Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):
Lesson Plan

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - lesson plan and activity

Overview of learning activities

Students will develop an understanding of the global initiatives taken to overcome poverty and analyse their effectiveness. In groups, students will discuss the current MDGs and the suggested Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) before creating a program proposal that works to address one of the MDG targets. Groups can then share their programs with the class.

Learning outcomes

Students will develop their research, problem-solving, decision-making and communication skills by working collaboratively to design a program that aims to address one of the targets set out in the MDGs.

Materials needed

This activity requires computer and internet access, large paper and pens.

Directions

Read the Action page of this Teacher's Toolkit site in class, then divide the class into small groups for discussions. Get the groups to reflect on the MDGs and compare these with the proposed SDGs. Here are some questions to prompt discussions:

- What were some of the successes of the MDGs?
- What were some of the failures?
- Discuss the six themes of the SDGs. Are these universally applicable?

After a brief discussion, get the groups to decide on a goal from the MDGs and then to create an outline for a program that would help to achieve that goal. For example, students could decide to design an education program that would address Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education.

Encourage students to consider the following:

- Where will their program be located? Why have they chosen this country/region?
- Who will the program be benefiting (e.g. primary aged children from a particular community)? Why have they chosen this group—what is the need they are addressing?
- How will they deliver their program (e.g. build learning centres in remote villages to provide access to education for rural communities)?
- How will their program contribute to achieving the selected MDG?
- What will be some of the challenges they may face (e.g. lack of access to infrastructure)?

- How might they overcome these?
- How will they measure success?

Once assignments are complete, groups can present their programs to the class. Encourage other groups to ask questions and discuss their proposals.