

Global Poverty and Sustainable Development

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The Experience of Poverty

My Most Loved Item

What is your most loved item and why? Take a photo of your item or draw it. And write about why you made this selection below.

In-Class Activity Notes

Which object from the photos did you choose and why?

What are the four income levels specified by Gapminder and what is life like within each of them?

1.

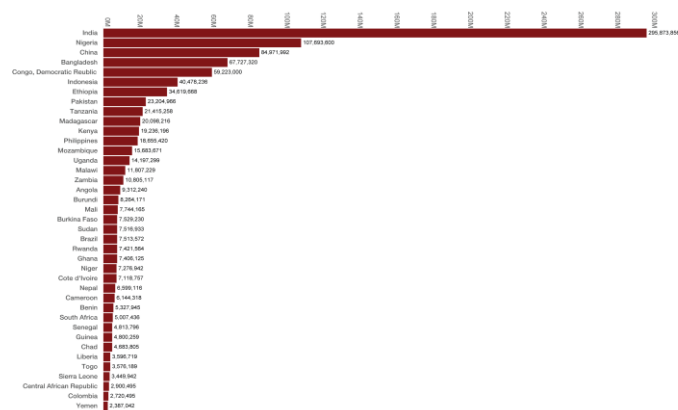
2.

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Number of people in absolute poverty by country (latest data) – By Max Roser

The absolute poverty is defined as living with less than \$1.25/day. This is measured by adjusting for price differences between countries (purchasing power parity (PPP) adjustment).



Data source: World Bank (PovcalNet)
 The interactive data visualization is available at OurWorldinData.org. There you find the raw data and more visualizations on this topic. Licensed under CC-BY-SA by the author Max Roser.

Respond to the following free-writing prompt based on the images, feelings, stories, etc... that come to your mind.

Poverty is....

What is Poverty?

By: Jo Goodwin Parker

Resource: <https://msu.edu/~jdowell/135/JGParker.html>

The following selection was published in America's Other Children: Public Schools Outside Suburbs, by George Henderson by the University of Oklahoma Press. The author has requested that no biographical information about her be distributed. The essay is a personal account, addressed directly to the reader, about living in poverty.

You ask me what is poverty? Listen to me. Here I am, dirty, smelly, and with no “proper” underwear on and with the stench of my rotting teeth near you. I will tell you. Listen to me. Listen without pity. I cannot use your pity. Listen with understanding. Put yourself in my dirty, worn out, ill-fitting shoes, and hear me.

Poverty is getting up every morning from a dirt- and illness-stained mattress. The sheets have long since been used for diapers. Poverty is living with a smell that never leaves. This is a smell of urine, sour milk, and spoiling food sometimes joined with the strong smell of long-cooked onions. Onions are cheap. If you have smelled this smell, you did not know how it came. It is the smell of the outdoor privy. It is the smell of young children who cannot walk the long dark way in the night. It is the smell of the mattresses where years of “accidents” have happened. It is the smell of the milk which has gone sour because the refrigerator long has not worked, and it costs money to get it fixed. It is the smell of rotting garbage. I could bury it, but where is the shovel? Shovels cost money.

Poverty is being tired. I have always been tired. They told me at the hospital when the last baby came that I had chronic anemia caused from poor diet, a bad case of worms, and that I needed a corrective operation. I listened politely—the poor are always polite. The poor always listen. They don’t say that there is no money for iron pills, or better food, or worm medicine. The idea of an operation is frightening and costs so much that, if I had dared, I would have laughed. Who takes care of my children? Recovery from an operation takes a long time. I have three children. When I left them with “Granny” the last time I had a job, I came home to find the baby covered with fly specks, and a diaper that had not been changed since I left. When the dried diaper came off, bits of my baby’s flesh came with it. My other child was playing with a sharp bit of broken glass, and my oldest was playing alone at the edge of a lake. I made twenty-two dollars a week, and a good nursery school costs twenty dollars a week for three children. I quit my job.

