

WHEN THE BORDER VANISHES

Note to Middle and High School Teachers

When the Border Vanishes: Diplomacy and the Threat to our Health and Environment is the seventh program in a series compiled and distributed by the U.S. Department of State, Office of the Historian. The program contains an educational DVD and a CD-ROM with lesson plans based on best teaching practices and scaffolded learning to assist with student achievement.

When the Border Vanishes contains the following highlights:

- All lessons and graphic organizers are easy to reproduce.
- All lessons focus on student engagement.
- Lesson design now accommodates middle school teachers and team concepts.
- Lesson procedures allow for teachers to modify and accommodate students' individual needs.
- Many lessons may be executed as individual tasks or as a group activity.
- Lessons can be easily differentiated depending upon particular class needs.
- Many more graphic organizers have been embedded within the lessons to assist students with the visual organization of information, especially needed at middle school student skill level.
- Basic skills are emphasized and reinforced with readings from primary documents, writing reflection pieces, speaking opportunities, and guided listening activities.
- Maps and graphs are included where needed to provide the visual stimulus so many students need for comprehension of information.
- Extension Activities are at the Depth of Knowledge Level of 3 and 4. Both Depth of Knowledge Levels call for the use of critical thinking skills that take students beyond the usual fill-in-the blank and multiple choice questioning.

