

Dear Educator,

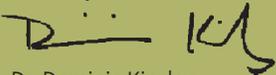
This week, **Operation Change** takes you and your students to Papua New Guinea, where the team helps a community devastated by tribal war build a new village and rebuild their shattered lives.

Your students can view this episode for free at OperationChange.com, where they will also find "Story Mode" content that provides background on Papua New Guinea's history, geography, and culture, as well as additional scenes of **Operation Change** in action.

This free educational program is designed to help you make **Operation Change** part of your social studies curriculum. Use the student activity sheet to explore how issues examined in this episode are reflected in American society and to help students recognize how they can follow the example of **Operation Change** to become change makers in their own community.

Operation Change offers you a unique opportunity to add a service learning dimension to your social studies curriculum. We encourage you to share this opportunity with other social studies teachers at your school, and we look forward to receiving your comments on this learning program through our feedback form at ymiclassroom.com/feedback-operation-change.

Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Kinsley
Editor in Chief
Young Minds Inspired



OPERATION CHANGE



TARGET AUDIENCE

This program is designed to supplement the social studies curriculum for students in grades 6-8.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- This one-page teacher's guide.
- A reproducible student activity sheet for the Papua New Guinea episode of **Operation Change**.
- YMI microsite at ymiclassroom.com/operationchange, for additional resources and to send feedback on this program.

TOUR THE OPERATIONCHANGE.COM WEBSITE

Begin your **Operation Change** humanitarian adventure by introducing students to the OperationChange.com website:

1. Click "About Us" for a video that explains the **Operation Change** mission and profiles of the **Operation Change** team members.
2. Click "The Series" to give students a preview of the places they can visit with the **Operation Change** team as they explore the website.
3. Click one of the buttons under the description of the Papua New Guinea episode to launch the "Story Mode" content panels. Pause the video to show students how they can click the Story Mode tabs for background on the history and geography of this region (globe tab), information about the people and organizations featured in the episode (people tab), videos that provide an in-depth or behind-the-scenes look at topics presented in the episode (play-button tab), **Operation Change** team member blogs about their experience in Papua New Guinea (dialogue tab), and multimedia content on Papua New Guinea's culture (masks tab).
4. Explain to students that additional Story Mode content will appear alongside the video player on this page as they watch the episode, providing them with background facts and commentary.
5. Click "Causes" to show students a roster of some of the non-profit organizations that **Operation Change** has worked with in countries across the globe. Students can click the "Learn More" link to view multimedia content on the work of each organization, or use the "Click Here" link to visit the organization's website.

6. Complete your tour of the website by clicking "Exclusive Videos" to show students a quick way to browse the Story Mode videos for different featured episodes.

NOTE: Visitors to OperationChange.com are invited to sign up for an Operation Change Passport that enables them to earn points for exploring and sharing content on the site. **This feature of the site is not designed for students under 13 years of age.** It asks for personal information without the safeguard of obtaining parent/guardian consent to collect this information. Please alert students under 13 years of age that they should not use this feature of the OperationChange.com website.

HOW TO USE THIS PROGRAM

1. Distribute photocopies of the student activity sheet to your class. Point out that the URL for viewing the Papua New Guinea episode of **Operation Change** is provided at the top of the sheet. Then review the activity to help prepare students for this learning experience.
2. Have students complete Part 1 of the activity in class, as preparation for watching this episode of **Operation Change**. Use the talking points provided below to discuss positive and negative effects of diversity in American society. Extend this discussion to Papua New Guinea after students have watched the episode.
3. Students complete Part 2 of the activity at home, after watching this episode of **Operation Change**. Have them share their reflections on the incidents described on the activity sheet, then use the talking points provided below to prompt critical thinking by encouraging students to explore the broader implications of each incident. Also provide time for students to pose their own questions for discussion.
4. Have students work in small groups or independently to complete Part 3 of the activity, which presents a research challenge that draws on the "Story Mode" content for this episode. Schedule time for students to share their research in class.
5. Use the "Be A Change-Maker" section of the activity to have students brainstorm ways they can build on what they have learned from **Operation Change** to empower people in their own community and help them overcome challenges in their lives.



OPERATION CHANGE MISSION TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

PART 1

- Begin the activity by having students complete Part 1 in class, which has students reflect on the effects of diversity in American society as preparation for understanding how diversity can spark tribal war between neighboring villages in Papua New Guinea. One measure of diversity in that country is the astonishing number of different languages — approximately 850, most spoken by only a few thousand people — which can create communication and cultural barriers that set the stage for conflict.

Language differences are a mark of diversity in the United States as well, along with ethnic, economic, and religious differences, but whatever the differences, education and respect for the rights of others have usually made diversity a strength of American society, as your students examples of how we are unified by diversity should show. After they have watched the episode, ask students for examples that give reason to hope that education and mutual respect will similarly enable the people of Papua New Guinea to live by their national motto, "Unity in Diversity."

