



International Monetary Fund: Lesson Plan

Topic	
<p>The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is a major player in the field of development economics and one of the main entities that ensures stability in the world's financial markets. Its programs are ubiquitous in resource-poor, developing countries, which make up the main recipients of IMF loans. It has provided emergency interventions in several high-profile financial crises in recent years, such as the 2009 Greece debt crisis.</p>	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
Economics, Government, History	35-40 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/topic/the-imf-protector-of-the-world-financial-order/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explain the history of the IMF and the context in which it was founded.• List the three ways the IMF receives funding.• Define conditionality and make a well-informed argument on whether or not it benefits the nations subjected to it.	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
World Bank, National Sovereignty, Economic Nationalism, Globalization	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, Student Internet Access	
Before you watch	



Turn & Talk: You're the President of a country that is about to run out of money and face a major financial crisis. How would your power over your citizens be affected if this were to happen, and what steps would you take to handle the situation?

While you watch

Have students fill out the Worksheet.

After you watch/discussion questions

1. Is it fair to expect wealthier countries to bear the responsibility of providing funding to countries who are struggling economically?
2. Who is most qualified to make decisions about economic reforms in a struggling country? Are the possible benefits of international intervention worth the sacrifices in local autonomy and democratic decision-making that may need to be made?
3. How can the IMF make its decision-making more democratic?
4. Are IMF loans worth it? How effective are they at achieving their goals?

Activity Ideas

- Have students navigate to the IMF Lending tracker, an interactive map of all the nations the IMF is currently providing financial assistance to: (<https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/COVID-Lending-Tracker>). Divide students into groups and have each group pick one country on the interactive map. Then, have them navigate to the "financial assistance" table in the section underneath the map and click on their chosen country. Encourage groups to pick countries from different continents. Have students answer the following questions, then come together as a class and see if students can notice similarities between countries.
 - Why were IMF loans necessary in that country? What economic crisis led to the country being in the position it is in today?
 - How much money is being lent to that country?
 - What steps is the IMF taking to help the country recover? What is the relationship between the IMF and the country's government?
- Have a class debate on the effectiveness of the IMF. Allow students some time to discuss with their groups and research, if desired.



Sources/places to learn more

1. *Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund — 2020 Edition.*
<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/aa/index.htm>.
2. Masters, Jonathan and Chatzky, Andrew. "The IMF: The World's Controversial Financial Firefighter." *Council on Foreign Relations*,
<https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/imf-worlds-controversial-financial-firefighter>.
3. "IMF Conditionality." *IMF*,
<https://www.imf.org/en/About/Factsheets/Sheets/2016/08/02/21/28/IMF-Conditionality>.