

# NEW WORLD UNIT

## Focus on Imagination and Causation

*Creator and Instructor: Peter Dudink*

### COURSE GOALS

1. **LEARNING AND PRODUCTION:** *Students will learn history, reality, and alternative ways of living as they invent an imaginary country and write a foundation myth, stories, news reports, information paragraphs, advertisements, a manifesto and a tourism brochure.*
2. **LANGUAGE GOALS:** *to improve research, reading and listening-based note-taking, writing and public speaking skills. To develop causal, deductive, inductive thinking skills.*
3. **CRITICAL THINKING AND CREATIVITY:** *students will learn to ask the right questions about the right things in order to improve their lives to invent imaginary worlds by creatively combining themes with topics.*

## COURSE UNITS

FOUNDATION WEEK

WEEK 1: Land and Government

WEEK 2: Work and Money

WEEK 3: Housing and Transportation

WEEK 4: Food and Hunger

WEEK 5: Nutrition, Medicine, Sickness and Addiction

WEEK 6: Body & Mind, Holidays & Religions

WEEK 7: Crime, Property, Power and Wealth

WEEK 8: Identity and Clothing

WEEK 9: Technology

WEEK 10: Arts and Crafts

CONCLUSION: A Funeral and a Eulogy

## ADVICE AND EXPECTATIONS

1. **GENERAL CHALLENGE:** After choosing a theme(s) for your country or planet, write about your country. Each week's submission should explore how your country deals with or relates to the given week's topic. Additionally, the genre you choose should be respected. If you're writing a story, you need dialogue and conflict, while humor is extra and advisable.

### TYPES OF CONFLICT:

- Hero versus villain
- Hero versus nature
- Hero versus himself
- Hero versus society

**FOR EXAMPLE:** If your country is obsessed with secrecy, it makes sense for the country to be hidden or to hide in the shadows, behind mountains, in camouflage or in animal disguises. When you write about food, perhaps your country avoids overeating because large people are difficult to hide. Then, conflict could be introduced in the form of a person who has grown to big to hide, or a food addict has left your country to eat pizzas in Italy, and this could lead to the person revealing the secret to the world.

**PRODUCTION:** Each week, write a minimum of 300-500 words and use 10-20 new words in your writing. The amount depends on your grade and skill level.

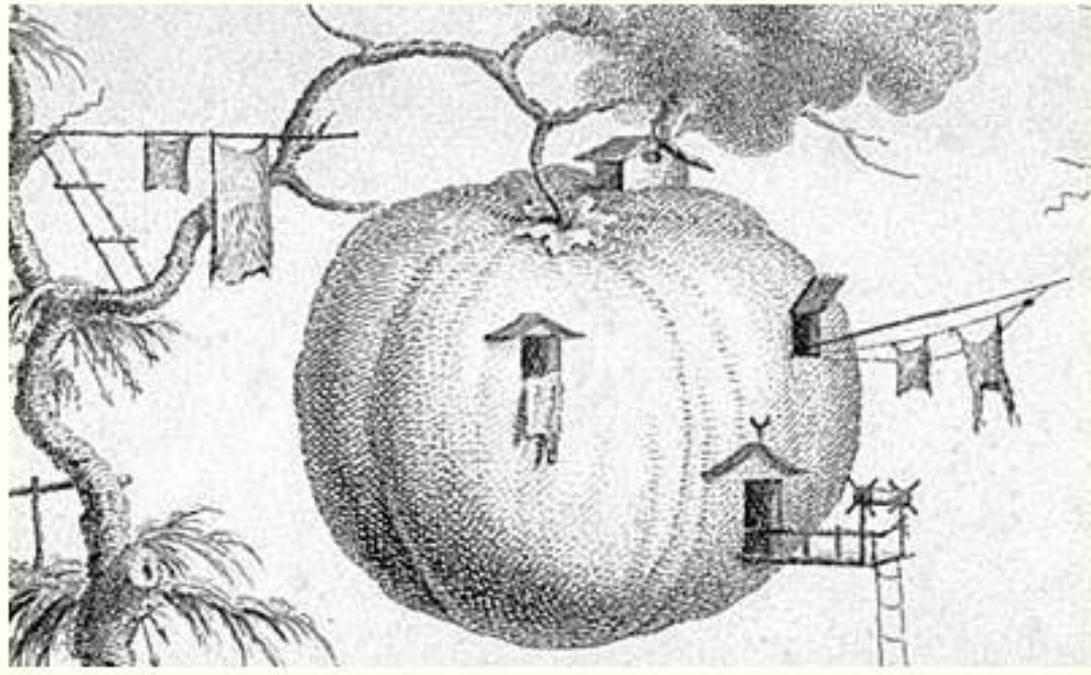
## FOUNDATION WEEK: The Creation Myth

INSPIRATION: Reading and watching for ideas

- **Review two or three creation myths.**  
<https://listverse.com/2014/01/11/10-creation-myths-as-strange-as-the-bible/>  
[http://mythicjourneys.org/bigmyth/2\\_eng\\_myths.htm](http://mythicjourneys.org/bigmyth/2_eng_myths.htm)
- **What do we really know about Earth, the Moon and the Sun?**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bo0p7ndMZY>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kj-W5jB1Nv4>
- **Do gods, humans, or other forces control the weather?**  
Making rain in China:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTXTjWDz5eU>  
Reducing Global Warming around the world:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=epslNUpui7Q>
- **Who shapes the Earth?**  
Mountaintop removal:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5RcbPZXUZo>  
Stopping rivers with dams:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6IUyLW7Qcw>  
Destroying rainforests:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0aGe943fZvQ>
- **Watch these clips about other worlds:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBMvR\\_RnKu4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBMvR_RnKu4) (Planet of the Apes)

