

The Millennium Development Goals

An in-depth exploration of the MDGs and their progress

Age Range: Grades 7-9

Subject: Social Studies

Adapted from "Fighting Hunger the Rights Way" - CBU Children's Rights Centre

Overview

Critical thinking, collaborative learning

Eradicating hunger, part of the MDG No.1, is the key to development. While people are hungry, all other development activities are thwarted. The hungry can concentrate little other than their next meal. Hungry mothers give birth to hungry children, who, if they live long enough, grow into hungry adults.

Aims & Objectives

- To teach students about the Millennium Development Goals
- To develop critical thinking skills
- To reinforce the concept of a global community

Materials

- Access to the internet
- 8 pieces of poster board
- Markers, construction paper, tape, scissors, etc.

Instructions

1. Divide students into 8 groups and assign each group an MDG.
2. Have students research their assigned MDG and provide the following information:
 - What is the MDG?
 - What are the targets of that MDG?
 - How will achieving that MDG affect the lives of people around the world?
 - What progress has been made?

NOTE: Students may want to include interesting articles they find about their MDG, as well as facts they might find. (Ex. How many people don't have enough food, etc.)

3. Have each group present their posters to the rest of the class.

Millennium Development Goals

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1a: Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day

Target 1b: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people

Target 1c: Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

2. Achieve universal primary education

Target 2a: Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling

3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 3a: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015

4. Reduce child mortality

Target 4a: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five

5. Improve maternal health

Target 5a: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

Target 5b: Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

Target 6a: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

Target 6b: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

Target 6c: Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 7a: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources

Target 7b: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss

8. Develop a global partnership for development

Target 8a: Address the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states.

Target 8b: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.

Target 8c: Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt.

Source: *End Poverty 2015 - A Gateway to the UN System's Work on the MDGs* www.un.org/millenniumgoals