

Pre-Game Activities

A. Decisions, decisions. Answer the questions.

1. Think about a time when you had to make an important decision. What did you do? Either write about it or talk to a partner.

2. What about when the decision just feels too big to make on your own? How do you figure out who to ask for advice?

B. Situations. A situation arises, the president is briefed by the National Security Council, decisions are made, and action is **delegated** to the proper government agency or department. In most cases, the president's team will use something from their foreign policy toolbox to address the opportunity or challenge.

No Action

Sometimes the best option in a foreign policy situation is to take no action at all!



Delegated?!? To **delegate** means to assign or hand off to someone else to do. In this case, the president assigns, or delegates, policy decisions to other areas of the executive branch.

Economic tools

... include financial or trade policies, such as sanctions, trade deals, or foreign aid, that can encourage or discourage certain behaviors. These tools are most often used by the Department of the Treasury and sometimes through the State or Justice Departments.

Domestic tools

Sometimes foreign policy situations need to be addressed closer to home. Domestic tools can include investigations, legal actions, refugee admissions, and economic regulations. These tools may be used by a variety of departments, including Homeland Security and Justice.

Diplomatic tools

... seek to achieve U.S. goals through negotiations, treaties, and participation in global or regional organizations such as the United Nations (UN). These tools are most often used by the ambassadors, diplomats and staff under the guidance of the State Department.

Military tools

... achieve their goals through the use or threat of armed force. They include air strikes, ground invasions, troop patrols, and joint military exercises. These tools are used under the guidance of the Department of Defense.

Unconventional tools

... do not fall neatly under one category. They include cyberwarfare, espionage, or training foreign militaries and intelligence services. These tools are used under the guidance of the Department of Defense and the Intelligence Community.

Convene the Council

Name _____

B. Situations (Cont.) Using the descriptions of the tools, review the foreign policy examples and write which one each example represents (diplomatic, economic, etc.). Then use the word bank to write which U.S. agency or department was involved. (Note: you can use the [Department Guide](#) for descriptions of the departments.

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Department of Defense | Department of Homeland Security | Department of the State |
| Intelligence Community | Department of the Treasury | |

Situation	Tool	Department
1. In 2021, the nation of Venezuela was designated for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months. This immigration policy allowed eligible people from the nation to remain and work in the U.S. due to the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.		
2. In 1990, the nation of Iraq invaded its neighbor Kuwait. After other actions failed to address the situation, the U.S. led a coalition of 35 nations to remove the occupying Iraqi forces.		
3. In 2015, the U.S. entered with 195 other parties into an international treaty on climate change called the Paris Agreement. In 2017, the Trump administration moved to withdraw from the treaty, and in 2021 the Biden administration requested to be readmitted.		
4. In 2021, the military of Myanmar seized power from the democratically elected government. The U.S. responded with economic sanctions targeted at those who played a leading role in the overthrow of the civilian government, not at the people of Myanmar.		
5. In 2010, a computer worm was discovered to be the cause behind significant damage to Iran’s nuclear program. While no one has claimed responsibility, the worm called Stuxnet is believed to be a cyberweapon built by the U.S. and Israel.		