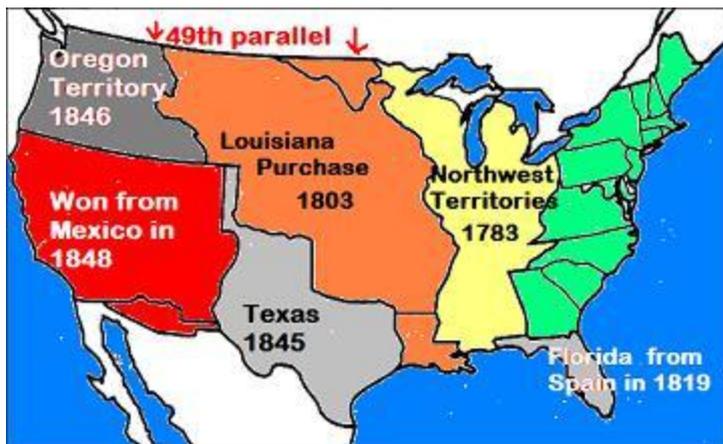
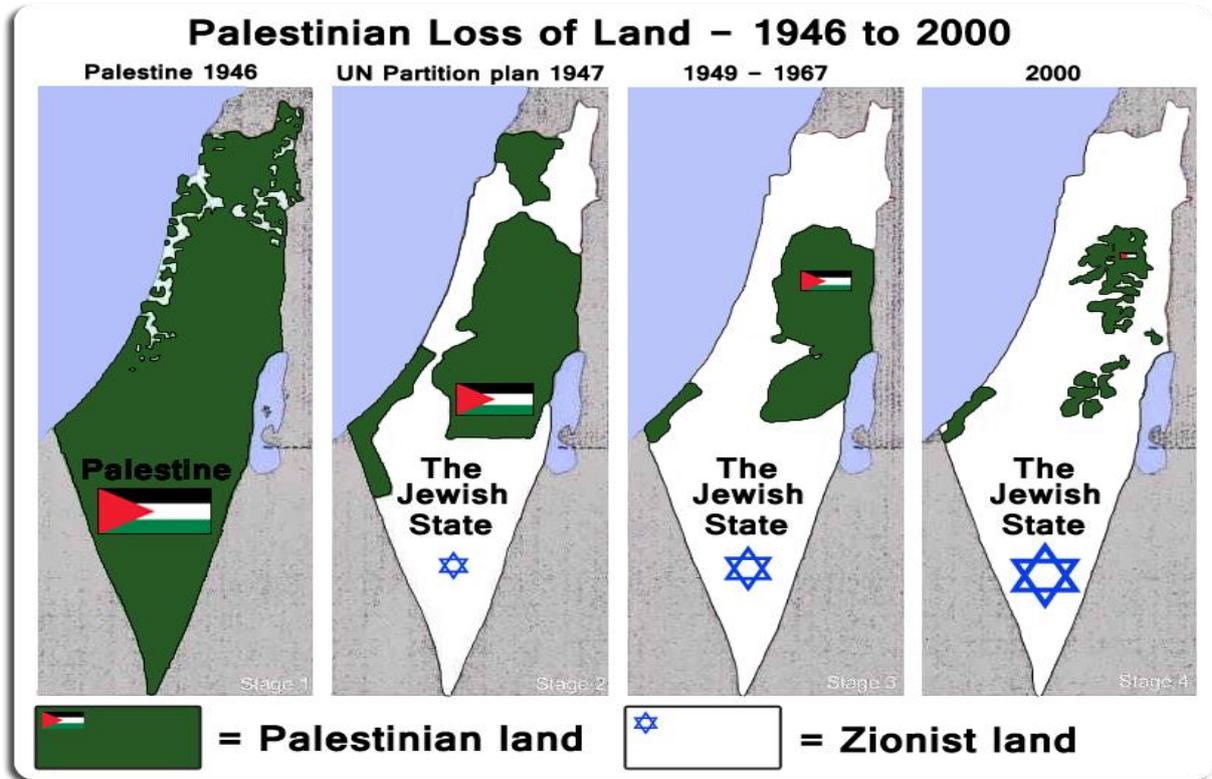
CREATION: Choosing themes and brainstorming ideas

- Choose your planet and/or country by choosing a theme. This theme will help shape the content of everything you write in this course.
- Now make a name for your planet or country, and create names of one or more main characters, including one or more villains. The names should reflect your theme. Decide on ages, genders, colours and other details.
- Write creation myth for your country or planet. Use gods, monsters, scientists or anything else you wish. Be as creative as possible. **YOU MUST USE 10-20 NEW WORDS.**



## WEEK ONE: Land, Water and Government

Short discussion of how empires and countries acquired their land and territories. See the maps below for examples of how empires expanded by military conquest, colonialism, treaties and purchase.



Do we really need governments in order to behave well and to organize an economy?

Part One:

Possible topics for writing:

1. How did your country grow or shrink
2. What is the climate
3. Geography: deserts, ice
4. Wildlife
5. Predators and protection
6. Natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes
7. Describe the seasons
8. Interesting natural features like lakes made of glass or pudding

Use your imagination. Discuss serious or funny challenges and serious or funny solutions. And, ALWAYS CONNECT YOUR TOPICS TO YOUR THEME. For example, if your theme is secrecy, you could explain that your country is in the remote and freezing north or south because that's where secrecy is easiest to maintain.

LENGTH: 200-400 words.

Links for ideas about how access to fresh water can affect your country:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/755497.stm> the water war crisis

<http://www.pbs.org/frontlineworld/stories/bolivia/timeline.html> history of one water war

## Part Two

Write about your world's government or its lack of government. Is it ruled by a monarch (king), by chiefs, by men or women, by an elected government, by a benevolent (good) god or person, by an autocrat/dictator/totalitarian ruler, or by everyone equally—as in true anarchy? Discuss, in detail, where your ruler(s) lives if you have a ruler(s), and describe his/her/their habits and how seriously or lightly they treat their responsibility to rule. You might also explain if they collect taxes or just steal money and/or food.

LENGTH: 100-200 words.