Poverty is dirt. You say in your clean clothes coming from your clean house, “Anybody can be clean.” Let me explain about housekeeping with no money. For breakfast I give my children grits with no oleo or cornbread without eggs and oleo. This does not use up many dishes. What dishes there are, I wash in cold water and with no soap. Even the cheapest soap has to be saved for the baby’s diapers. Look at my hands, so cracked and red. Once I saved for two months to buy a jar of Vaseline for my hands and the baby’s diaper rash. When I had saved enough, I went to buy it and the price had gone up two cents. The baby and I suffered on. I have to decide every day if I can bear to put my cracked, sore hands into the cold water and strong soap. But you ask, why not hot water? Fuel costs money. If you have a wood fire it costs money. If you burn electricity, it costs money. Hot water is a luxury. I do not have luxuries. I know you will be surprised when I tell you how young I am. I look so much older. My back has been bent over the wash tubs for so long, I cannot remember when I ever did anything else. Every night I wash every stitch my school age child has on and just hope her clothes will be dry by morning.

Poverty is staying up all night on cold nights to watch the fire, knowing one spark on the newspaper covering the walls means your sleeping children die in flames. In summer poverty is watching gnats and flies devour your baby’s tears when he cries. The screens are torn and you pay so little rent you know they will never be fixed. Poverty means insects in your food, in your nose, in your eyes, and crawling over you when you sleep. Poverty is hoping it never rains because diapers won’t dry when it rains and soon you are using newspapers. Poverty is seeing your children forever with runny

noses. Paper handkerchiefs cost money and all your rags you need for other things. Even more costly are antihistamines. Poverty is cooking without food and cleaning without soap. Poverty is asking for help. Have you ever had to ask for help, knowing your children will suffer unless you get it? Think about asking for a loan from a relative, if this is the only way you can imagine asking for help. I will tell you how it feels. You find out where the office is that you are supposed to visit. You circle that block four or five times. Thinking of your children, you go in. Everyone is very busy. Finally, someone comes out and you tell her that you need help. That never is the person you need to see. You go see another person, and after spilling the whole shame of your poverty all over the desk between you, you find that this isn't the right office after all—you must repeat the whole process, and it never is any easier at the next place.

You have asked for help, and after all it has a cost. You are again told to wait. You are told why, but you don't really hear because of the red cloud of shame and the rising black cloud of despair.

Poverty is remembering. It is remembering quitting school in junior high because "nice" children had been so cruel about my clothes and my smell. The attendance officer came. My mother told him I was pregnant. I wasn't but she thought that I could get a job and help out. I had jobs off and on, but never long enough to learn anything. Mostly I remember being married. I was so young then. I am still young. For a time, we had all the things you have. There was a little house in another town, with hot water and everything. Then my husband lost his job. There was unemployment insurance for a while and what few jobs I could get. Soon, all our nice things were repossessed and we moved back here. I was pregnant then. This house didn't look so bad when we first moved in. Every week it gets worse. Nothing is ever fixed. We now had no money. There were a few odd jobs for my husband, but everything went for food then, as it does now. I don't know how we lived through three years and three babies, but we did. I'll tell you something, after the last baby I destroyed my marriage. It had been a good one, but could you keep on bringing children in this dirt? Did you ever think how much it costs for any kind of birth control? I knew my husband was leaving the day he left, but there were no good-byes between us. I hope he has been able to climb out of this mess somewhere. He never could hope with us to drag him down. That's when I asked for help. When I got it, you know how much it was? It was, and is, seventy-eight dollars a month for the four of us; that is all I ever can get. Now you know why there is no soap, no needles and thread, no hot water, no aspirin, no worm medicine, no hand cream, no shampoo. None of these things forever and ever and ever. So that you can see clearly, I pay twenty dollars a month rent, and most of the rest goes for food. For grits and cornmeal, and rice and milk and beans. I try my best to use only the minimum electricity. If I use more, there is that much less for food. Poverty is looking into a black future. Your children won't play with my boys. They will turn to other boys who steal to get what they want can already see them behind the bars of their prison instead of behind the bars of my poverty. Or they will turn to the freedom of alcohol or drugs, and find themselves enslaved. And my daughter? At best, there is for her a life like mine.

