**U.S. Foreign Policy…**

**…is this country’s actions, words, and beliefs toward other countries.**

Some of the main goals of our foreign policy is to:

* Protect the U.S. and Americans
* Support economic growth and humans rights around the world
* Increase support for American values like democracy and freedom

**Foreign Aid…**

**…is the help or assistance that we give to other countries, usually through our Department of State.**

Foreign Aid comes in many forms. The most common are:

* Economic, like money
* Military, like soldiers helping after a disaster
* Advice, like how to create a democracy

**Military…**

**…is this country’s troops, led by our President who is called the Commander-in-Chief.**

The main goal of our military is to prevent war and protect the United States. The Department of Defense is made up of the following branches:

* Army
* Navy
* Air Force
* Marines

**Treaties…**

**…are formal agreements between countries that, like laws, must be followed.**

The President is responsible for negotiating and signing treaties. All treaties must be approved by 2/3 of the Senate.

An example: Countries form an alliance through the signing of a treaty. This treaty says that if one of the countries is attached, the others will step in to protect each other.

**Worksheet:**

**Foreign v. Domestic: Read each example and use the correct word to fill in the blank.**

1. Americans often refer to a country that is not the United States as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ country. (Domestic/Foreign)
2. A language that is not English and comes from a country outside the United States is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ language. (Domestic/Foreign)
3. Someone who is really good at chores and maintaining a home might be described as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ person. (Domestic/Foreign)
4. If you get on an airplane and take a flight that doesn’t leave the country it is called a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ flight. (Domestic/Foreign)

* Domestic refers to things that happen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the United States.
* Foreign refers to things that happen \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the United States.

**Which is Which? Read each example below and decide if it is a domestic policy or a foreign policy. Write out the sentence and label with a “D” for Domestic and a “F” for Foreign.**

1. The government wants to make sure students are learning what they should be , so it requires standardized testing in certain grades.
2. The government operated national parks in different parts of the country.
3. The United States is allied with countries around the world, which means they are partners and look out for each other’s interests.
4. The United States provides help to other countries when natural disasters, like earthquakes, occur.
5. The countries of the world meet to decide how to handle climate change, and the United States plays a role in the talks.
6. The United States is attacked, and the President, in his role as Commander-in-Chief, calls on the U.S. military to defend the U.S. by attacking the other country.
7. The government decides how much money Americans must pay in federal taxes.
8. The government makes an agreement with specific countries that none of them will attack each other.
9. The government cleans up land and water areas that are severely polluted.
10. The government enforces federal laws and sends convicted criminals to jail.

**Who Does What? The Constitution, the rulebook for the government, says who has which foreign policy powers. Using your notes and textbook, see if you can figure out who is responsible for which power and write them in the correct places in the chart below.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Foreign Aid** | **Military** | **Treaties** |
| **President** |  |  |  |
| **Congress** |  |  |  |

**What do you think? Read the questions below carefully and check the answer that best reflects your opinion.**

1. Who do you think has the most difficult job when it comes to foreign policy?
   * President
   * Congress
2. **Why?** List two reasons why you think that branch has the hardest job when it comes to foreign policy.
3. Why do you think the writers of the Constitution gave Congress a voice in most foreign policy decisions?

* So the President can make decisions on his own and not listen to Congress
* To make it really difficult for our country to respond in war
* To make sure that not just one person had all the power in making these important decisions, like whether or not to go to war.