**United States/United Arab Emirates Partnership Talk/Read/Talk/Write Activity (11–12 minutes)**

1. Place students in pairs or if they are in Kagan groups use the shoulder partner strategy for this activity.

2. Pose the following question and give students **1 minute** to think about the question then have them turn to their partner and discuss it for **1 minute**, making sure each student gets a chance to talk.

**Question:**

**What advantages may be acquired by nations entering into partnerships, what disadvantages may occur from entering into these partnerships?**

3. Then pass out the article **“US, UAE Partnership Going Strong”**for students to read. Give students **2 minutes** to read through the article after 2 minutes ask students if more time is needed (it will depend on student level).

4. Following the reading have students discuss the article for **2 minutes**.

5. Then students will be given **5 minutes** to write their answer to the posed question using the reading and discussion as evidence.

**\*\*Skills being used by students include:**

1. Reading
2. Writing
3. Making Inferences
4. Recognizing bias/point of view
5. Analysis
6. Collaboration

US, UAE partnership going strong

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UAE is a key ally of the US for political stability and economic progress in the Mid-East

The US has enjoyed warm ties with the UAE since its unification in 1971. It was the third country to establish formal diplomatic relations with the UAE and has had an ambassador resident in the UAE since 1974. The partnership has grown by leaps and bounds, and both countries currently enjoy strong cultural and commercial relations.

American firms have a firm footing in the region with their first-mover advantage in a number of fields. American banks and oil companies have been active in Dubai and Abu Dhabi since the 1960s.

As soon as diplomatic relations were established, more US conglomerates ventured into the local market to test waters. In 1972, Hilton Al Ain became the first international hotel brand to operate in the UAE. General Motors Middle East followed in 1979.

By 2015, more than 1,000 American companies were present in the UAE, of which some bigwigs such as Facebook and CNN have stationed their regional headquarters in the emirates.

The UAE is the only Arab country that has allowed American oil companies to acquire participation stakes in oil concessions and did not nationalize the assets of any foreign oil company, unlike its neighbors.

American commercial banks, asset managers, investment banks and private equity firms are prominent in Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC).

Companies from the US are preferred choices in the food and beverage space too. Fast food chains and cafes such as McDonalds, Burger King, Starbucks and Kentucky Fried Chicken are ubiquitous in the emirates.

The tax-free environment and sunny climates of the country have attracted more than 30,000 Americans to the UAE, who prefer to work and live here.

On the commercial front, the UAE is among one of the largest exporting markets for the US. During the first nine months of 2015, exports reached $1.9 billion, or 40 per cent of the total GCC non-oil merchandize export with the US.

Culturally, American shows and movies command large viewership. Most Hollywood movies are screened on the same date as its international release date, and celebrities are often seen gracing red carpet events and movie promotions. Besides, the UAE is also increasingly being opted as a preferred destination for filming. Recent blockbusters such as sequels of Mission Impossible, Fast and Furious, Star Wars - The Force Awakens and many more have chosen its deserts as a movie set.

**Diplomacy**
American diplomacy in the region relies heavily on its friendly association with the UAE. The two nations have an active interest in a spectrum of diplomatic, military, economic, energy, trade, educational and socio-cultural partnerships.

The US has played a crucial role in the development of several industries in the UAE such as banking, logistics, infrastructure, aviation, defense, oil and gas, consumer economy and the telecommunication industry. The UAE is the largest export market in the Middle East for American companies.

In the aviation space arena, the two countries are growing at an enormous pace. Since the launch of the first non-stop flight from Atlanta to Dubai, the frequency and number of flights have increased. Emirates and Etihad Airways fly cargo and passengers non-stop daily to several cities in the US. Emirates airline has increasingly inducted the US-based Boeing aircraft into its fleet. It is the biggest user of Boeing aircraft in the world.

Making aviation history in 2013, Emirates placed the largest-ever commercial aircraft order for over 300 new Boeing aircraft with a value of more than $120 billion at the Dubai Airshow.

The UAE's sovereign wealth funds and agencies, notably the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and the UAE Central Bank, are among leading investors in the US Treasury bond market, equities, property and private equity funds.

Both the countries have also established joint task forces on money laundering, terror financing, nuclear technologies and enforcement of export control laws on sensitive technologies.

**Education, other sectors**
The UAE has been successful in attracting the best medical and academic institutes. The New York University, a major research university in the US, established its first comprehensive liberal arts campus outside the mainland in Abu Dhabi.

Masdar Institute of Science and Technology cooperated with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to establish the world's first graduate level university focused on future energy. The research campus is headquartered in Abu Dhabi.

The Emirates is also home to Carnegie Mellon, Boston University, John Hopkins and American College of Dubai, as well as reputed names in healthcare such as Cleveland Clinic.

The UAE University recently signed a licensing agreement with BioLegend, a US-based pharmaceutical company, for UAE patents. The agreement will see four patents being used to help detect Parkinson's disease.

The two nations have also signed an agreement to collaborate on space exploration and aeronautics research, including a potential journey to Mars.
The association is benefitting both nations and is expected to bolster relations further.

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