But you say to me, there are schools. Yes, there are schools. My children have no extra books, no magazines, no extra pencils, or crayons, or paper and the most important of all, they do not have health. They have worms, they have infections, they have pinkeye all summer. They do not sleep well on the floor, or with me in my one bed. They do not suffer from hunger, my seventy-eight dollars keeps us alive, but they do suffer from malnutrition. Oh yes, I do remember what I was taught about health in school. It doesn't do much good. In some places there is a surplus commodities program. Not here. The county said it cost too much. There is a school lunch program. But I have two children who will already be damaged by the time they get to school.

But, you say to me, there are health clinics. Yes, there are health clinics and they are in the towns. I live out here eight miles from town. I can walk that far (even if it is sixteen miles both ways), but can my little children? My neighbor will take me when he goes; but he expects to get paid, one way or another. I bet you know my neighbor. He is that large man who spends his time at the gas station, the barbershop, and the corner store complaining about the government spending money on the immoral mothers of illegitimate children.

Poverty is an acid that drips on pride until all pride is worn away. Poverty is a chisel that chips on honor until honor is worn away. Some of you say that you would do something in my situation, and maybe you would, for the first week or the first month, but for year after year after year?

Even the poor can dream. A dream of a time when there is money. Money for the right kinds of food, for worm medicine, for iron pills, for toothbrushes, for hand cream, for a hammer and nails and a bit of screening, for a shovel, for a bit of paint, for some sheeting, for needles and thread. Money to pay in money for a trip to town. And, oh, money for hot water and money for soap. A dream of when asking for help does not eat away the last bit of pride. When the office you visit is as nice as the offices of other governmental agencies, when there are enough workers to help you quickly, when workers do not quit in defeat and despair. When you have to tell your story to only one person, and that person can send you for other help and you don't have to prove your poverty over and over and over again.

I have come out of my despair to tell you this. Remember I did not come from another place or another time. Others like me are all around you. Look at us with an angry heart, anger that will help you help me. Anger that will let you tell of me. The poor are always silent. Can you be silent too?

1. Summarize Parker's definition of poverty. How does it compare with your free writing response?

2. Why did Parker leave her job?

3. Is Parker optimistic or pessimistic for the future of her children? Why?

The Cycle of Poverty

The cycle of poverty is a process through which those children born in poor families tend to stay poor later in their lives. They graduate from college at lower levels compared to the rest of the population and remain in low-income brackets. Draw the cycle below:

Reflection: what do you think are some of the reasons why this cycle is sustained? How can it be stopped?

Slums and favelas

Kevin McCloud, *Slumming It*

Video resource: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Im0tHRs9Bng>

Where is Dharavi and what's the population? How is Dharavi different from the rest of the city? How would you describe the slum?

What are the living conditions like in Dharavi? What are the homes like? How is sanitation and sewage? Access to water? Laundry?

What types of job opportunities are there in Dharavi? What products are made? What are the working conditions like?

Can we consider Dharavi rich in any way?

Homework: watch episode 2 and post your reaction to the video in around 200-300 words. In the reflection: summarize the video and the issues (e.g. recycling/sustainable development, redevelopment proposals, community responses) it is presenting and write what you think about these issues.

Resource: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-yjpvzGKZQ>

Favela life: Rio's city within a city

Resource (BBC News, 2014): <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-27635554>



As Brazil comes under the World Cup spotlight, life goes on as usual for millions of Brazilians working to make a living in the shanty towns - or favelas. The largest favela in Rio de Janeiro is Rocinha, where homes are packed together in a sprawling maze of streets and alleys.

According to the 2010 Census, about 6% of Brazil's population live in favelas or shanty-towns - around 11.25 million people across the country, roughly the population of Portugal. However, there could be even more living in these communities.