## Part Three

Write a set of laws and/or a constitution based on your country's theme. Before you start, take a look at the Ten Commandments at <http://www.10commandmentslist.com/> and examine the American Constitution at <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript> and the Bill of Rights at <http://oll.libertyfund.org/pages/1791-us-bill-of-rights-1st-10-amendments-with-commentary>.

## Key Vocabulary

Monarchy

Anarchy

Democracy

Tyranny

Equality

Egalitarianism

Republican Government

Governance

Governing

Hierarchy

Upper Class

Lower Class

Middle Class

Working Class

Poverty

Elites

Constitution(al)

Lawful

Legal

Illicit

Prohibit

Taxation  
Tithes  
Money  
Currency  
Barter  
Corruption

Bribery  
Sustainable  
Utilize  
Abundant  
Self-reliant  
Indoctrination

Fathom  
Conviction  
Temptation  
Integrity

## Writing mechanics

Learn how to use colons and such phrases as “such as,” “the following” and “In light of the fact that.”

## WEEK TWO: Work and Money

### VOCABULARY

socialism  
capitalism  
welfare  
competition  
wages  
salaries  
minimum wage

maximum wage  
central bank  
fiat money  
banks  
loans  
interest rates  
debt & credit

bills  
currency  
counterfeit  
gold standard  
inflation  
deflation  
hyperinflation

### 1. The Economy

How do people survive in your world?

In our world, almost everyone works for a boss, and everyone works for money and almost everything has a price. In this unit, you decide how life works in your country. First, let’s study different ways societies organize their economies.

1. As native people around the world, mostly by sharing and a little trading, without or with little money, with no interest in profiting from others.
2. Once specialization of labor begins, trading becomes necessary. People trade goods for someone else’s goods. This word “goods” can mean anything from goats to flint (rocks used for starting fires). Arguments were rare but could happen.
3. Slavery—slavery starts with men forcing women to do the hardest work. Later, slavery involves men from one tribe or nation capturing other people and forcing them to work without pay.
4. Indentured servitude: This is a form of slavery in which one person receives land or a big favor like a journey across an ocean and pays for it by being a slave for a few years.
5. Serfdom...
6. Employment: this is our world, the capitalist world. Everyone works for money so that they can buy the hundreds of things they need and don’t know how to make for

themselves. But not all jobs are good jobs, so some people earn a lot of money, some people earn very little. This causes trouble like strikes, robbery, and even murder.

7. Mechanization and automation: robots, machines and computers do all the work and almost everyone becomes unemployed and redundant.

## ASSIGNMENT 1

Write a story about how your economy is organized and how your country survived some trouble related to its economy.

### **2. Money**

What is money? Money can be anything. It can be seashells, silver, gold, rocks, paper with nice pictures on it, or an old man's toenails.

Money is great if people want to have things but can't trade for them. If I want your cow, but you will only trade it for three iPods, well, if I don't have iPods, then I don't get your cow. But if I have money, I can trade money for a cow and the farmer can use my money to buy his iPods from someone else. So, money is convenient.

But money is dangerous. Money can be used to steal—if the creation of money is controlled by a few privileged elites.

Banks and governments can create money; everyone else must work hard for it.

Paper money, for example, is very easy to create. Digital money is even easier to make and easy to fake, too. Making fake money is called counterfeiting, but really all money is fake. Gold coins, for example, are fake because rulers are able to stamp any number they wish on them, and gold money is cruel because slaves died digging for gold in unsafe mines.

Another problem related to money is debt. When people are allowed to buy things on credit, this means they are allowed to buy without money but are promising to pay later. If they fail to pay later, then trouble starts. In some countries like America, debtors can even go to debtors' prison.

When you have no more money, and no one wants to lend you money, you are bankrupt.

The most common causes of debt are homes, university studies, medicine and cars. Some people never finish paying for their homes.

## ASSIGNMENT 2

Write about a problem with money and explain how your people solved this problem. The obvious sources of conflict related to money are counterfeiting, debt, interest payments, defaulting on payments and confiscation of assets.

## WEEK THREE: Housing and Transportation



## Part One

How will people pay for their homes? In the modern world, most families spend 10-30 years paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for their homes. They borrow money from banks that charge them interest on the money they borrow as they try to pay back the original amount they borrowed. This isn't necessary. Anyone can build their own home cheaply.

Research cob and aircrete homes and describe how your people make them. Also, please research and answer:

1. How safe is a cob home? Discuss earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, fire, and fungi.
2. Budget: How much money or time does it cost to build a cob home?

Some resources:

Aircrete domes:

<https://offgridquest.com/construction-methods/dome-home>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=evsu9NOo4hQ>

Wikipedia - cob



Now look at what a modern home looks like before it's covered with bricks and thin sheets of drywall: <http://www.arch.mcgill.ca/prof/sijkpes/arch-struct-2008/SKIN-and-bones.html>

Choose your type of home carefully and make sure you explain all your design and material choices using your theme(s). Remember, **nothing should be normal**. Normal requires no creativity. So, describe your abnormal bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchens, and other rooms. Use your imagination, and use adjectives to tell your readers about all the relevant sensory details: smell, touch, sight, and hearing. Be descriptive and make sure everything is related to your theme(s).

WRITE 200-300 WORDS

**More ideas for inspiration and information:**

<http://www.thiscobhouse.com/characteristics-of-cob-homes/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iSOrBHcgyV4>

(read) <http://improvementweb.com/alternative-crazy-home-construction-materials-beer-cans-tires-cardboard/55/>

<http://www.countryplans.com/underground.html>

[http://www.harald-melcher.de/haupt\\_eng/korowai\\_eng.htm](http://www.harald-melcher.de/haupt_eng/korowai_eng.htm)

<http://www.solarhaven.org/NewStrawbale.htm>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice\\_palace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ice_palace) (see pictures)

<http://davidszondy.com/future/city/skyscraper.htm>

[http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Casa\\_Batllo.html](http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Casa_Batllo.html)

Hay Bale Construction

Car free cities

<http://www.ti.org/autowar.html#RTFToC2>

Biodomes

### **Key Vocabulary**

Foundation	Home mortgage	insulation
Yurt	Property tax	open concept designs
Thatch roof	Aqueducts	ramps and ramparts
Pillar and beam design	Flush toilets	suburbia and suburbs
Frame construction	Compost toilets	cottage country
Cob building	Biodomes	estates
Rammed earth building	the Richter Scale	villas
Straw bale construction	flammable	lean-tos
Passive solar energy	inflammable	

### **Part Two**

Now do something interesting with transportation. Discuss how many people die each year moving around your country on the ground, in the air, on and under water.

