

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty October 17

Global Themes

- Images and Perception
- Interdependence

Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the specific right of children highlighted by this UN Day; their right to have food, clothing, a safe place to live, and their basic needs met (CRC Article 27).

Background Information for Teachers

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
un.org/esa/socdev/social/intldays/IntlDay/index.html

Grades

K – 3 (suitable for older primary students)

Materials

Book entitled *Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting
Needs and Wants cards (see Appendix)
Colouring supplies

Activity One

- Begin by introducing October 17th as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty; a UN Day celebrated around the world. The day has special significance in Canada because poverty still affects many Canadian citizens within our local communities.
- *Before you begin the discussion, be aware of the class demographics.* Brainstorm the topic poverty. Ask the students: What does it mean to be poor? What are the characteristics of poverty? Include items that cannot be seen such as emotional well-being. Remind the students that poverty is not limited to developing nations, and is also present within Canada.
- Read aloud from the story entitled *Fly Away Home* by Eve Bunting. Discuss homelessness with the children; this is an opportunity to talk about stereotypes. Brainstorm reasons why people might become homeless.
- Discuss the right of every child to have food, clothing, a safe place to live, and to have his or her basic needs met (CRC Article 27) in relation to the book. Ask the students to define basic needs. On the board, list some examples of the students' basic needs. Discuss the difference between "want" and "need."
- Distribute the wants and needs cards. Have the students compare the cards with the list.

- As a class, discuss:
 - Was it difficult to divide the examples into wants and needs?
 - How did you decide which items were needs and which were wants?
 - What is the difference between wants and needs?
 - What can be done to ensure children everywhere have all their needs met?

Activity Two

- Ask the students what it means to have the right to a safe place to live.
- Ask them to draw a picture of their home, school, or community, illustrating what makes it safe.
- Have the students share their work with each other (think, pair, share).

Extension

Research homelessness programs in your community. Find ways to support one of these programs.

Additional Resources

United Nations Millennium Development Goals
un.org/millenniumgoals/