Rocinha is Brazil's largest favela and unofficial estimates say it has up to 180,000, compared to the census figure of just 70,000. The expansion of the favelas - and their irregular and unregulated nature - means that these areas often lack basic services and public investment. But even among favelas there can be big social contrasts.

Population (2010 census): 70,000

Population (unofficial estimate): 180,000

Average monthly income: US \$240

Favelas with a privileged location like Rocinha have relatively better standards than other shanty towns further away from jobs and services; and even within Rocinha there are richer and much poorer communities. The poorer areas are usually higher on the hilltop, with many houses only accessible on foot.

In Rio's favelas, most homes are made from brick and cement, a majority have running water and about 99% have electricity. Sanitation is often a big problem - in Rocinha sewage flows down a large channel in the middle of houses.

Recent reports suggest 65% of favela residents are a part of Brazil's new middle classes. And despite these people's relatively low incomes, many of these communities are a long way from being "slums" as they are often portrayed.

Accompanying videos:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18539549>

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/video/2016/aug/03/fear-in-rios-favelas-my-ears-are-used-to-the-gunshots-video>

Recommended reading (voices from favelas surrounding the Rio Olympics): <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/series/rio-voices-our-olympic-odyssey>

Every student should play the role of someone in the Rocinha favela in Rio. Interview your classmates and find out information about other people, including where they come from, their occupation/job, and social life. Fill out the chart with information about all six people. Additional interactive videos with the real six people:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-27635554>

Favela life - Rio – Rocinha

Barber



Wellington Pereira, 44, is known as Che because of all the Che Guevara posters in his barbershop. He says he has a good life thanks to his job. He managed to buy "a cosy house that has everything" - Internet, cable TV, bathroom, running water and electricity.

Unofficial post office

"Rocinha is divided between people that are well off like me and people that are very poor," says Wellington.

"It's embarrassing. In a country as rich as Brazil, things are just so badly managed."

In addition to being a barber, he is also an unofficial postman - he takes care of one of the several mail boxes spread around in Rocinha for people to pick up their letters, since Rio's regular mail service doesn't delve deep into the favela's alleyways.

Tour guide



Carlos Antonio de Souza, 49, is a tour guide and knows Rocinha inside out. He started learning English by himself when he was 12. Today he speaks five languages - English, French, Spanish, German and Italian - and has never left Brazil.

Tourists in the favela

"I've never travelled the world, but I see the world every day in my place," says Carlos. He works night shifts at a hotel in Rocinha, writes poetry and works in arts and crafts.

Carlos likes to take visitors deep into the favela.

"I like to walk the favela from top to bottom to show people that the favela is like a city within the city."

He says 99% of the visitors are foreigners as Brazilians "don't have the slightest curiosity to get to know the favela, at least once in their lives".

Domestic maid/ market trader



Maria das Gracias Firmino, 45, was born in Paraiba, in the Northeast of Brazil. Like thousands of people from the region, she moved to Rio de Janeiro in search of work and opportunity, in 1989.

She settled in Rocinha and made a living working as a domestic maid. Today she divides her time between working as a cleaning lady and selling vegetables in a farmer's market in the upmarket neighbourhood of Leblon.

Evening classes for proud mum

Maria das Gracias never finished elementary school and is extremely proud of her daughters, two of whom have already made it into university. Now she has decided to dust off her books and go back to school.

Every day she gets home after work, takes a shower and puts on her uniform to go to her evening classes.

"I'm learning a bunch of new words. But sometimes I have to ask my daughters for help with my math homework."

Police commander



In an effort to reduce crime in Rio's favelas, Brazilian authorities introduced a "pacification" programme, a policy of police occupation aimed at regaining control of the territories from drug gangs.

Major Pricilla Azevedo became the commander of Rocinha's local Pacifying Police Unit (UPP) last year after its officers were accused of the disappearance of a local man, shaking public confidence in the programme.

Regaining control from gangs

Major Azevedo took on the challenging role after the state's pacification programme faced a crisis in the community.

Officers of the local UPP were accused of the disappearance of Amarildo de Souza, a bricklayer who vanished after being summoned for interrogation by police - an incident that shook the residents' confidence in the programme.