Research how many fatal traffic accidents occur in Canada every year. How can you make transportation safer?

You know cars that use fossil fuels are polluting. Can you think of something cleaner or something worse for your country?

How fast do your people need to travel, and why?

How far do they need to travel, and why?

Will you have public transportation?

What are your roads, railways, vehicles, boats or planes made of?

### **For inspiration**

Consider unusual bicycles, boats, helicopters, personal wings, skateboards, levitation devices, giant bats, winds, rockets, asteroids, elephants, anything.

WORD COUNT: 200-300

### **Extra Assignment**

Write a news report describing a natural disaster that affected homes and people in your country. Headline, byline, the five Ws. Much info, little explanation, no logic.



## WEEK FOUR: Food and Hunger

### Part One: Methods of Food Production

In the modern world, most people don't know what is in the food they eat and do not know how their food is made, but throughout most of human history, nearly everyone was involved in getting food for themselves, their families and tribes. Here are some of the ways we produced food for ourselves:

1. Gathering (wild plant-originated foods), now also known as Wildcrafting
2. **Hunting and gathering – the Paleo Diet**  
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/hunting-and-gathering-culture>
3. Hunting
4. Fishing
5. Stealing and begging
6. **Pastoralism – raising domesticated animals for meat and milk**
7. Tithing – rulers take food from the ruled
8. **Horticulture – gardening**
9. **Agriculture – growing domesticated plants; grain-based monoculture**  
[http://www.crf-usa.org/bria/bria18\\_4a.htm](http://www.crf-usa.org/bria/bria18_4a.htm) - history of agriculture
10. **Greenhouse farming**
11. **Aquaculture, aquafarming, fish farming – raising marine species for food**
12. **Hydroponics or hydroculture – growing plants in containers of shallow water**

**13. Roof-top gardening inside cities**

**14. Indoor farming (UV lights and LED lights)**

<http://inhabitat.com/indoor-vertical-farm-pinkhouses-grow-plants-faster-with-less-energy/>

**15. Seed bombing \***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lu7UCeSAnpc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZkIDvfOxZg>

**16. Dumpster Diving for Food**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MJmCUSb-ZVo>

**17. Permaculture**

Research and write about one of the above types of food production methods, but only if it is bolded. If you choose number 15 or 16, it must be combined with any other number except 5 and 7. If you do not choose number 6 or 9, you must explain why, because they are the two food production systems that we mostly use. They are easily mechanized, but they waste a lot of land because they need about 7 times more land to grow the same amount of calories as some of the other methods.

You must also write about food system management, or how you make sure your food production system isn't ruined, and this means you must avoid over-fishing and over-hunting, ensure that your soils stay fertile by adding fertilizers such as dung and compost, and avoid polluting your soils, rivers, etc.

100-200 words

**Part Two: Foods**

This part must answer the following questions: What do your people eat? Here are some interesting foods you might consider and research:

1. Edible flowers
2. Edible insects
3. Edible tree leaves
4. Edible organs (why do modern meat eaters mostly eat only muscle tissue?)
5. Cellulose
6. Flatulent foods
7. Artificial flavours, colours, and more
8. Edible junk (junk food?)
9. Human breast milk (for babies only?)

Once you choose at least 10 types of food, explain how and where your people will eat these foods. Here are some things to consider:

1. The raw food diet
2. Barbecuing over fires
3. Cooking in pots and ovens
4. Food processing—foods like flour and sugar are processed foods
5. Eating instant or prepared foods
6. Fast food and gourmet restaurants
7. Take-out and delivery
8. Potluck and potlatch

Write 100-200 words about how these topics relate to your country.

### Part Three

Write a story or a news report about how your people survived or did not survive a food crisis, or famine. It can be caused by a drought, by erosion and desertification, by fire, by insect pests, by bacteria, by fungi, by theft, by pollution, and so on. Remember to connect your crisis to your theme. Include dialogue or quotations.

200-300 Words

### Optional Work

Develop a special national dish or recipe complete with cooking instructions.

### Vocabulary

agriculture	family farms,	annual
arable	import/export	greens
irrigation aquifer	fertilizers, potash,	orchard
cloud dusting	desertification	domestication,
rain dances	monoculture	hybridization
genetically modified	vegetarianism	canopy
crops	staple	fasting
vegetarianism	pests	drought
carbon footprint	herbicide	famine
	perennial	

### Related Research

<http://blogs.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=blog.view&friendId=13524445&blogId=479705415> FILM or see “A Farm for the Future” at Dandelionsalad  
[www.dandelionsalad.wordpress.com/2009/03/29/vandana-shiva-the-future-of-food-and-seed/](http://www.dandelionsalad.wordpress.com/2009/03/29/vandana-shiva-the-future-of-food-and-seed/)

## WEEK FIVE: Environment and Health

### Part One: Contagious/Communicable Disease Crises

In this section you will research contagious (communicable) diseases that might occur in your country, depending on its climate and environment. To give you an understanding of how serious these diseases are, you must first research the Black Death and understand its causes and its prevention. Next, choose any contagious disease, research ways to cure people who

suffer from it and ways to prevent the disease from recurring (re-occurring) in the future. Below are some suggested diseases:

Yellow Fever	Pneumonia	Influenza
Tuberculosis	Rabies	Cholera
Bubonic Plague	Infectious diarrhea	
Malaria	Small Pox	

For a larger list of contagious diseases, click <http://www.health.ri.gov/diseases/infectious/>.

