

Contents

	Page	Handouts
Introduction	v	
General Teacher Notes	ix	
1 What Is Privacy?	1	1
2 Do You Have the “Right” to Privacy?	9	2, 3, 4
3 Privacy as a Tort	17	5, 6
4 Do We Value Privacy?	27	7, 8
5 Privacy around the World	33	9, 10
6 Privacy in Public Schools	41	11, 12
7 Privacy in the Workplace	47	13, 14, 15
8 Privacy, Credit, and Identity Theft	57	16, 17
9 Privacy and Law Enforcement	67	18, 19, 20, 21
10 Privacy after September 11, 2001	79	22, 23
11 A Potpourri of Privacy Cases	87	24, 25
12 What Have We Learned?	97	26
Supplementary Materials		
Bibliography	101	
Additional Web Site Resources	105	

Lesson 5

Privacy around the World

Objectives

- To examine how nations around the world restrict the privacy of their citizens
- To compare the freedoms of U.S. citizens with those of people living in other nations

Teacher Notes

Too many students today take for granted the freedoms they enjoy and fail to appreciate the rights guaranteed to them in the U.S. Constitution. This lesson provides information on the various methods some nations have used, and continue to use, to interfere with the privacy of their citizens.

Handout 9 briefly describes the reason why Congress requires the U.S. Department of State to submit an annual report on the human rights conditions of 195 nations around the world. Excerpts on information dealing with privacy in six nations have also been provided. These nations were selected because of their importance in world affairs or because they represent examples of government's most intrusive invasion of one's personal privacy.

By the conclusion of this lesson, students should have gained some appreciation for the rights they enjoy as a result of living in the United States.

Procedure

1. Ask students what rights should be granted to every individual living in the world today. Make a list on the board or on a transparency of students' responses. Tell them that, following World War II, the United Nations passed a resolution in 1948, called the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which lists these types of rights.
2. Explain that this lesson focuses on Article 12 of the declaration, which states that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation." Distribute **Handout 9** for students to read.
3. Divide the six nations among the class. Have students do further research on their country

and prepare a brief newscast to be delivered to the entire class based on the information given. Preview the newscast to be sure information on the accompanying quiz is included. An alternative approach would be to distribute the handout as a class reading assignment or homework. Review the material before giving the quiz.

4. Distribute **Handout 10**. Collect the papers and evaluate them for a grade.

Suggested Responses:

Part A.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. <i>f</i> | 6. <i>f</i> |
| 2. <i>e</i> | 7. <i>e</i> |
| 3. <i>c</i> | 8. <i>d</i> |
| 4. <i>b</i> | 9. <i>e</i> |
| 5. <i>a</i> | |

Part B.

1. *U.S. foreign and trade policy take human rights into account.*
2. *The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution requires the separation of church and state. Therefore, the government cannot promote a particular religion or even religion in general. In Iran the Islamic religious leaders are also the government leaders; religious laws are the nation's laws.*
3. *Hopefully students will express an appreciation for the freedoms they enjoy as Americans, realizing that many other governments are much more intrusive than ours in invading one's privacy. Students should use examples of foreign governments invading homes, taking away private property, holding family members and associates responsible for the actions of a single individual, controlling birth decisions, etc.*
5. Review the answers as a class and use the essay questions as a springboard for discussion. Conclude by asking students if they have gained a better appreciation for the freedoms they enjoy as American citizens or as people living in America. Have students explain their responses.

Enrichment/Extension

1. Write an essay that compares the list of universal rights and freedoms compiled at the start of this lesson with those in the United Nations' *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Did you include any that the UN did not? Did any rights that you read in the declaration surprise you? A copy of the 1948 document can be found at the UN Web site (<http://www.un.org>).
2. Access the Web site of the U.S. Department of State (<http://www.state.gov>) for the full annual report on human rights conditions. Do further research on the six countries mentioned in this lesson or choose any of the 195 nations as a topic.
3. Privacy International is a human rights group formed in 1990 as a watchdog on surveillance by governments and corporations. It puts out an annual report on privacy and human rights around the world. This information can be accessed via the organization's Web site (<http://www.privacyinternational.org>). Compare Privacy International's information with that given by the U.S. State Department. See what the group has to say about privacy in the United States. Report your findings to the class.
4. Invite a foreign exchange student, someone who works for a consulate in your city, someone who was in the Peace Corps, or someone who visited another country for an extended period of time to your class to discuss any restrictions he or she faced. Have questions prepared.
5. Find a newspaper, magazine, or journal article that discusses privacy in another nation. Report your findings to the class. Does your article support or refute what you learned from this lesson?