The pacification programme has faced serious setbacks, with recent attacks by armed groups defying some of the units.

Major Azevedo was the commander of Rio's first UPP, established in December 2008 in the Santa Marta favela in Botafogo.

Daycare helper



Goncala Norberto Araujo Pereira, 72, known simply as Goncalina, arrived in Rocinha from Brazil's Northeast in the 1960s. She helped set up one of the first daycare centres in the shanty town, Creche Aspa (Acao Social Padre Anchieta), and still works as a volunteer.

Fundraising for school

At the age of 72, Goncalina still works at the day care centre as a volunteer, selling second-hand items in the school shop to raise funds.

She recalls the days when most of the shacks in the favela were made of thin wood and there was still place for the vegetable plantations in the favela, the "rocas", from which the community takes its name Rocinha.

"When I talk to the oldest people here they say there were big plantations, cabbage, carrots, heart of palm. There's none of that anymore - Rocinha has grown and people preferred to build houses."

Moto-taxi driver



Felipe Ribas, 26 years old, has been working as a moto-taxi driver for eight years, helping people overcome Rocinha's slopes and narrow alleyways to reach their destination in the sprawling shanty-town.

Musical dreams

Felipe Ribas makes a living as a moto-taxi driver to help raise his two children. He became a father at 18 years of age and had to leave school to start working.

"My mother was always concerned that I would get involved with drugs. But thank god she can be proud of me," he says.

But his dream is to be a musician - he plays percussion instruments and joins his friends from the Frisson band for sessions playing pagode songs whenever he has a chance.

The other story: Recreation in the slum

Video: The Slum Gods of Mumbai: hope, hip-hop and the Dharavi way | Guardian News & Media Ltd

Resource: <https://vimeo.com/114793689>

1. How did hip hop dance culture get started in Dharavi?

2. Vikram thinks his parents would disapprove of his participation in the hip hop dance club if they found out. Why is that? Do you think their initial opposition was justified? Why or why not?

Video: Rocinha: Kite Fight from Victory Journal

Resource: <https://vimeo.com/118019156>

Before watching: Flying the “pipa” or kite is one of the most popular sports in Brazil and that’s especially true in the favelas. Why do you think that is?

1. What’s special about the kite competitions? Who is involved in them? Do they have any social value?

2. What materials are necessary for constructing the kites?

Sweatshops

Sweatshop: Deadly Fashion

Resource: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ScG9TspWB0>

Write a definition of the word sweatshop.

Notes (conditions at home or in the factory, salary, working hours, transportation, life, etc...):

1. What are three defining features of sweatshops according to the documentary?
2. What is your reaction to the documentary?
3. What are potential solutions that could eliminate sweatshops? How likely are they to be adopted? Why or why not?

Bangladesh, workplace safety, and corporate social responsibility



Photo Credit - New York Times

Video: Divided over Bangladesh

Resource: <http://learning.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/14/corporate-irresponsibility-fashions-hidden-cost-in-bangladeshs-garment-industry/>

What were three different responses to the Bangladesh factory deaths?

Reflect: What are the pros and cons to each of the responses?

Which response do you think was better? Why?

Choose one of the following companies: Mango, H&M, C&A, Calvin Klein, Nike, Zara, Esprit, Levi's

Write a 250 word article on the company's record on workplace safety. Check their corporate website and news articles on their activities throughout the world. Explore search terms like "Mango", "labor", "Bangladesh".

Does your company have an official policy about making sure that its clothing is manufactured in factories that are safe? Has it joined efforts aimed at maintaining high workplace standards? Has your company issued statements in the wake of the Bangladesh building collapse or other garment factory disasters? What has been its record in practice? Has it been involved in any controversies concerning working conditions at its suppliers? Have the conditions since improved?

Fair Trade: The First Step by Patagonia

Resource: <http://www.patagonia.com/fair-trade-certified.html>

Before watching: What fair trade products have you heard about before?

1. What are some of the requirements of fair trade products? How are those practiced in the case of the Patagonia factory?

