International Literacy Day 8th September 2020

Lesson resources by: Tea Horvatic, Croatia

Did you know?

- 773 million adults and young people lack basic literacy skills;

- 617 million children and adolescents are not achieving minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics;

- During the initial phase of the pandemic, schools were closed disrupting the education of 62.3 per cent of the world's student population of 1.09 billion;

- Adult literacy and education were absent in initial education response plans, therefore many youth and adults with no or low literacy skills have had limited access to life-saving information.

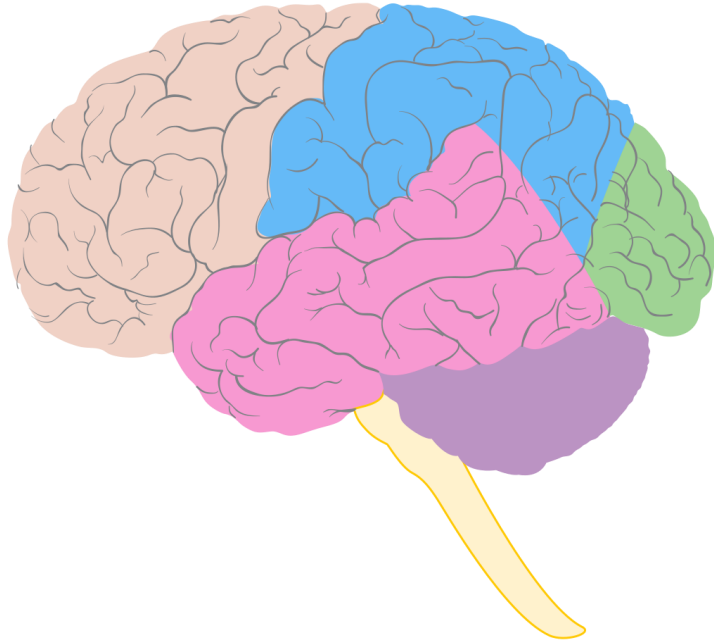Source: https://www.un.org/en/observances/literacy-day

8th September

- The 8th of September was proclaimed International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966 to remind the international community of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities and societies, and the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies.

- The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Illiteracy

- Illiteracy remains a global problem.

- There are thought to be more than 750 million adults around the world who cannot read.

- The scourge of Illiteracy spares no nation or culture on earth, including the United States, where an estimated 32 million American adults are illiterate.

What is literacy?

- Literacy is the quality or state of being literate: educated...able to read and write.

- Because you are able to read this post and no doubt spend a lot of time reading online, it may seem incredulous to learn there are people living and working in your own community who not only cannot read this post, but are unable to read a book, a restaurant menu, a road sign, a voting ballot, an instruction manual, a prescription bottle label, or a cereal box.

5 REASONS LITERACY IS IMPORTANT

- Brain health – giving the brain a daily workout reading, writing and working with numbers keeps brain cells healthy as we age, reducing the chances of developing Alzheimer's and dementia later in life.

- Community participation – The lack of literary skills limits social engagement at all age levels and prevents adults and children from being able to participate fully and contribute to the betterment of society.

- Effective Communication – Learning to read and write improves our ability to communicate effectively with others by enhancing oral language, allowing us to express our feelings, thoughts, and ideas with others more clearly.

- Employment Advancement – Knowing how to read, write and work with numbers are critical skills for jobs with opportunities to advance up the social-economic ladder. Literacy breaks the cycle of poverty, one life at a time.

- Knowledge is Power – Literacy is the key to personal empowerment and gives us personal dignity and self-worth.

PROGRESS TOWARDS
INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION WAS TOO SLOW

OVER 200 MILLION CHILDREN WILL STILL BE OUT OF SCHOOL IN 2030

INEQUALITIES IN EDUCATION ARE
EXACERBATED BY COVID-19

IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES, CHILDREN'S SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE IS

79% IN RICHEST
20% OF HOUSEHOLDS

34% IN POOREST
20% OF HOUSEHOLDS

ONLY **65%** OF **PRIMARY SCHOOLS**
HAVE BASIC HANDWASHING FACILITIES
CRITICAL FOR COVID-19 PREVENTION

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

ACCESS MORE DATA AND INFORMATION ON THE INDICATORS AT HTTPS://UNSTATS.UN.ORG/SDGS/REPORT/2020/

https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/E_Infographic_04.pdf

Facts and Figures

- Before the coronavirus crisis, projections showed that more than 200 million children would be out of school, and only 60 per cent of young people would be completing upper secondary education in 2030.

- Before the coronavirus crisis, the proportion of children and youth out of primary and secondary school had declined from 26 per cent in 2000 to 19 per cent in 2010 and 17 per cent in 2018.

- More than half of children that have not enrolled in school live in sub-Saharan Africa, and more than 85 per cent of children in sub-Saharan Africa are not learning the minimum

- 617 million youth worldwide lack basic mathematics and literacy skills.

- Some 750 million adults - two thirds of them women - remained illiterate in 2016. Half of the global illiterate population lives in South Asia, and a quarter live in sub-Saharan Africa.

- In 10 low- and middle-income countries, children with disabilities were 19per cent less likely to achieve minimum proficiency in reading than those without disabilities.

- 4 million refugee children were out of school in 2017

Goal 4 Targets

- 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and Goal-4 effective learning outcomes

- 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education

- 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

- 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

- 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

Goal 4 Targets

- 4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

- 4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

- 4.A Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, nonviolent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

- 4.B By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

- 4.C By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing states

Jamboard

- https://jamboard.google.com/d/1nbDAbUKcNG9POH6hnecDpxIWH9Ke6SCuAKEIEbPIHJo/edit?usp=sharing

Reading practice: http://www.examenglish.com/A2/A2_reading.htm

Ten Golden Reading Tips for Students

- 1 Read the questions before and after you read the text.

- 2 Make sure that you understand both the instructions and the questions.

- 3 The questions should appear in the same order as the answers in the text.

- 4 Go through the text to get a general idea of what it is about.

- 5 Don't worry if you don't understand every word; you're looking for meanings of paragraphs not words.

- 6 In "true and false" type questions, if it doesn't say in the text that something is true (T), mark it as false (F).

- 7 In "completion" type questions, always copy the exact words from the Reading text; do not change them.

- 8 In questions, focus on the detail of a sentence, especially on negative statements.

- 9 If you are not sure about the answer, use the elimination method.

- 10 Try to answer all the questions; if there are no penalties for incorrect answers, you've got nothing to lose.

Resources

- https://www.un.org/en/observances/literacy-day

- https://nationaltoday.com/international-literacy-day/

- https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/literacyday