When your research is done, you should write about an outbreak of the disease you've chosen. Explain the five Ws. Your paragraphs could discuss victims and patients. You could also name and describe the achievements of individual doctors, scientists and so on. Also discuss prevention. I believe most contagious diseases can be prevented with access to clean water, good nutrition and separation from animals, from other mammalian species especially.

For inspiration, research the medieval false cures known as cupping and bloodletting.

## Part Two: Non-Contagious Disease Crises

In this section you will research non-contagious (non-communicable) diseases that might occur in your country *if it is industrialized and polluted with chemicals and harmful amounts of natural but toxic substances like petroleum*. To give you an understanding of how serious non-contagious diseases are, you must first research cancer and understand some of the causes and ways to prevent it. Next, choose any non-contagious disease, or do more research on cancer, then research ways to cure people who suffer from it and ways to prevent it from recurring (re-occurring) in the future. Below are some suggested non-contagious diseases:

Cancer	Grave's disease	Osteoporosis
Diabetes	Rheumatoid arthritis	Fibromyalgia
Heart disease	Multiple sclerosis	Asthma
Alzheimer's	Liver disease	

According to the World Health Organization,

- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) kill 40 million people each year, equivalent to 70% of all deaths globally.
- Each year, 17 million people die from a NCD before the age of 70; 87% of these "premature" deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.
- Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths, or 17.7 million people annually, followed by cancers (8.8 million), respiratory diseases (3.9million), and diabetes (1.6 million).

Non-communicable diseases are caused by pollution outside and inside our homes, by unhealthy food additives like chemical food colors, by unhealthy medicines including vaccines, by cigarettes, by alcohol and so on. Your writing should discuss some of these causes and treatments in your country.

For possible treatments, use the search bars to explore [www.naturalnews.com](http://www.naturalnews.com) and/or [www.naturalcures.com](http://www.naturalcures.com). You could also write about how your country outlawed, prohibited and made illegal certain things, as some religions already forbid alcohol ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietary\\_laws#Alcohol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dietary_laws#Alcohol)).

Finally, consider the following ways of preventing cancer:

Heliotherapy and Vitamin D

[http://www.naturalnews.com/046239\\_sunlight\\_alternative\\_medicine\\_cancer.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/046239_sunlight_alternative_medicine_cancer.html)

<https://www.cancertutor.com/vitamin-d-deficiency-increases-risk-of-cancer/>

Intravenous Vitamin C

[http://www.naturalnews.com/043972\\_vitamin\\_C\\_cancer\\_treatment\\_intravenous\\_injections.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/043972_vitamin_C_cancer_treatment_intravenous_injections.html)

Apricot seeds:

<http://thedailyhealth.co.uk/cancer-vitamin-b17-cure-symptoms-88643/>

<http://www.abovetopsecret.com/forum/thread648026/pg1>

<http://truedemocracyparty.net/2013/01/a-world-without-cancer-apricot-seeds-vitamin-b17-and-laetrile-the-real-conspiracy/> (includes an interesting news video)

Lemons

<http://blogs.naturalnews.com/lemons-contain-22-cancer-fighting-compounds/>

Breadfruit and Jackfruit

<http://blogs.naturalnews.com/breadfruit-leaf-extract-kills-100-pancreatic-cancer-cells/>

Grapeseed extract to cure advanced cancer:

[http://www.naturalnews.com/050231\\_grape\\_seed\\_extract\\_chemotherapy\\_cancer\\_treatments.html](http://www.naturalnews.com/050231_grape_seed_extract_chemotherapy_cancer_treatments.html)

### **Part Three: Addiction and Mental Health**

Describe some problems and solutions and invent an imaginary addiction. Explain why the addiction occurred and how it was stopped. An addiction is any behavior or substance that you can't stop doing or using and is harmful to your health. And, people can be addicted to almost anything from chocolate and sugar to computer games and shopping.

But, you could write about an imaginary addiction. Explain why the addiction occurred and how it was stopped.

Finally, you could write about why someone was depressed or violently angry and how they were 'cured.'

### **VOCABULARY**

alimentary  
malnutrition  
tooth decay  
gum disease  
scurvy  
infection  
poisoning  
contagious  
vitamin D  
minerals  
fructose  
diabetes

cancer  
autism  
auto-immune diseases  
good gut bacteria  
probiotics  
herbalist  
naturopath  
cupping  
bloodletting  
acupuncture  
intravenous  
chemotherapy

radiology  
alcoholism  
cold turkey  
avian flu  
mad cow disease  
paranoia  
depression  
bulimia  
electrotherapy  
antidote

### **WEEK SIX: Body and Mind**

## VOCABULARY

Sedentary	Bench press	Iron man event
Osteoporosis	Lunges	Pentathlon
Laps	Planks	Kinetic
Lengths	Sets	.....
Repetitions	Chain gang	Dementia
Squats	Prison labor	Delusion
Burpees	Boot camp	Phobias
Jumping jacks	Obesity	Superstition
Crunches	Cardio vascular system	Attention deficit disorder
Bicep curls	Ultra-marathons	

### 1. Body and Exercise

Over the past 10,000 years, first a minority and gradually a majority of people have had to work harder and harder to survive. Meanwhile, a minority just sits, talks, and gives orders. Nowadays, technology is turning everyone into a sitter. Almost no one walks to work or needs muscles for their job, farmers sit on tractors, construction workers sit on machines, and millions of workers and students sit behind desks. This is called the sedentary lifestyle, while the opposite is the active lifestyle. Can you guess what the future will look like?

So, how do people in your country stay fit and healthy? Of course, not everyone has to be fit and healthy, but perhaps a few are, or perhaps a few try to be fit and healthy. They don't have to succeed.

In the old days, work was a form of exercise. People worked on their farms, and went fishing or hunting, so they were healthy and fit because they were using their bodies. In the modern world, many jobs require almost no physical movement. Millions of people sit at desks, stand beside machines, or drive cars, trucks, buses, airplanes, and so on. Getting rid of these things will help everyone get in shape, right?