2. Have the Patagonia fair trade products been successful? What evidence is there for that?

Global Health

Ebola

VOX: 11 things you need to know about Ebola EDITED BY JULIA BELLUZ JUN 3, 2015

<http://www.vox.com/cards/ebola-facts-you-need-to-know/the-botched-global-response-to-this-crisis-caused-a-containable>

Use the Ebola cards to answer the following questions:

What is Ebola and what are its effects?

How deadly is Ebola, especially compared to other diseases? What was special about the outbreak of the disease in 2015?

How can you get Ebola?

How can't you get Ebola?

How did the virus spread in the 2015 outbreak? What were some of the affected countries? Why did it spread so much?

Why was it difficult to stop the spread of the disease Ebola in 2015? What was the role of poverty?

Vice News documentary: The Fight Against Ebola October 9, 2014

Resource: <https://news.vice.com/video/the-fight-against-ebola-full-length>

What was the situation in Western Africa with Ebola?

Why were health authorities struggling to contain the spread of the disease?

How did health authorities try to prevent Ebola from spreading?

How did the disease affect the local communities?

Ebola Poster

You are a national health agency in Liberia and you want to stop the spread of Ebola in one village. Make an informational poster that will give people information about the disease so that they won't contract the virus. You should think about warning people what they should or shouldn't do if they don't want to get the virus. You should also inform the population what they should do if they experience symptoms of the virus. Remember that much of the population is illiterate (they can't read or write).

Additional resources:

Ebola: A User's Guide: <https://thenib.com/ebola-a-users-guide-c251d46edfaa>

Understanding Ebola: A Visual Guide: <http://www.goinfo.com/features/ebola/>

Malaria

Homework: Use the following resources about malaria to answer the following questions. As you are completing the worksheet, think about how the disease is similar to and/or different from Ebola.

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs094/en/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/malaria/about/faqs.html>

<https://www.khanacademy.org/science/health-and-medicine/infectious-diseases/malaria/a/what-is-malaria>

1. What is malaria and where is it most prevalent or common? How many people were affected in recent years?

2. How is malaria transmitted or spread to humans? How do the same parasites continue infecting others?

3. What are some of the symptoms?

4. What can be done to prevent malaria from spreading?

5. Is there any treatment available for malaria?

Ted Talk by Sonia Shah: Three reasons we still haven't gotten rid of malaria

Resource: https://www.ted.com/talks/sonia_shah_3_reasons_we_still_haven_t_gotten_rid_of_malaria/transcript#t-54345

Discuss the four reasons why malaria remains a problem.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Overcoming the cycle of poverty

What Is a Genetically Modified Food?

Resource: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/video/what-is-a-genetically-modified-food2013-07-24/>

1. Is the modification of plants and animals a new thing? What examples are discussed in the video?

2. What is different about the genetic manipulation of plants that is taking place today?

3. Are GMOs safe according to existing scientific data?

4. What were some of the applications of technology discussed?

Food Waste

The Beauty of Ugly Food by Tristram Stuart (National Geographic)

Resource: <http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/ng-live/stuart-food-lecture-nglive>

1. Stuart believes that we need to double food production to feed the global population. True or false

Why?

2. Why do green beans symbolize both the stupidities and opportunities in the global food system for Stuart?

3. How did supermarkets respond to Stuart's findings regarding food waste?

4. What is Feeding the 5000?

5. How do the following actors in the global food supply chain contribute to food waste (give examples from the video)?

Producers/farmers:

Manufacturers:

Food retailers/supermarkets:

Governments:

Consumers:

6. Check: What does your local supermarket do with expired food? Why do they have this policy?

Microcredit and Entrepreneurship

The Woman Who Lifted a Village

Resource: <http://www.bbc.com/capital/bespoke/woman-who-lifted-a-village/index.html>

1. What was unusual (two aspects) about Shantha getting a job at the government office?
2. What obstacles were there in attaining the bank loan?
3. What were three of their business ideas?
4. Was the project successful? What evidence do you have to support your conclusion?
5. Why is it likely that Shantha's son wouldn't have become an engineer if not for the project?

