

World Population Day July 11

Global Themes

- Images and Perception
- Interdependence

Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about World Population Day and the specific rights of children highlighted by this UN Day; their right to a nationality (CRC Article 9) and their right to practice their own culture (CRC Article 30).

Background Information for Teachers

The world's population will grow to 9 billion over the next 50 years—and only by raising the living standards of the poorest can we check population growth. Hans Rosling uses new technology to explain his reasoning at ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_on_global_population_growth.html.

Grades

4 – 8

Materials

Book entitled *If the World Were a Village* by David Smith

DVD (optional) entitled *If the World Were a Village* (can be ordered from firetheimagination.ca)

World map with legend outline

Activity One

- Begin by introducing July 11th as World Population Day; a UN Day celebrated around the world. The day has special significance in Canada because, while our country is large, our population is quite small so it is important to learn how other countries live with their varied population densities.
- Have the students locate their city on the class map. Ask, “What is a village/city/country? What makes a country a country?”
- Read aloud page 7 of the book entitled *If the World Were a Village* by David Smith.
- Ask the students to predict some information about the global village, i.e., How many people would... speak English, be children between the age of 5-9, go to school? Record the predications on the board. Teachers can also select their own series of questions.
- Read aloud from the book entitled *If the World Were a Village* by David Smith (or watch the DVD).
- Discuss the right of every child to have a nationality and to practice his or her own culture (CRC Articles 9 and 30) in relation to the book.
- Ask the students what they learned about the world's population. Refer to the predications made before the book was read. Ask the students what in the book was different from or the same as their predictions. What did they learn?

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- Give each student a copy of the world map, explaining that they will create a legend to show the basic population. Ask the students to create a legend for their map by choosing a symbol for each of the continents (i.e., a heart for Asia, a star for Africa, etc.). One symbol equals one person in the global village. Have the students draw their symbols on the map (61 hearts in Asia, 13 stars in Africa, etc.).

Discussion

Ask the students to take a look at the population map that they've created. Draw attention to the many different cultures and nationalities in the world. Ask the students what they could do to get to know more about other cultures.

Ask the students to list some of the problems within the global village. What could the villagers do to solve some of those problems? Discuss what the students could do to solve some of the problems on a global scale.

Extension

Hold an assembly for World Population Day.

Additional Resources

GeoHive is a site with all kinds of statistics. The main component is population statistics: historical, projections, cities, agglomerations, etc. But there is also geopolitical data like the administrative divisions of countries (provinces, counties, etc.) around the world. In addition, some economical statistics and an up-to-date list of all known national statistical agencies are listed.

geohive.com/earth/pop_continent.aspx

Gapminder World is a website that displays powerful and visually stimulating animated graphs generated from global development data. The graphs are informative, engaging and versatile, and include worldwide data pertaining to a large number of global issues. This resource has practical applications for teachers of geography, history, and mathematics at the intermediate and senior divisions.

gapminder.org/for-teachers/

If the World Were a Village activities

kidsnapress.com/Assets/Books/w_IfTheWorldWereAVillage_0178/PDFs/IfTheWorldWereAVillage_0178_teaching.pdf

Teacher Planet Population Day Activities

teacherplanet.com/resource/population.php