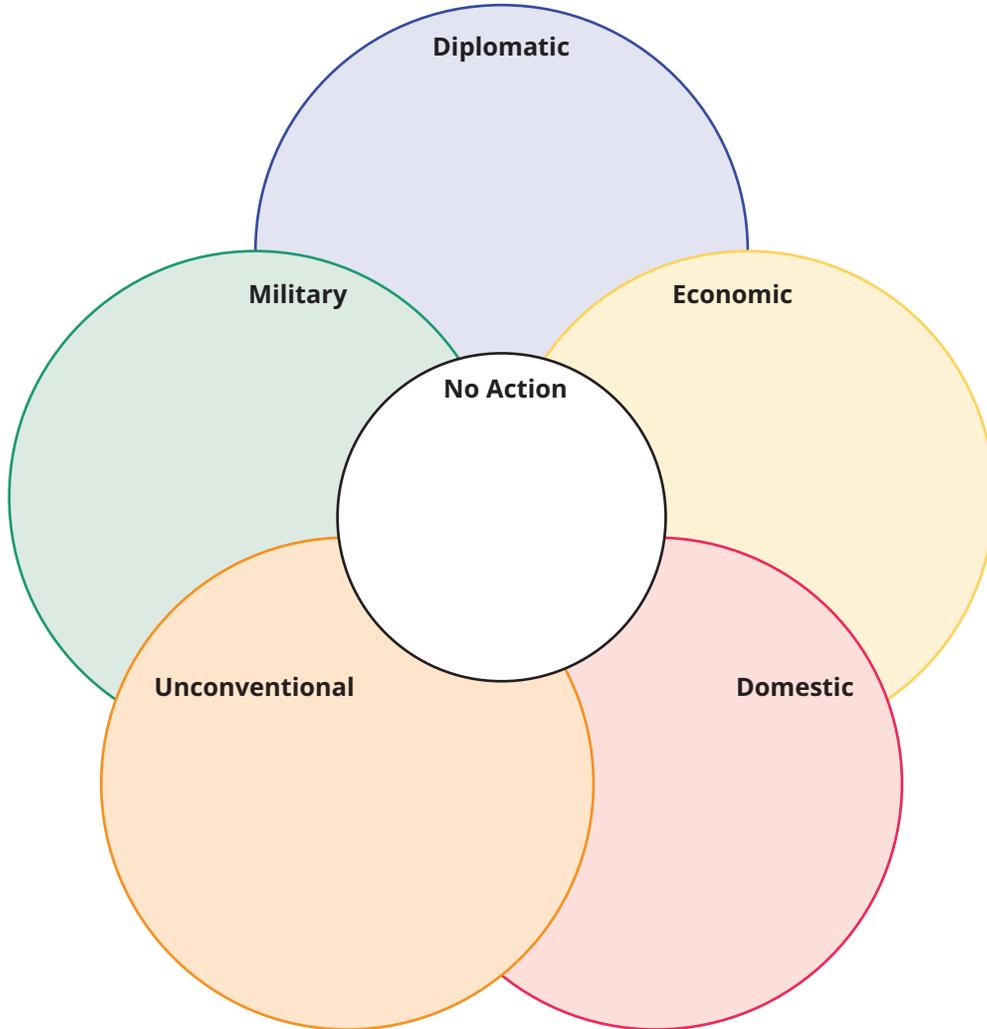
C. Balancing priorities. Each foreign policy decision is made after considering its impacts on many priorities. Match the U.S. priority used in *Convene the Council* to its description.

	1. Security	A. State of global events and well-being
	2. Values	B. Being successful or thriving financially, growing wealth
	3. World	C. Safety; freedom from danger, risk, etc.
	4. Prosperity	D. Beliefs that are core to a democratic government

While Playing

A. Foreign Policy Tools Graphic Organizer. Use this graphic organizer to write keywords or draw pictures related to each foreign policy tool. Use the word bank for ideas and then come up with your own.

air strikes	economic regulations	ground invasions	trade deals
cyber warfare	foreign aid	investigation	treaties
legal action	negotiations	sanctions	global organizations
spying	wait and see		



Other notes:

Post-Game Activities

A. Delegation time. Match the department to the request.

1. Ban travel between the US and Maldivia.	 A. Defense
2. Use federal law to seize the patent from Better Lab.	 B. Energy
3. Set tariffs on goods from Nambutu in response.	 C. Homeland Security
4. Share technology that limits emissions and helps with adapting to the new climate.	 D. Justice
5. Pull out all remaining U.S. troops from Mypos.	 E. State
6. Oppose ransom payments and give emergency medical and technical support.	 F. Treasury
7. Closely monitor the terrorist.	 G. Intelligence Community

B. True or False? Decide if each statement is true or false. Correct the false statements.

- _____ The president is on their own to make foreign policy decisions.
- _____ Members of the National Security Council are all Senators.
- _____ There are many different foreign policy tools that the president can use to address global events.
- _____ Not responding to a global event is sometimes the best option.



Convene the Council

Name _____

C. Discussion Questions. With a partner, discuss these questions. Write your answers.

1. What was the easiest part about making a decision in the game? The hardest?

2. How did you decide which policy to choose?

3. What role did the metrics play in your decision-making?

4. How did you use the information you received from the National Security Council?

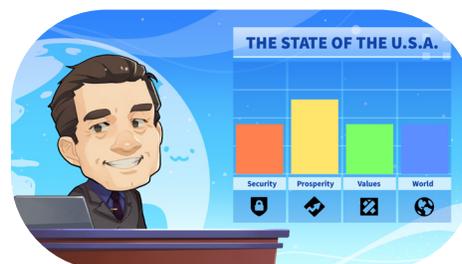
D. Let's check out the news! What is facing the president today? Research issues involving U.S. foreign policy in the news. Take notes in the chart, then write a summary about it

WHO?	
WHAT?	
WHEN?	
WHERE?	
WHY?	
HOW?	