Micro-lending/Kiva Project

Kiva website: <https://www.kiva.org/>

If you were a lender, what would your criteria be for giving a micro-loan to a borrower? Come up with at least five different aspects that would make a project more appealing to you.

Research: Now that you have some criteria to evaluate projects, write a 200-300 word description about a project you found interesting on the Kiva website. What's the project? Sector and attributes of project? Who will benefit? Why did you choose it? To what extent does the project fulfill your criteria? What are potential risks?

The role of technology: change in slums

Resource: <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2016/07/india-online-marketplace-mumbai-slum-artisans-160712084024483.html>

1. What were three problems that the craftsmen were facing before the online marketplace? How does it address them?
2. What important ingredients enabled the online marketplace to succeed? Would something like this have been possible in the early 2000s?
3. Are the design of the crafts that the artisans are producing the same as they were in the past? What has influenced their design?

Global Goals

UN Millennium Goals

Taken from the resource: <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/goals/>

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000 the largest gathering of world leaders in history adopted the UN Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and setting out a series of time-bound targets, with a deadline of 2015, that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the world's time-bound and quantified targets for addressing extreme poverty in its many dimensions-income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion-while promoting gender equality, education, and environmental sustainability. They are also basic human rights-the rights of each person on the planet to health, education, shelter, and security.

Sustainable Development Goals

Taken from the resource: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another.

The SDGs work in the spirit of partnership and pragmatism to make the right choices now to improve life, in a sustainable way, for future generations. They provide clear guidelines and targets for all countries to adopt in accordance with their own priorities and the environmental challenges of the world at large. The SDGs are an inclusive agenda. They tackle the root causes of poverty and unite us together to make a positive change for both people and planet. “Supporting the 2030 Agenda is a top priority for UNDP,” said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark. “The SDGs provide us with a common plan and agenda to tackle some of the pressing challenges facing our world such as poverty, climate change and conflict. UNDP has the experience and expertise to drive progress and help support countries on the path to sustainable development.”



Assignment: choose one of the 17 SDGs and conduct some research about it. Write a description in around 250 words about the goal that includes both of the following:

What is the general idea of the goal? What is its more specific/concrete targets?

Discuss a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project related to accomplishing the goal you chose. Check the following resource and click the icon for your goal to find relevant projects.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html>

How we can make the world a better place by 2030

Resource: https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_green_how_we_can_make_the_world_a_better_place_by_2030

1. Does Michael Green agree with the doomsayers who argue that poverty can't be addressed?
2. What is the Social Progress Index and what kinds of questions does it ask?
3. Why is it difficult to move up in the Social Progress Index even when the economy is growing?
4. Is it possible to move up in the Social Progress Index without increasing wealth? Explain.
5. In which areas do you think your country performs well in the Social Progress Index? In which areas does it perform poorly?
6. What kind of steps could your country take to improve its Social Progress Index score?

Fleeing Poverty

Introduction to Migration

Resource (Council on Foreign Relations): <https://world101.cfr.org/migration/what-migration>

How many international migrants exist in the world?

