

## LESSON THEME: WHAT ARE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

### Overview

This lesson is a broad introductory lesson to the Sustainable Development Goals aimed at middle school students.

This lesson could be used as an introductory lesson for students unfamiliar with the SDGs. The first activities will conceptually introduce the SDGs to students. Later activities aim to prompt thinking about how our own communities can achieve the SDGs.

### Relevant Goals

All 17 Goals

### Lesson Objectives

1. Increase student's awareness and knowledge of the SDGs
2. Encourage students to think about how they can help to achieve the SDGs in their own communities

### Arouse Interest 5 minutes

In order to catch students attention, start with a warm up activity. Use the questions on mentimeter.

<https://www.mentimeter.com/app/presentation/25924d26ca1202f250e8d1dfda79610e/1b28e4067f50>

### Introducing the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals | 20 minutes

Explain to the class what the SDGs are, in a way that you think is appropriate. Some key points you might want to touch on are:

- All 193 member states of the United Nations adopted the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, which contains 17 Goals to be achieved worldwide by 2030. It's a global agreement to make the world a better place for all.
- The Goals encompass many areas, including poverty, hunger, the environment, education, justice, peace, inequality and of course, sustainability. Here, it will help to open created presentation <https://prezi.com/embed/j3gg657cidon/> so that students become familiar with the 17 Goals.

### Watch a short video | 15 minutes

Watch the videos with the class to help introduce the SDGs.

2. Educational video – What is sustainable development:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7V8oFI4GYMY>

3. Inspiring video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7D9fvg5CK4>

Discuss the videos: Debrief the videos, repeating important points and asking for students' thoughts.

### The big picture – why do we need the Sustainable Development Goals? | 20 minutes

The purpose of the Sustainable Development Goals is to guide the world's nations towards a future that is better for everyone.

In this creative activity, we will explore utopian and dystopian futures to try to appreciate why we need the Sustainable Development Goals.

First, pair off the students, and assign each pair with a Goal

Next, provide the pairs with paper and colouring pencils, and ask each pair to consider what the world would look like if their Goal is achieved in 2030, and what the world would look like if no progress was made towards achieving the Goal in 2030.

Have students label different aspects of their picture. Finally, have students share their pictures with the class.

### Exploring one Sustainable Development Goal | 20 minutes

Students will explore a Goal from an individual, community, societal and global perspective. First, allocate one Goal to groups of 4-5 students (division of the classroom/desks may be needed) and ask them to choose a goal to work on.

Let students first think about the Goal and what it means. Then, ask the whole class the following questions, giving appropriate time to talk and share thoughts in the group first and then with the class.

1. How will we know when this Goal has been achieved?
2. What issues or problems need to be solved by the governments for this Goal to be achieved?
4. What can we, as teenagers, do to help achieve this Goal here in our community?
5. Which groups are most affected by this Goal?