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Teachers' Notes

The plight of the world's children is a major concern on the world's stage. Too often though, we think of poverty and war as happening somewhere 'over there' thus making it almost obsolete in our day-to-day lives. It's time to bring this concern into the primary classroom. The aim of this book is to make middle to upper primary school students aware of the lives of children in developing countries and the issues that they face. Topics discussed in this book are confronting but they are dealt with in a sensitive manner. Students are encouraged to move beyond their comfort boundaries and wonder what it would be like to be a child struggling to get clean water, to be the head of their household and not have the opportunity to go to school. This book also challenges the students to act on their new found awareness and to realise that one person can make a difference. It teaches them the importance of peace, freedom and kindness.

This book contains:

Background Information Pages

There are eight topics in this book. At the start of each topic there is a Background Information Page which has been written for the teacher. Each Background Information Page outlines the main points which will be covered in the topic and introduces key words and phrases related to the topic which can be brainstormed on the whiteboard and discussed in class. Useful resources are also included to extend the topic and provide an extension activity which can be given to fast finishers or more able students.

Activity Masters

This book is filled with activity sheets which can be photocopied and given to students to complete in class or as homework. Some of the activities are creative, require research, test comprehension skills, ask students to carry out experiments or complete a puzzle. All activities are curriculum linked.

Think Big Sections

These are activities designed to get students thinking a little differently about the topic.

Answer Pages

The answers to the set activities are provided at the back of the book to make life easy for the teacher.



Background Information for the Teacher

Living in Poverty

Main Points

- A person lives in poverty when they lack the resources to reach a standard of living that is typical for their community. Poverty in one country does not necessarily mean poverty in another.
- Poverty does not only mean not having enough money. It also means having no access to employment, basic health care, education and essentials such as food, clean water, clothing and shelter.
- Poverty has a greater impact on children, as their physical and mental growth are affected by poverty. Children living in poverty are more likely to pass on poverty to their own children, thus continuing the vicious cycle.

Key Words

- poverty
- standard of living
- health care
- sanitation
- malnutrition
- GDP/GNP
- per capita
- basic needs



Further Information

- ▶ www.antipovertyweek.org is a useful website to obtain resources on poverty in Australia and globally.
- ▶ www.globalissues.org is a useful website to access background information and statistics on global poverty.
- ▶ www.gloaleducation.edna.edu.au is a great website full of resources and activities for schools.
- ▶ www.oneworldcentre.org.au is a great resource for teachers.
- ▶ www.worldbank.org/poverty provides information on the monitoring of poverty around the world.

Suggested background reading for teachers

- ▶ *The Life You Can Save: Acting Now To End World Poverty* by Peter Singer.

Extension Ideas

Niger, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Australia, New Zealand, Iraq, Japan and Singapore.

1. Rank the countries listed above from poorest to wealthiest.
Check to see if you are correct by looking up the countries on
 - ▶ www.gloaleducation.edna.edu.au Click on Country Profiles. You will find an indication of each country's GNP (Gross Domestic Product) on this site.
2. On a map of the world find the countries, label them and then colour them in.



≡ What is Poverty? ≡

Read and complete the facts on poverty using the keywords.

Poverty is being hungry all of the time even when you have eaten all the seeds that you were going to use for next year's gardening. _____ is having nowhere to live, nowhere to learn and no one to see, when you or your child is sick. Poverty is living day to day with little hope for a better tomorrow. When a person or family live in poverty, they lack the resources to reach a way of living or _____ that is considered normal for their community.

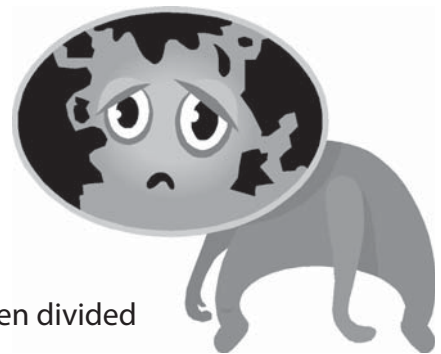
Not having enough money is not always the issue in poverty. Poverty means that there is no access to jobs, no basic _____ such as life saving medicines, clean water or _____ or adequate shelter. Poverty has a great impact on children as the lack of nutritious food leads to them suffering from _____.

How is poverty measured?

