Grade Level: High School

Subject Area: World Geography

**Lesson Summary:**

In this lesson students will be evaluating two different theories of why some countries are more developed than others: the Modernization Theory and the Dependency Theory. After the basic explanation of the two theories, they will compare a map of the TransAtlantic Slave Trade to a map of modern day levels of human development to evaluate and defend their opinion of which theory does the best job of explaining why some countries are more developed than others.

**BVSD Standards:**

WG4: Analyzes the impact of movement of goods, ideas, and people over time

WG6: 6 Describes the various layers (local to international) of influence on the rate of economic development.

E3: Identifies how the system of trade has local, national and international influences.

E4: Explains the roles, rights, processes and responsibilities of individuals in interacting with the system of trade and exchange.

**Learning Objectives:**

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

* Identify patterns within the world choropleth map of HDI levels and hypothesize reasons for those patterns.
* Compare the Modernization and Dependency theories as plausible answers for the differences in levels of development.
* Use data on Trans-Atlantic slave trade , especially about areas where Africans were captured and deported from, overlayed with modern day country boundaries to create an argument for which of the two development theories is more accurate in explaining why some countries are more developed than others.

**Lesson Description:**

As introduction to the Development Theories, students will be introduced the the United Nation’s Human Development Index, explaining what data is used and how countries are ranked.

Students will then make a choropleth map of the HDI levels for the world.

After the map is finished, students will hypothesize reasons why they think some countries are more developed than others.

Teacher describes and explains the two theories of development using a powerpoint presentation with notes.

Powerpoint on Development Theories:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1nuDY6A_fV6TaXcRmpYB6y9JoUg-OvyJQcHVQ43Ap0O8/edit#slide=id.p29>

Worksheet on Development Theories: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IdaW4S-M9V_M3wx6CPUSFJEwBbU1c_gqhKEjoZUiha8/edit>

After gaining a basic understanding of the two theories, students will go to the CyArk website and explore the map of trans-Atlantic slave trade routes. With modern boundaries highlighted on the map, students will compare their HDI world map to the Atlantic Slave Trade map and then write an explanation of which theory of development is more supported by the evidence presented on the two maps.

Worksheet for analyzing the CyArk interactive map:

[Looking at HDI and the Dependency Theory with an eye to the impact of the Trans-Atlantic slave trade of the late 1400-1800s.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FWBwFR6ZHmw180gLcDqTExtrV0CySIUzpfccwafKUdY/edit)