

Definitions and Concepts for Globalization

Excerpted from the National Council for the Social Studies

Full Text: <http://www.ncss.org/positions/global/whatisgloaled>

Global Awareness: The recognition and understanding of interrelationships among international organizations, nation-states, public and private economic entities, socio-cultural groups, and individuals across the globe.

Global Education: Global education focuses on the interrelated nature of condition, issues, trends, processes, and events. An important characteristic of global studies is the analysis of problems, issues or ideas from a perspective that deals with the nature of change and interdependence. Change in one part of a system is likely to affect other elements of that system and related systems. Accordingly, a global perspective is attentive to the interconnectedness of the human and natural environment and the interrelated nature of events, problems, or ideas.

International Education: International education emphasizes specific world regions, problems, and cultures. International education encompasses studies of specific areas or regions of the world as well as the in-depth examination of a single culture or some aspect of that culture, such as its history, language, literature, religion, political organization, economic system, or current issues.

Global education and **international education** are complementary approaches with different emphases. The terms global education and international education are used to describe strategies for:

- gaining knowledge of world cultures;
- understanding the historical, geographic, economic, political, cultural, and environment relationships among world regions and peoples;
- examining the nature of cultural differences and national or regional conflicts and problems; and
- acting to influence public policy and private behavior on behalf of international understanding, tolerance and empathy.

Multicultural Education: Multi-cultural education is a closely related approach that explores the interactions among differing cultures within a political region.

Second Language Learning: Here the primary object of study is language as a form of communication and as a powerful vehicle of culture and identity. The major goal of second language learning is the development of both the language skills and the cultural understandings needed to function in and to appreciate another culture. In addition to study of the linguistic structure, the second language classroom integrates experiences that focus on patterns of everyday living, such as social mores, occupations, and family life, as well as history, literature and the fine arts. Students are encouraged to compare another culture with their own in order to gain a better understanding of both.

Evidence of Globalization Characteristic of our Planet

- the technical developments of global systems of **communication** and **transportation**;
- the change from local, regional, and national economies into a **global economy**;
- increased **interaction among societies**;
- the **world-wide political interdependence** that is altering traditional boundaries between domestic and international politics;
- the impact of human activity upon the planet's **ecosystem** and the constraints on human activity imposed by limits of the system;
- the power of **art and popular culture** to communicate common affective and cognitive experiences around the globe;
- the **perspective consciousness** that expands our daily awareness that we are members of the global human species, with the world as our community;
- changes in **land use**

Globalization Teaching and Learning Concepts

- Rapid change is operative and characteristic;
- There are an increasing number of corporations and jobs with international connections;
- The Information Age increases interrelatedness among all peoples;
- Political changes across the world and increased interaction among governments require understanding of others, traditions and cultures. This is central to cooperative problem solving;
- Interdependent global economy and internationalization of economies is a reality;
- There are problems as well as benefits related to globalization.

Engaging Students in global education

Educators should:

- use an interdisciplinary approach within and beyond social studies and make links to multicultural education;
- take advantage of technology, including Internet and e-mail;
- utilize primary sources from other countries, from constitutions to literature to artifacts;
- include internationally experienced persons; students, teachers, parents, and others in the community;
- emphasize interactive methodology, such as a model United Nations and cross-cultural simulations and role plays;
- address global issues with an approach that promotes multiple perspectives and intellectual honesty and action;
- encourage new avenues for research in the international arena and encourage teachers to participate and/or make use of this research in their classrooms.