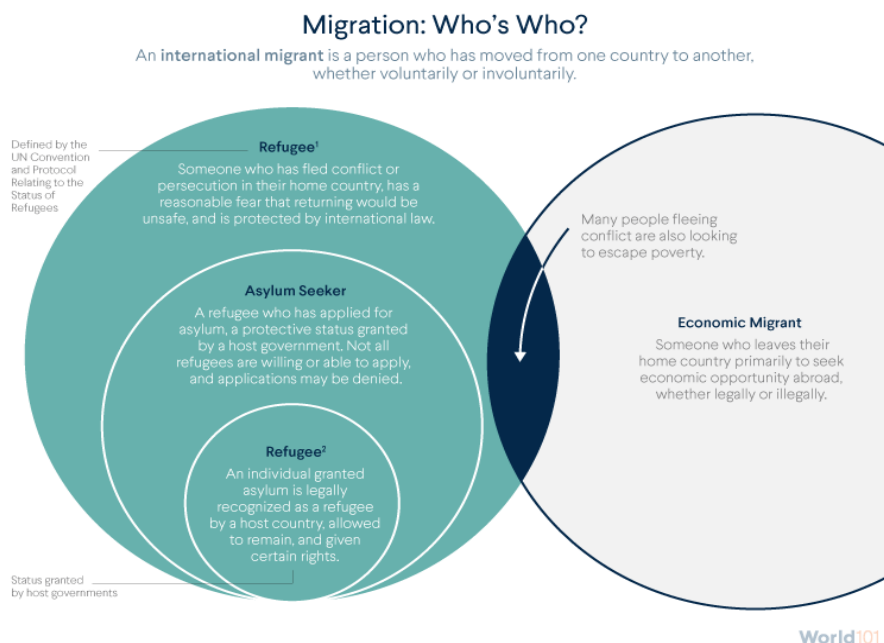
What are some of the reasons that people migrate?

What is a refugee? And an asylum seeker? An internally displaced person?

True or false. There is an international committee that approves or rejects the applications of asylum seekers.

What are some of the contributions of migrants?

What are the largest source countries of migrants? And of refugees specifically? And what are the largest destinations for migrants? And for refugees specifically?



Kingsley's Crossing

Resource: <http://mediastorm.com/publication/kingsleys-crossing>

1. What is Kingsley's job in Cameroon? What is his salary?
2. Is Kingsley's idea to emigrate to Europe unique in Cameroon?
3. How did the parents help Kingsley?
4. What kind of problems does he encounter on his way through the desert?
5. Why did Kingsley have to leave Farid's family secretly?
6. Where does a Seneghalese man take Kingsley? How long does he stay there?
7. Was the first attempt to cross the ocean (by boat) successful? Explain.
8. Who saves Kingsley and his fellow travelers?
9. How is Kingsley's life in France – give specific examples? First watch the video, then take time to answer this question.

After watching the video:

1. What would you tell Kingsley if you met him?
2. Do you think he made the right decision to leave his country and seek a new life in Europe?

Migration Crisis of 2015

Wall Street Journal: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12FT7cOLaZ4>

1. What caused the migrant crisis in Europe in 2015?
2. What are the pathways for refugees seeking to get to Europe?
3. What was Europe's response to the situation?

The Journey of a Refugee – Interactive

Use one of the following two interactive resources and explore different possible scenarios for refugees on their journey to Europe.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32057601>

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/ng-interactive/2014/jan/refugee-choices-interactive>

1. What were some of the difficult decisions you faced?
2. What problems did you encounter based on your decisions? And what other obstacles did you experience?
3. What were the overall outcomes of your journey? What happened?

Life as a Refugee

VICE News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pz2kDImHbRQ>

BBC News: https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idt-sh/rohingya_monsoon

VOX: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwqm8T_IFzk

1. How has Hungary responded to the influx of refugees into Europe?

2. How has Hungary justified its response?

3. What makes the process of applying for asylum in the U.S. difficult?

4. What's the situation of the Rohingya girl?

Refugee Tribunal

Most groups: You are a refugee seeking asylum. Based on the photograph provided to your group, develop a story about a person/family. You will then present yourself and justify your asylum request in front of a refugee tribunal.

Your profile should include key information about yourself, including your backstory, age, career background/job, reasons for the asylum request and why the committee should accept your request, expectations that you have, etc...

For the tribunal group: your responsibility is to develop five criteria, in advance, for deciding on asylum claims and then preparing questions for prospective asylum claimants.

Refugee profile or tribunal criteria:

Tribunal decision and justification:

Discussion questions:

How did the tribunal develop their criteria? Was it reasonable and fair? Did it fulfill international legal obligations?

Did the tribunal adjust their criteria as the proceedings went on?

What does the future hold for refugees whose requests were accepted/rejected?

How representative do you think this activity was to how the asylum process works in the real world? Should the process be reformed?