PART 2

- This part of the activity focuses on three moments during the episode when the help that **Operation Change** provides to the people of Saviza has an impact beyond improving their health and living conditions. As Steven Sawalich says near the end of the episode, "It doesn't take a permanent structure to make a strong community; it's in here." These are moments when students can see that kind of strength growing and trace it to specific human relationships that are the fabric of every community:
 - ▶ The relationship to our past through the elders of our community — Bill and Tani Austin (from Starkey Hearing Foundation) restore this relationship between Ogen Ta-Ako and his community when they restore his hearing.
 - ▶ The relationship to our future through our children — Steven Sawalich and the other members of the **Operation Change** team bring this relationship to life when they help the people of Saviza plant trees that will only benefit the community in the future, when their children can use them for firewood and timber.

- ▶ The relationship to our friends through sharing of ourselves — Snejana Daily expands this relationship for the women of Saviza by creating bonds of friendship that reach beyond their village to embrace a global community.

After discussing these moments in the episode, ask students if they have ever experienced a similar moment when an act of caring or kindness had a profound effect on their lives. Using these moments as models, brainstorm as a group what students might do to have this kind of impact on members of their own community.

PART 3

- This part of the activity encourages students to learn more about Papua New Guinea by exploring the "Story Mode" content for this episode at OperationChange.com. To get them started, the activity asks students to find the meaning of two words used in Papua New Guinea: a *mumu* is a cooking pit specially constructed for large gatherings; a *bilum* is a hand-made string bag traditionally made with reeds. (See the "MUMU" and "BILUMS" videos under the Video tab.) Students can undertake this research independently or in small groups, and share their findings in class.

Additional Research Resources

- *Embassy of Papua New Guinea to the Americas*, www.pngembassy.org
- *BBC News Papua New Guinea Profile*, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15436981
- *Papua New Guinea Tourism Promotion Authority*, www.papuanewguinea.travel

BE A CHANGE-MAKER!

Have students work in small groups to brainstorm ways they can build on what they have learned to launch a humanitarian adventure in their own community. To get started, students might focus on improving local recreational spaces — parks, playgrounds, plantings, gardens — or volunteering to help out with local recreational programs. Have students share the results of their brainstorming in a class discussion.

OPERATIONCHANGE



OPERATION CHANGE MISSION TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA JOIN THE MISSION AT OPERATIONCHANGE.COM/EPISODE/PAPUA-NEW-GUINEA

In this episode, **Operation Change** travels to Papua New Guinea, one of the most culturally diverse countries in the world. Here, the team discovers that diversity can be cause for conflict when they visit Saviza, a remote village whose people lost almost everything when they were attacked by a neighboring tribe nearly 25 years ago. Working with *Touching the Untouchables* and its founder, Esther Siles, the **Operation Change** team helps the Savizans rebuild their community and plant trees that will provide the next generation with timber for solid homes. Yet, they also witness how that long ago conflict still divides these two tribes and how the loss haunts those who survived it.

PART 1 The motto of Papua New Guinea is "Unity in Diversity," but as you will learn in this episode, diversity can also divide people. The United States has a similar motto, *E pluribus unum*, which is Latin for "From many, one." Before you watch the episode, use this chart to list some examples of how we have lived up to this motto and how we have sometimes let diversity divide us, both as a nation and in your own community. Then use your examples to discuss how people anywhere can turn diversity into a strength.

Unified by Diversity	Divided by Diversity

PART 2 Throughout this episode, as they help the people of Saviza build their new village, the **Operation Change** team also helps rebuild the spirit of this community. Consider the moments described below. For each one, explain why the actions of the **Operation Change** team members have this deeper meaning for the people they help.



Bill and Tani Austin restore hearing to Ogen Ta-Ako, one of the elders of the Saviza community.



Steven Sawalich and the other team members help the people of Saviza plant more than a thousand trees.



Snejana Daily tells two Saviza women who lost husbands in their war how war made her a widow as well.

PART 3 Papua New Guinea is one of the world's least explored countries and home to more than two hundred distinct cultural groups. Learn more about this amazing land with the "Story Mode" content for this episode at OperationChange.com. You will meet a rural tribe known as the Asaro Mudmen, find out why coffee is important to this region, take part in a traditional feast, and much more. You can even find the answers to these questions!

- The Savizans use a mumu for tribal feasts. What is a *mumu*?
- Most people in Papua New Guinea carry a bilum. What is a *bilum*?

BE A CHANGE-MAKER! You've seen how the **Operation Change** team helped resolve conflict and repair divisions for the people of Papua New Guinea. Now take a look at your own community. Are there people whom you could help bring together? Are there projects or local programs you could join as a volunteer? Talk with your classmates about ways you could follow the example of **Operation Change** and become a change-maker where you live.