It is very difficult to measure how poor a community or country is. The most common way that governments measure poverty or standard of living is through the Gross Domestic Product (_____). GDP measures the value of the goods and services that a country produces. The country's total GDP is often divided by the country's _____ to give a measure of the average income _____ or per person. This way of measuring poverty doesn't always give a good result as some people in the country may be very rich whilst the majority may be very poor.

Keywords

- poverty
- health care
- standard of living
- malnutrition
- sanitation
- GDP
- per capita
- population



Think Big!



Work out the **GDP** (Gross Domestic Pencils) for your class. Find out the total number of writing pencils that each person has in your class. Divide that total number of pencils by the number of students there are in your class. The number will be the GDP per capita (per person). Now divide your class into two groups. The first group is one-third of the number of students in the class and the second group is two-thirds of the number. Give each group 100 pencils. Now work out the GDP per capita for each group. Write down on the back of this sheet what you notice.

Making Comparisons

Imagine that as a class you have been writing letters to school children in Kenya. You have been learning about how they live, where they go to school and all about their families. A letter has arrived at your school recently from a 12 year old boy called Kairu.

Task

Compare your life with that of Kairu's.

Dear friends,
 Thank you for sending letters to my school. I like to see how you learn things. I tell you about me. My grandmother looks after my sister and me. She is very old so my sister helps with cooking and getting water and I help with the garden. I wake early and look after the garden before I run to school. School is such a long way! At lunch time I come home to eat some food. Some time my sister makes ugali. I sometimes eat with soup. At school my favourite lesson is Health. After school I have to help my sister fetch water from the well. I must do my homework and then I can play outside. I like to play football with my friends. Please write some more.
 Your friend,
 Kairu

SAMPLE

Questions	You	Kairu's
Who do you live with?		
What is your favourite subject at school?		
What do you eat for lunch?		
Where do you get your water from?		
What chores do you have to do at home?		
What do you like to do after school?		
How do you get to school?		

Think Big!

Using your research skills find out what ugali is made from. Would you like to have this for lunch? _____

How Many Zeroes is That?

Read the facts and answer the questions.

The Facts

There are just over two billion children in the world.

- One billion live in poverty, that is, every second child.
- 400 million children living in the developing world have no access to safe water.
- 640 million children in the developing world live without adequate shelter.
- 121 million children do not have access to education.
- Just over one million children die each year due to lack of safe drinking water and sanitation.

ONE BILLION IS A HUGE NUMBER. IT'S ALMOST TOO BIG TO THINK ABOUT. BUT THAT'S HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE LIVING IN POVERTY.



Write down one billion as a numeral:

.....

Counting to a billion. If you started today and didn't stop all day and all night it would take you 62 years to count to one billion!

How old would you be when you've finished counting?

.....

Number Work

Visit www.globaleducation.edna.edu.au and select Country Profiles to access the population of the countries listed below.

COUNTRY	POPULATION
Australia	
Fiji	
Indonesia	
India	
China	

1. Which country has nearly one billion people?

2. Which country has nearly one million people?

Think Big!

On the back of this page write a ten second radio news bulletin outlining how many children are affected by poverty. Try to get across to your listeners how enormous the number one billion is.

You have ten seconds



≡ Acts of Kindness ≡

World Vision is Australia's largest overseas aid organisation.

History:

World Vision was founded during the 1950s in the USA by Bob Pierce. Mr Pierce was a soldier during the Korean War and he saw the problems facing the orphans and families in Asia. After the war, he returned home and started to raise money to help the people who he had left behind. The response was so overwhelming that Mr Pierce established the organisation World Vision in September 1950. World Vision Australia was established in 1966.

Mission:

World Vision's mission is 'to be a Christian organisation that engages people to eliminate poverty and its causes'.

Examples of Projects Undertaken:

40 Hour Famine: You may have heard of the 40 Hour Famine. It is one of Australia's biggest fundraising events for students. Students go without food for something else for 40 hours. This project raises money for children who are living in poverty overseas.

Child Sponsorship:

An individual, family or organisation pays money on an on-going basis to World Vision who use the money to help a child, their family and community with whatever they need, to ensure that children grow up in a healthy environment. The sponsor regularly receives information about the child who they sponsor and updates on the improvements made in the child's community.

Website:

▶ www.worldvision.com.au

★ Create your own organisation to help stop world poverty. Think of a title and a mission statement. What country/countries would you work in? Describe your first project. Complete the table below.

Design a logo for your poverty busting organisation.

Name of organisation	
Mission statement	
Country(ies) you help in	
First project undertaken	
Website	