E. Talk about it! Work in groups of three to discuss one of the news stories from Activity D. Ask each other the following questions:

- What was the situation?
- What foreign policy tool did they use?
- Who was involved?
- If you were the president, would you make the same decision? Why or why not?



Mini Quiz

A. Departments. Answer the questions.

1. Which department or agency would oversee the treaty-making process?

2. Which department or agency oversees economic sanctions?

3. Who might be able to provide helpful insights on issues relating to the U.S. military bases around the world?



B. Multiple choice. Select the best answer for each question.

4. Who or what ends up making the final decision on foreign policy?

- a. National Security Advisor
- b. A vote of the National Security Council
- c. A national vote
- d. The president

6. Which word best describes this action: to assign or hand off a task for someone else to complete?

- a. Sanction
- b. Delegate
- c. Convene
- d. Debate

5. What is considered when debating various foreign policy options?

- a. Cost
- b. Time
- c. Popularity of the policy
- d. Likelihood of success
- e. All of the above

7. An official agreement between two or more nations is called a...

- a. Treaty
- b. Diplomat
- c. Aid Organization
- d. Policy



Mini Quiz

C. True or False? Decide if each statement is true or false.

- 8. _____ Economic tools are only used to punish other nations or groups.

- 9. _____ The United States is required to respond to every global crisis or opportunity.

- 10. _____ Events that happen in other parts of the world can have impacts on people living in the United States.



D. Dig Deeper. Respond in your own words.

11. Explain the role of the U.S. in world affairs.

12. What is the difference between *foreign policy* and *domestic policy*?

13. Why do you think the metrics of U.S. Values, Security, Prosperity; and the World were selected for this game?

14. Why does the president need a council of advisors?





Glossary of Game Terms

Metrics

prosperity (n.) being successful or thriving financially, growing wealth.

values (n.) beliefs that are core to a democratic government

security (n.) freedom from danger, risk, etc.; safety

world state of global events and well-being

Foreign Policy

aid organization (n.) an agency or charity that gives aid (help) to people who need it

military (n.) people who secure and defend the country; (adj.) related to the armed forces

attack (n.) a violent/harmful act against someone or something
(v.) to try to hurt or destroy

negotiate (v.) to discuss something in order to come to an agreement

cooperate (v.) to work together to achieve a goal

sanctions (n.) actions taken to force a country to obey international laws by limiting trade with that country, not allowing economic aid, etc

democracy (n.) a government by the people

surveillance (n.) the act of carefully watching someone or something

diplomacy (n.) the work of maintaining good relations between the governments of different countries

tariff (n.) a tax on goods coming into or leaving a country

domestic (adj.) of, relating to, or made in your own country

terrorism (n.) the unlawful use of violence and intimidation to frighten people in an area for a political goal

economic (adj.) relating to an economy (financial resources within a country)

training (n.) a process by which someone is taught the skills that are needed for an art, profession, or job

expert (n.) a person who has special skill or knowledge relating to a particular subject

treaty (n.) official agreement between nations

foreign policy (n.) government actions related to or dealing with other nations

Convene the Council

Name _____

1. Sort. Cut and sort the words into different categories of your choice. When you are done, explain each category to a partner.



domestic	sanctions	treaty	terrorism
economic	negotiate	foreign policy	security
attack	values	cooperate	diplomacy

2. Pictures. Choose the best word from the glossary of game terms for each image. Then write a sentence using the word.

 <p>Word: _____ Sentence: _____</p>	 <p>Word: _____ Sentence: _____</p>	 <p>Word: _____ Sentence: _____</p>
 <p>Word: _____ Sentence: _____</p>	 <p>Word: _____ Sentence: _____</p>	 <p>Word: _____ Sentence: _____</p>

3. Pairs. In pairs, choose four vocabulary words or terms and write true or false statements for another pair to answer.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Convene the Council

Name _____

4. My vocabulary. This organizer will help you remember the vocabulary terms. Choose five vocabulary words and fill out the chart using your own definitions, drawings, and sentences.

WORD	DEFINITION (your own words)	VISUAL (drawing)	CONTEXT (sentence)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

5. Charades. In small groups, take turns acting out one of the words from the list. (Variation: have students draw instead of act out.)

cooperate	treaty	economic	military
security	aid organization	surveillance	tariff
domestic	negotiate	prosperity	

6. Priorities. Each foreign policy decision is made after considering its impacts on many priorities. Define these terms in your own words or write them in a sentence.

	1. security	
	2. values	
	3. world	
	4. prosperity	