Reports on Human Rights Practices

Read the following information. Be prepared for class discussion

By law, the U.S. Department of State must submit to Congress an annual report on the human rights condition of people around the globe. There are formal requirements that U.S. foreign and trade policy take into account a nation's human rights and worker rights performance. Some of the categories in the report are political and other extrajudicial killing; disappearance, torture and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment; arbitrary arrest, detention, exile; denial of fair public trial; use of excessive force; the freedoms of speech, press, peaceful assembly, religion, and movement within the country; respect for political rights; and discrimination based on race, sex, religion, disability, language, or social status. The following excerpts from the 2000 report focus on the category of arbitrary interference with privacy, family, home, or correspondence, as protected by Article 12 of the United Nations' *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Article 12 states "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation."

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a republic in which President Robert Mugabe and his Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) have dominated the executive and legislative branches of the Government and have restricted political choice since independence in 1980. . . . The judiciary is generally independent, but the Government often refuses to abide by court decisions, frequently questions the authority of sitting judges, and threatens their removal. . . .

In October, rising prices of essential commodities, including fuel and food, sparked riots in many of Harare's suburbs. Police conducted house to house searches, beat residents, severely in some cases, and warned them not to engage in further demonstrations, despite the fact that many of those threatened had not participated in the riots. On October 17, approximately fifty riot police entered the home of opposition M.P. Justin Mutendadzamera, accused him of fanning the riots, and severely beat him and his wife with batons on their buttocks and arms. . . .

About one-half of the country's most productive land is owned and farmed by about 4,000 families belonging to the country's white minority. The need for land reform is accepted almost universally; however, there are problems with implementation of the 1992 Land Acquisition Act (Land Act). Under the Land Act, farmers whose lands have been designated for acquisition and redistribution by the State may appeal only the amount of compensation, not the initial decision to acquire their farms. Shortly after the February referendum that defeated the new constitution that would have permitted land seizures, war veterans, with Government support, began occupying commercial farms, and assaulted and intimidated farm workers and the predominately white farm owners. Approximately 1,600 farms were visited or occupied in the period prior to the June elections, and about 1,000 of those farms remained occupied at year's end.

On April 9, Parliament passed a constitutional amendment permitting the seizure of land without compensation. In May President Mugabe, using extraordinary presidential powers, amended the Land Act to bring it into conformity with this amendment. . . .

The People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is an authoritarian state in which the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is the paramount source of power. At the national and regional levels, Party members hold almost all top government, police, and military positions. Ultimate authority rests with members of the Politburo. Leaders stress the need to maintain stability and social order and are committed to perpetuating the rule of the CCP and its hierarchy. . . .

Despite legal protections, authorities often do not respect the privacy of citizens in practice. Although the law requires warrants before law enforcement officials can search premises, this provision frequently has been ignored. . . . Authorities often monitor telephone conversations, fax transmissions, e-mail, and Internet communications of citizens, foreign visitors, businessmen, diplomats, and journalists, as well as dissidents, activists, and others. The security services routinely monitor and enter the residences and offices of foreigners and persons dealing with foreigners to gain access to computers, telephones, and fax machines. All major hotels have a sizable internal security presence. Authorities also open and censor domestic and international mail. Han Chunsheng, a Voice of America (VOA) listener who allegedly sent over twenty letters critical of the Government to a VOA mailbox, remains in prison on an eight-year sentence for counterrevolutionary incitement and propaganda. Government security organs monitor and sometimes restrict contact between foreigners and citizens.

Couples in urban areas are affected most by family planning guidelines, seldom receiving permission to have more than one child, although urban couples who themselves were only children may have two children. . . . It is illegal for unmarried women to bear children, and unmarried women cannot get permission to have a child. In order to delay childbearing, the Marriage Law sets the minimum age at marriage for women at twenty years, and for men at twenty-two years; marrying two or more years later is encouraged.