### ASSIGNMENT 1

To get ideas for how your people can research the best ways to get healthy and decide what kind of fitness you want: endurance, aerobic, strength, agility, and so on. *Which one or more types of fitness you write about should depend on your theme.*

For inspiration, go to Google images and search "*exercise in the office standing desk*"

Or, go to Google videos and type "*ministry of silly walks*" or "*funny ways to exercise*" or "*extreme exercises*"

Here are some other ideas:

1. *Force everyone to play a sport.*
2. *Make the floors in grocery stores so steep or sticky that shopping for groceries is good exercise (and forces you to eat more).*
3. *Make technology so heavy or difficult to use that people need to train and be fit to use it.*

### 2. Mind and Exercise

Mental fitness is rarely discussed. The problem is the same as with the body: during the last ten thousand years, society has replaced a world of independence and thinking for ourselves with a world in which most of us are told what to think and what to do by a minority of people who are bosses, politicians, teachers, the media, and so on. Please discuss this and tell me what you think the future looks like if 'progress' continues.

As with the body, the mind has a number of different abilities. I think they are as follows:

1. (M) Memory
2. (L) Logical thinking (math, deduction, induction, making connections)
3. (I) Imagination (making new things or new connections)
4. (H) Honesty (not being afraid of the truth)
5. (E) Empathy (imagining how you would feel if you were someone else)

Here are some ways you can stimulate and develop your mental abilities:

Chess (M, L, I)

Poetry

Gardening

Meditation

Socializing

Parenting

Music and Art

Playing from memory

Copying what you see

Improvisation

Abstraction

Video games?

Books?

Movies?

Seeking similarities

And differences

Finding connections

## ASSIGNMENT 2

Write about some of these topics:

1. Which of these 5 types of thinking is being developed in schools in the real world and in your imaginary world?
2. Which types do you and your people use or not use during the day?
3. Design policies and measures that will help people in your imaginary world develop each of the five types of mental abilities.

## WEEK SEVEN: Crime, Property, Punishment

Once upon a time, no one owned anything. At most, people owned what was nearby, but they did not own other people. Nowadays, rich people own properties around the world, own huge companies, and countries and companies own water, land and whatever is in the land and water. Most people, however, own very little. More than half don't actually own a home—for they are still busy paying banks for their homes. And nowadays very few people are able to find their own food and build their own home. So, in this world, if you don't have a good job or good food growing and home building skills, you might commit theft or murder to survive.

### ASSIGNMENTS

- **ACADEMIC ESSAY:** For students needing extra attention to their essay-writing skills, students can be assigned an essay describing their penal system and the reasons for it. Positions can be supported with quotations from authoritative sources.
- **A LETTER:** Pretend you are a prisoner or a police officer or a judge or... well, use your imagination). Write a letter to an authority in your country. The letter could contain a plea for mercy, a demand for more justice, etc. The letter should give readers a good idea about the justice system and crime rate in your country.
- **AN ILLUSTRATED NOVEL or COMIC BOOK:** Use your drawing skills and provide word balloons and narrative in blocks below your pictures. If you choose this option, you must also memorize or write sentences for 20 new words.
- **SHORT STORY:** Write about how one or more people lost their jobs and attempted to survive without jobs. They could go to prison, to the wilderness, or both.

### RESEARCH

Medieval forms of torture.

American Prisons:

<http://dandelionsalad.wordpress.com/2009/03/23/americas-dehumanizing-prisons-by-sherwood-ross/>

History of Violence:

[www.ted.com/index.php/talks/steven\\_pinker\\_on\\_the\\_myth\\_of\\_violence.html](http://www.ted.com/index.php/talks/steven_pinker_on_the_myth_of_violence.html)

History of Crime and Punishment:

[http://au.encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia\\_1461500354/crime\\_and\\_punishment\\_history\\_of.html](http://au.encarta.msn.com/encyclopedia_1461500354/crime_and_punishment_history_of.html)

Death Penalty Laws, America

<http://www.deathpenaltycurriculum.org/student/c/about/history/contents.htm>

Children in jail

<http://www.manilatimes.net/national/2007/may/13/yehey/opinion/20070513opi4.html>

## EXTRA TOPIC: THE WHISTLEBLOWER

What is a whistleblower? No, not a referee. A whistleblower is someone who tells the truth about the bad behavior of a company or government. In many countries, the U.S. included, such people are thrown into prison. Write a story or letter about or from a whistleblower in your country. What truths did he reveal? Remember to connect this topic to your theme.

## VOCABULARY:

deterrence

eye-for-an-eye

penal code

legalization

illegal

penal colony

death penalty

death row

death sentence

capital punishment

manslaughter

petty crime

penitentiary

penitent

remorse

absolution

incarceration

super prisons

commute

third degree murder

second d m

first d m

jury

prosecution

maximum security prison

## WEEK EIGHT: Identity and Clothing

### Part One: Identity

We live in a time when everyone is talking about identity. Nowadays governments and people like to identify you according your race, your birthdate, your name, your height, your nationality, your education and job experience, and by your sexual orientation. If you don't have some of these identity markers, are you no one?

Should we identify ourselves according to other characteristics like our eating habits (omnivore, herbivore, vegetarian, vegan, etc.), our fitness level (superfit—superfat), our foot size, our sensitivity, our creativity, our acidity, and our tendency to lie.

Who are you? Are you trying to be like everyone else, or are you happy to be different? How different or 'weird' are you willing to be?

If you must describe yourself in a short paragraph, what traits would you highlight?

Do you think it's important for people to know where you were born or raised?

Is your identity changing as you grow older or are you the same person?

Can you have multiple personalities? Nice and nasty? The personality of a killer and a lover? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWhICGCXnUE>

Can you be confused about who you are? Do you think you are a girl or a boy instead of a boy or a girl? Do you think you're a dog or a monkey?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X50bLlu9uvw>

Do you think you are the son or daughter of a king or a queen?

