

8th Grade Social Studies  
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In an effort to improve geographic knowledge and skills, we developed a country research project to conclude our unit about imperialism. Students were assigned a region of world and labeled a map of this region. Each student then selected a country to research. Using the online almanac, [The World Factbook](#), students researched geography, people and society, economy, government, energy, communications, transportation, military and security, and transnational issues for their assigned country. From this information, students then created a visual representation of their country. We created a display of all student projects surrounding a giant world map in the hallway. To conclude, we asked students to look at their country through the lens of imperialism and decide if their country would be a target of outside influence and discuss their reasoning. As a result, we have already seen improved geographic knowledge and reasoning being used in our classroom discussions.



