5 Global Warming Trend "Unmistakable," UN Says

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. How are you contributing to global warming?
2. What are you doing to reduce global warming?
3. How do you think global warming has or might affect you or your country?
4. What should governments do to fight global warming?

Unit6 Human Rights Watch Campaigns Against "Killer Robots"

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Do you think robots are helpful?
2. Do humans have anything to fear from robots?
3. What do you know about the US government's use of drones in the Middle East?
4. What do you think about how America is using drones in its War on Terrorism?

Unit 7 Africa: Poverty, Politics, and Disease

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. What do you know about polio and AIDS?
2. What are some types of vaccines that people in your country receive?
3. How do you think people could fight diseases in Africa more effectively?
4. Is it important to help stop the spread of contagious diseases? Why?

Unit 8 “New Europe” Goes Global

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. How would you describe the economy your country has?
2. If you could make changes in your country’s economy, what would they be? Why?
3. What are some strengths and weaknesses of capitalist and state-controlled economies?
4. How might cultural ties, geographic proximity, and a shared past help countries do business with each other? How might they hinder business?

Unit 9 Bioengineered Kidney a Possible Solution to Donor-Organ Crisis

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Would you donate your organs?
2. Do you think people should be allowed to sell their organs?
3. Would you have any concerns about accepting a donated organ?
4. Should certain people, mothers for example, receive priority on donor waitlists?

Unit10 Cape Town Carnival

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Why do you think festivals such as Mardi Gras, Carnivale Rio, and the Cape Town Minstrel Carnival are so popular?
2. Which festivals in your country most resemble the Minstrel Carnival? What are the similarities and differences?
3. How has that festival, and/or other festivals in your country, changed over time? Why have they changed?
4. What are some of the challenges involved with racial humor and mimicking in an increasingly diverse world? Is there still room for the minstrel art form?

Unit11 America's Changing Family

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. What type of household is most common in your country?
2. Has the traditional family structure in your country changed over the past decade? If so, how?
3. Do you know anyone from a single-parent family? How is his or her family life different from yours?
4. What do you think of couples living together without being married? Should they receive the same treatment as married couples?

Unit12 A Limit to Free Speech

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Is free speech always a good thing?
2. What limits, if any, should be placed on free speech?

3. What should people or groups do who are offended by something that is said?
4. What are some things people should not say, even if they have the right to say it?

Unit13 Hero of the Planet

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Describe a time that someone opened your mind to something new. What happened?
2. What kinds of plants or herbs are used as traditional medicine in your country?
3. Have you ever tried a type of alternative medicine? Explain.
4. How would you define conservation? Do you agree with Mark Plotkin's definition? Why or why not?

Unit 14 Plants Respond to Their Environment

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Do you have any plants in your home?
2. What are some examples of some interesting plants?
3. Do you believe in evolution?
4. What do you think is the most interesting information in this article?

Unit15 Biofuels: An Alternative to Gasoline

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Does your country use any other types of fuel besides gasoline? If so, which ones?
2. Which resources could your country use as alternative energy sources?
3. Is it a good idea for a country to reduce its dependence on petroleum? Why or

why not?

4. In addition to using alternative fuels, what are some other ways you can think of to reduce petroleum use? Which of these do you consider most feasible?

Unit 16 Global Trade and Pests

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. What do you think of free trade agreements?
2. Do you think pests pose a serious risk?
3. What do you think countries should do to protect themselves from Pests?
4. Would you be willing to pay more for imported goods to pay for pest prevention?

Unit 17 Women: Their Unique Beauty

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. What types of women are considered beautiful in your culture?
2. How does the media in your country influence concepts of beauty?
3. What are the top five qualities you would look for in a potential spouse? Where does physical beauty rank on your list?
4. In which ways have your parents influenced your concept of beauty? In which ways have other role models influenced your concept of beauty?

Unit 18 Comfort Foods or Cures?

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. What kinds of foods do you like to eat when you're sick?
2. Do you know some foods people in other cultures eat when they're sick?
3. Do you think these foods actually help you heal or just make you feel better?

4. Why do you think so many cultures seem to have some form of chicken soup>

Unit 19 Immigrants in China

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Would you immigrate to another country for work?
2. What do you think of immigrants coming to your country for work?
3. What kind of restrictions should be placed on immigrants come to your country?
4. What do you think of China buying up so many resources in Africa?

Unit 20 Violence and Video Games

Discuss these questions with your class.

1. Do you think your country has a problem with violence?
2. Do you think violent video games can make people aggressive?
3. What do you think about people owning guns?
4. What kind of restrictions should be placed on gun ownership?