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grandiose\\_delusions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grandiose_delusions)

Is identity determined by birth, I mean genetically, or is it determined by one's environment, location, home, education, and so on?

**You could respond in writing about these non-fiction questions, or do the fiction writing assigned below:**

One or more of your characters has an identity crisis. Suddenly they do not know who they are. Perhaps they were brainwashed, or perhaps they just thought about their lives and decided that they wanted to be different and have a different identity. Maybe they decide that they are African at heart, or maybe they decide that they are aliens from another planet, or maybe they think they are guilty of a murder, or they think they are the reincarnation of a famous person like George Washington or Crazy Horse.

Every country (or planet) has an anthem that supposedly expresses the core identity of the nation. Write an anthem for your country or planet. See other examples on the internet.

## Part Two: Clothing

Much of our social identity seems to depend on what we wear. Are we cool, fashionable, trendy, old fashioned, daring, whacky, or what? Consider creating special clothing for one or more characters, or a traditional costume for your country.

Here are some questions to help you generate ideas:

1. Are your clothes meant to be functional or beautiful or both?
2. Clothing materials and animal rights. Furs and animal rights.
3. Are the sexes distinguished by clothing (and hair)? Is socio-economic status? Is age? Do you have any ceremonial wear, like wedding dresses, military uniforms, and so on?
4. What is the most embarrassing part of the human anatomy for your people? How do they manage? Be creative.
5. How frequently must clothes be washed, changed, etc.?

You may include details about hair, cosmetics and accessories

Below are link and ideas for more inspiration.

<http://www.fashionencyclopedia.com/>

National dress: <http://livingheritage.org/toplessness.htm>

Fashion-based confidence at <http://www.imagematters.org/testimonials.html>

Clothing used to create fear in war:

[http://www.johnbullclothing.com/psychological\\_warfare.asp](http://www.johnbullclothing.com/psychological_warfare.asp)

The fur trade: [http://www.canadiana.org/hbc/hist/hist1\\_e.html](http://www.canadiana.org/hbc/hist/hist1_e.html)

Chinese Foot Binding

Astro Suits (for extreme conditions)

Wooden Shoes and Glass Slippers

Nudist Parks: <http://www.bareoaks.ca/Bare-Oaks/Policies.html>

Burqas

The Scottish kilt

Bridles and Yokes

Medieval Armour: <http://www.middle-ages.org.uk/jousting-weapons.htm>



Advertising and pornography: [http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/educational/handouts/ethics/calvin\\_klein\\_case\\_study.cfm](http://www.media-awareness.ca/english/resources/educational/handouts/ethics/calvin_klein_case_study.cfm)

Bubble Boy

Native American Indian clothing: <http://www.native-languages.org/clothing.htm>

## VOCABULARY

fabric, custom, tradition, norm, privacy, conform, conformity, exuberance, criteria, pizzazz, vitality, flair, trend, trendy, fashionable, fashion accessories, fad, elegant, smart, sharp, suave, pomp, gallant, pageantry, drab, anachronistic, blah, dingy, exquisite, outfit, ensemble, garb, garment, paraphernalia, wardrobe, monogamy, bigamy, polygamy, hermaphrodite, population control, one-child policies, day care, abortion, birth control, adoption, the nuclear family, sing-parent family, goose families, orphans, adoption, the extended family, the elderly, seniors, octogenarians, retirement homes, extended care homes, ageism, eugenics

## RESEARCH

Overpopulation

<http://dandelionsalad.wordpress.com/2009/02/10/overpopulation-overconsumption-and-the-balance-of-power-by-dale-allen-pfeiffer/>

Population Control

<http://www.colby.edu/personal/t/thtieten/Famplan.htm>

Self-directed research. Use the vocabulary list to direct your searches.

## WEEK NINE: Art, Religion, Entertainment

### ASSIGNMENT ONE: ART AND ENTERTAINMENT

Try to invent a unique form of entertainment that reflects your country's or planet's theme. Consider writing a romance or a romantic comedy about love between two characters. They do not need to be human and the love can be between child and parent, king and subject, etc.

Overview of Entertainment:

For thousands of years people entertained each other with songs, music, stories, dances and feasts. Now we sit in chairs and watch something other people made for us, or we ride somewhere in a car, boat, plane, roller coaster or other machine. And sports are played by children, rarely by adults. But, we have quite a few types of entertainment. Below is my attempt to put them in categories:

GENRE	RESPONSE AND PURPOSE
Thriller, action, horror and anything scary	Excitement, adrenaline rush
Comedy	Laughter and relaxing
Romance	Fear, hope, crying and relaxing

Tourism, art	Hope, awe, curiosity
Detective novels and puzzles	Curiosity and mental challenge
Poetry	Mental challenge and deep emotions
Music	Many types of feelings are possible—it depends on the type of music
Non-violent computer games	A little hope, fear, basic mind-body reflex challenge

To inspire unique ideas for your country, check out these examples of art and entertainment:

The Seventh Seal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4yXBIgZbg>

Monty Python: The Black Knight

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zKhEw7nD9C4>

Marilyn Monroe: I Wanna Be Loved by You

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikUjlv4iT58>

Silent Movies: Charlie Chaplin at the Circus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79i84xYeIZI>

Medieval Jester Juggler

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72R9utN3TBg>

Great murals and graffiti

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbCmKamQtdQ>

Swan Lake Ballet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JI7AsZGnyi4>

Gumby – clay animation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wt87rvCPViQ>

## ASSIGNMENT TWO: RELIGION

Invent a religion for your people. Who or what do they worship? Do they worship one, two, many or no gods? Good or evil gods? And what rituals and ceremonies do they have? What are their beliefs about good and evil and what do they believe happens after death? Do they believe in Hell, Heaven, Nirvana or some other world beyond this world? Do they believe in an ultimate villain and hero, a Satan and a Jesus or a Buddha? Do religious people have churches and do they persecute people who don't believe their religion? Use these questions to write a short story about religious life and religious experiences in your country.