Population control policy relies on education, propaganda, and economic incentives, as well as on more coercive measures, including psychological pressure and economic penalties. For example, all workers at a factory or other work unit might lose a bonus if one worker has a child without permission. . . . Central government policy formally prohibits the use of force to compel persons to submit to abortion or sterilization; however, intense pressure to meet family planning targets set by the Government has resulted in documented instances in which family planning officials have used coercion, including forced abortion and sterilization, to meet government goals. During an unauthorized pregnancy, a woman often is paid multiple visits by family planning workers and pressured to terminate the pregnancy. According to a senior family planning official, 10 million persons are sterilized each year and not all voluntarily. . . . The [State Family Planning Commission] has issued circulars nationwide prohibiting family planning officials from coercing women to undergo abortions or sterilization against their will. Under the State Compensation Law, citizens also can sue officials who exceed their authority in implementing family planning policy, and in a few instances, individuals have exercised this right.

Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a dictatorship under the absolute rule of the Korean Workers' Party (KWP). Kim Il Sung led the DPRK from its inception until his death in 1994. Since then his son Kim Jong Il has exercised unchallenged authority. . . . The judiciary is not independent.

The Constitution provides for the inviolability of person and residence and the privacy of correspondence; however, the Government does not respect these provisions in practice. The regime subjects its citizens to rigid controls. The state leadership perceives most international norms of human rights, and especially individual rights, as alien social concepts subversive to the goals of the State and party. The Government relies upon an extensive, multilevel system of informers to identify critics and potential troublemakers. Whole communities sometimes are subjected to massive security checks. The possession of "reactionary material" and listening to foreign broadcasts are both considered crimes that may subject the transgressor to harsh punishments. In some cases, entire families are

punished for alleged political offenses committed by one member of the family. For example, defectors have reported families being punished because children had accidentally defaced photographs of one of the two Kims. Families must display pictures of the two Kims in their homes, and must keep them clean. Local party officials have conducted unannounced inspections once a month, and if the inspectors found the family had neglected its photos, the punishment was to write self-criticism throughout an entire year. . . .

Cuba

Cuba is a totalitarian state controlled by President Fidel Castro, who is Chief of State, Head of Government, First Secretary of the Communist Party, and commander-in-chief of the armed forces. President Castro exercises control over all aspects of life through the Communist Party and its affiliated mass organizations, the government bureaucracy, and the state security apparatus. . . . The judiciary is completely subordinate to the Government and to the Communist Party. . . .

Although the Constitution provides for the inviolability of a citizen's home and correspondence, official surveillance of private and family affairs by government-controlled mass organizations, such as the CDRs [Committees for Defense of the Revolution], remains one of the most pervasive and repressive features of daily life. The State has assumed the right to interfere in the lives of citizens, even those who do not actively oppose the Government and its practices. The mass organizations' ostensible purpose is to improve the citizenry, but in fact their goal is to discover and discourage nonconformity. . . .

The authorities utilize a wide range of social controls.

The Interior Ministry employs an intricate system of informants and block committees (the CDRs) to monitor and control public opinion. While less capable than in the past, CDRs continue to report on suspicious activity, including conspicuous consumption; unauthorized meetings, including those with foreigners; and defiant attitudes toward the Government and the revolution.

The Government controls all access to the Internet, and all electronic mail messages are subject to censorship. The Department of State Security often reads international correspondence and monitors overseas telephone calls and conversations with foreigners. The Government also monitors domestic phone calls and correspondence.

. . . On April 29, the authorities expelled from his workplace Jose Carlos Malina Gonzalez, conditionally released from jail, because he refused to participate in a government-sponsored public event for the return of Elian Gonzalez Brotons. . . .

Iran

The Islamic Republic of Iran was established in 1979 after a populist revolution toppled the Pahlavi monarchy. The Constitution ratified after the revolution by popular referendum established a theocratic republic and declared as its purpose establishment of institutions and a society based on Islamic principles and norms. . . .

Vigilante violence includes attacking young persons considered too "un-Islamic" in their dress or activities, invading private homes, abusing unmarried couples, and disrupting concerts or other forms of popular entertainment. Authorities occasionally enter homes to remove television satellite dishes, or to disrupt private gatherings in which unmarried men and women socialize, or where alcohol, mixed dancing, or other forbidden activities are offered or take place. Enforcement appears to be arbitrary, varying widely with the political climate and the individuals involved. Authorities reportedly are vulnerable to bribes in some of these circumstances.

