

Human Trafficking Awareness Month Using the News

The following activities correlate to the Florida Standards for high school students. Social Studies: SS.912.A.1.1; SS.912.A.1.2; SS.912.A.1.5; SS.912.A.3.10; SS.912.A.3.9; SS.912.A.7.12; SS.912.A.7.14; SS.912.C.2.3; SS.912.C.2.8; SS.912.C.2.9
Health: HE.912.B.3.2; HE.912.B.3.4; HE.912.B.4.2; HE.912.B.4.4; HE.912.B.5.1; HE.912.B.5.5; HE.912.C.2.6; HE.912.C.2.7; HE.912.C.2.8; HE.912.P.8.3; HE.912.P.8.4
Language Arts: LAFS.912.RI.1.1; LAFS.912.RI.1.2; LAFS.912.RI.1.3; LAFS.912.RI.2.4; LAFS.912.RI.2.5; LAFS.912.RI.2.6; LAFS.912.RI.3.7; LAFS.912.SL.1.1; LAFS.912.SL.1.2; LAFS.912.SL.1.3; LAFS.912.SL.2.4; LAFS.912.SL.2.5; LAFS.912.SL.2.6; LAFS.912.W.1.1; LAFS.912.W.1.2; LAFS.912.W.1.3; LAFS.912.W.2.4; LAFS.912.W.2.5; LAFS.912.W.2.6; LAFS.912.W.3.7; LAFS.912.W.3.8



There are a lot of myths about Human Trafficking. The Department of Health and Human Services website, www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/about/myths-facts-human-trafficking, lists some common myths. What is a myth? Look up the word “myth” in a dictionary or online. How do myths come about in society? Discuss the myths on the website with your class. Look in the newspaper to see if you can find articles that refute one of these myths. With a partner, choose one of the myths you have read on the Department of Health and Human Services website and research the myth.



What is human trafficking? What does a human trafficking victim look like? How old is the typical victim? Once you do some research, you will realize that victims come in all shapes, sizes and ethnicities. Human trafficking victims can be women, girls, men and boys. Using the Polaris Project website, <https://polarisproject.org>, as a source research the typology of modern slavery. In a small group, create a chart listing the types of modern slavery. Using the information in your chart, create a full-page newspaper advertisement explaining what modern slavery is to the everyday newspaper reader based on what you have learned. Use the advertisements and advertorials in the newspaper as models.



The role of a citizen is an important job. According to the Department of Homeland Security, among the responsibilities of a citizen are

- to stay informed of the issues affecting your community
- to respect and obey federal, state and local laws
- to respect the rights, beliefs, and opinions of others
- to participate in your local community

One way citizens can respect others is by helping others. The Department of Health and Human Services suggests 10 ways you can help end human trafficking. Not only will these suggestions help other people, by they also will help you and the economy. Check out the suggestions on the Office on Trafficking in Persons website: www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/about/ways-endtrafficking. Discuss what you have learned with your classmates. Write a letter to the Editor about this issue and the most important things you have learned to share with your community.



In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation which freed slaves in the states that had seceded from the Union. This proclamation did not end slavery but it was a symbolic beginning step in the fight for freedom. Although slavery was abolished in the United States, it still existed in other countries.

The modern-day slave trade, human trafficking, is happening around the world and even in the United States. Why do you think slavery exists? Who benefits? What are the pros and cons? Use current events in your local newspaper and on the information you read on the Internet to help you with your discussion. Go to www.slaveryfootprint.org and take the quiz. Write down the number of slaves that work for you (as indicated by the quiz) and any questions you might have. After students have completed the exercise, share your results and talk about the results with your class. Were you surprised or shocked by the content you change your behavior?



In small groups, read Carmen's survivor story on the Polaris website, <https://polarisproject.org/blog>. Analyze the who, what, where, when, why and how details of the story. Write a journal response about Carmen's story. In your response, include your thoughts about what you read. Next, using the feature stories in the newspaper as models, write a feature news story about Carmen. How does a journal response and a feature news article differ? Share your thoughts about the two distinct types of writing styles and Carmen's story with your class.



Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi states, "Human trafficking strips people of their dignity and deprives them of their most basic human rights." Her office has created the You Can Stop Human Trafficking website, www.youcanstopht.com. This website provides definitions and infographics to know the signs of human trafficking.

According to the Florida Attorney General website, “The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 20.9 million victims of trafficking around the world. Domestically, Florida continues to rank third in the nation in the number of calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Victims of human trafficking include children, women and men who are subjected to sexual exploitation or forced labor through force, fraud or coercion. According to a study of U.S. Department of Justice human trafficking task force cases, 83 percent of sex trafficking victims identified in the United States were U.S. citizens. The average age that a trafficked victim is first used for commercial sex is 12-14.”

Are you or someone you know being trafficked? Is human trafficking happening in your community? Is the situation you may have encountered human trafficking? Using the www.youcanstopit.com and <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/human-trafficking/recognizing-signs> websites, create your own infographic of signs of human trafficking. Next create a schoolwide awareness campaign about this issue. Using the ads and articles in your local newspaper as models, create an advertisement for your local and school newspaper. Also, write an article for your local and school newspaper to promote your campaign. In addition, create a poster to hang in your classroom and create a public service announcement (PSA) for your TV production program.



The second bullet point of the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations is “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small.” Think about what these words mean in connection to the second sentence of the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Analyze political, economic and social concerns that emerged at the end of the 20th century and into the 21st century. What significance do these words have in connection with those concerns? How do human rights play a factor in these concerns?

Analyze your local newspaper for a week and look at the current event stories on a local, national and international level. Review the role of the United States as a participant in the global economy (trade agreements, international competition, impact on American labor, environmental concerns). What do these issues have to do with human rights and the issue of human slavery? Right a blog or journal post about this. Share your thoughts with your class.

Activities written by Jodi Pushkin, Tampa Bay Times Newspaper in Education
For more information, contact ordernie@tampabay.com