Religions have a multitude of beliefs, ceremonies and rituals. And they are full of theater—costumes, lights, fireworks, flowers, jewelry, huge temples, rivers, incense and so on. If you choose to create a religious ritual for your people, make sure it's full of detail and the five senses: smell, touch, sight, sound and ...

Below are links to some videos for inspiration.

### Overview of Religion

The first religions had no gods or world beyond our world; they believed in spirits and a spiritual world that was an extension of this world. Later, when empires arose, powerful rulers believed they were gods, or supreme spirits with bodies. They hated death and believed that their wives, slaves, and possessions could still be theirs after death if they were buried with them, even buried alive. They also believed in magic and sometimes thought that sacrificing

human beings could persuade other gods to give them good harvests or victory in war. In most modern religions, life on Earth is considered to be a test that, if you pass it, you will go to a better place.

Maori ritual at a wedding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUbx-AcDgXo>

Islamic Kaba ritual

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KGukAoiGhZU>

Greek Orthodox Christian ritual

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RGK3Qf0M4A>

Hindu Festival of Lights

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrrW3rO51ak>

Pagan ritual

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2LEDbbJRlo>

Pagan ritual

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXWvozuJeLs>

Masonic ritual

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKMHORhuUmA>

## VOCABULARY

Morality

Myth

Mortality

Immortality

Immorality

Pantheon

Monotheism

Polytheism

Atheism

Asceticism

Aesthetics

Ethics

Ethnic

Transcend

Enlightenment

Catharsis

Trivia

## WEEK TEN: A Funeral and a Eulogy

This is our last week and our saddest week. Today we need to say goodbye to our characters and countries. The time has come for a funeral, burial, eulogies (speech in praise of someone), and so on. So, your task will be to describe the death, burial, cremation or other end-of-life ritual, and to write one or two eulogies. Your eulogies should not be boring and full of clichés. They can be funny or sad, clever or dignified, or combinations of these.

Death has played an extremely significant role in all cultures. The Egyptian pyramids are essentially burial chambers, and ancient Rome's biggest engineering projects are probably the catacombs, the tunnels and subterranean rooms in which thousands of dead were buried. In many cultures, the belief existed that everyone has an immortal soul that survives death, requires food offerings after death, and requires gifts, sacrifices or other offerings if people did not want to be haunted or troubled by ghosts and guilt (and by endless grief).

### Assignment

1. To describe the demise of a character or an entire country.
2. To describe the end-of-life ritual
3. To write a eulogy or two

### Links to examples of eulogies:

<http://blog.funeralone.com/funeralone-products/life-tributes/amazing-eulogies/>

Toni Morrison on the life and death of James Baldwin

<http://www.nytimes.com/books/98/03/29/specials/baldwin-morrison.html>

A Funeral Poem by Henry Jackson van Dyke

<http://blog.sevenponds.com/the-next-chapter/gone-from-my-sight-by-henry-jackson-van-dyke>

Stop All the Clocks – a poem

<http://homepages.wmich.edu/~cooneys/poems/auden.stop.html>

In memory of W.B. Yeats

<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/memory-w-b-yeats>

Here is a set of instructions on how to write a eulogy for a country or empire

[http://www.cambriansd.org/cms/lib07/CA01902282/Centricity/Domain/316/Eulogy\\_to\\_Rome\\_0001.pdf](http://www.cambriansd.org/cms/lib07/CA01902282/Centricity/Domain/316/Eulogy_to_Rome_0001.pdf)

Epitaphs are short dedications to the dead. Here are a few written for dogs:

<https://www.thedodo.com/9-touching-epitaphs-ancient-gr-589550486.html>

### Link to examples of funeral rituals:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZzTfhMgj3U>

Expensive funerals:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-3530308/Flashy-funerals-Fleets-limos-Rolls-Royce-hearses-20-000-caskets-super-rich-continue-splash-cash-die.html>

A state funeral for a dead president:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GC1WEdgXKEI>

### VOCABULARY

*Demise*

*Perish*

*Expire*

**Eulogy**

**Epitaph**

*Mourning*

*Grieve*

Grave

**Soul**

**Spirit**

Funeral

Funereal

Memorial

*Corpse*

*Cadaver*

**Casket**

**Coffin**

**Crypt**

**Mausoleum**

**Funeral urn**

Cremation

Mortal

Immortal

Necropolis

*Mortuary...The place where the dead bodies of human beings are temporarily placed*

*Morgue...The place where the dead bodies are placed for identification*

*Cemetery...The place dead bodies are buried*

*Cremation...Disposal of dead body by burning*

*Pyre...A pile of wood on which a dead body is burned*

*Embalm...To preserve the dead body from putrefaction*

*Exhume...To dig up a corpse*

**Bier...The frame on which a dead body is carried**

**Hearse...A vehicle for taking dead body to a cemetery**

Post-mortem...An examination of dead body

Autopsy... An examination of dead body

Epitaph...An inscription on a tomb

*Crypt...A vault beneath a church for burial*

*Sarcophagus...A stone coffin*

*Catacombs...underground caves with burying places for the dead*

*Mausoleum...A very expensive and elaborately built tomb*

*Euthanasia...The practice of putting painlessly to death*

Obituary...An account in the newspaper about the funeral of the deceased

Intestate...To die, without leaving a will

Legacy...The property left to someone by a will

Will ... a document that explains what should be done with the property of the dead

Cenotaph...A monument set up for the person who are buried elsewhere

Requiem...The mass for the dead

Cortege... The mass for the dead

*Suicide...The act of killing oneself*

*Homicide...The act of killing a human being*

*Infanticide...Murder of a new-born child (infant)*

*Fratricide...The act of killing one's brother*

*Sororicide... The act of killing one's sister*

*Matricide... The act of killing one's mother*

*Patricide... The act of killing one's father*

*Parricide... The act of killing one's parents*

*Regicide... The act of killing the king*

Resurrection...Rising from the dead

Posthumous...Occurring after death

Carrion...The decaying flesh of animal