In 1998 security forces conducted a nationwide raid of more than five hundred homes and offices owned or occupied by Baha'is suspected of having connections to the Baha'i Institute of Higher Learning. . . . During the raids, instructional materials, office equipment, and other items of personal property were confiscated. The effort apparently was designed to disrupt the operation of the Institute, which serves as the only alternative source of higher education for most Baha'is, who are denied entry to the state-controlled university system. . . .

Afghanistan*

Afghanistan continued to experience civil war and political instability for the twenty-first consecutive year. There was no functioning central government. The Pashtun-dominated ultra-conservative Islamic movement known as the Taliban controlled approximately ninety percent of the country, including the capital of Kabul, and all of the largest urban areas, except Faizabad. . . .

Interfactual fighting often resulted in the homes and businesses of civilians being invaded and looted by the opposing forces—whether victor or loser. Some armed gunmen reportedly acted with impunity given the absence of any legal protection or a responsive police force. It was unclear what authority controlled the actions of the Taliban militiamen who patrolled the streets of cities and towns. A number of incidents were reported in which Taliban soldiers, persons masquerading as Taliban, or foreign sympathizers fighting alongside the Taliban, entered private homes without prior notification or informed consent. In Kabul the soldiers allegedly searched homes for evidence of cooperation with the former authorities or for violations of Taliban religion-based decrees, including the ban on the possession of depictions of living things (including photographs, stuffed animals, dolls, etc.). At various times, the Taliban also has banned certain traditional recreational activities, such as kite flying and playing chess. . . . Members of the [Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Suppression of Vice], the Taliban's religious police, beat individuals on the streets for infractions of Taliban rules concerning dress, hair length, and facial hair, as well as for the violation of the prohibition on women being in the company of men who were unrelated to them. The Taliban required women to wear a burqa, a tent-like outer garment that covers a woman from head to toe, when in public. . . . Men are required to have beards of a certain length or longer, not to trim their beards, and to wear head coverings. Men whose beards did not conform to the guidelines on beard length set out by the Taliban were subject to imprisonment for ten days and mandatory Islamic instruction. According to [Amnesty International], the Taliban have taken children hostage in an effort to compel their fathers to surrender. . . . The Taliban reportedly also has required parents to give their children "Islamic" names.¹

*Note: Although the Taliban regime no longer has control of this nation, the State Department report is included to give the reader an idea of what life was like under this repressive system.

¹Source: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices," *U.S. Department of State*, 23 February 2001, <<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2000>> 12 March 2002.

Quiz—Privacy around the World

Part A.

Match the nations listed below with the descriptions that follow.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| a. Afghanistan | d. Iran |
| b. Cuba | e. People's Republic of China |
| c. Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea | f. Zimbabwe |

- _____ 1. In October, approximately fifty riot police entered the home of a governmental opposition leader and beat him and his wife with batons on their arms and buttocks.
- _____ 2. This nation has an individual in prison on an eight-year sentence for allegedly sending over twenty letters critical of the government to a Voice of America mailbox.
- _____ 3. Families must keep clean pictures of this nation's leader and his father in their homes or write self-criticism throughout an entire year.
- _____ 4. An intricate system of informants and block committees report on suspicious activities, including conspicuous consumption; unauthorized meetings, including those with foreigners; and defiant attitudes towards the government.
- _____ 5. Soldiers allegedly searched homes for violations of religion-based decrees, such as the ban on the possession of depictions of living things, which includes photographs, stuffed animals, and dolls.
- _____ 6. War veterans of this nation, with government support, began occupying commercial farms, and assaulted and intimidated farm workers and the predominantly white farm owners.
- _____ 7. Population control relies on education, propaganda, and economic incentives. All workers at a factory or other work unit might lose a bonus if one worker has a child without permission. In this nation it is illegal for unmarried women to bear children.
- _____ 8. Authorities occasionally enter homes to remove television satellite dishes, or to disrupt private gatherings in which unmarried men and women socialize, or where alcohol, mixed dancing, or other forbidden activities are offered or take place.
- _____ 9. According to a senior family planning official, ten million people are sterilized each year, and not all voluntarily.

Part B.

Respond completely to the following items.

1. Why must the U.S. Department of State submit an annual report to Congress on the condition of human rights around the world?
2. Contrast the role of religion and government in the United States with that in Iran.
3. Compare and contrast the nations described in this lesson and the United States in terms of the degree of governmental intrusion into one's privacy.