

LESSON 2

TRIGGER WARNING:

Some children may find this module upsetting, especially any children who are homeless or travellers.

TOPIC: GLOBAL INEQUALITY
SUB TOPIC: WHY IS THERE INEQUALITY?
LESSON 2: STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY

SUBJECT: SPHE

CLASS LEVEL: 3RD/4TH CLASS (AGES 8-10)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

This lesson explores what inequality means around the world and the barriers to success that exist for many people.

Strand: Myself

Strand: Myself and the wider world

Strand unit: Developing citizenship

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Recognise that there is inequality between individuals and between countries.
- Understand that there is inequality between people in countries all over the world, including Ireland.
- Understand that there is inequality between countries across the world – some countries have more materials and some countries have less materials.

LESSON PLAN



INTRODUCTION:

- Remembering what was learned in the last lesson, ask the children to think about and discuss what inequality is and why it exists.
- Does inequality exist between people? How? Where? Why? Does inequality exist between countries? Can you think of some examples?



DEVELOPMENT:

Game Time!

- Split the class into three groups. If this is difficult, split the class in two groups and then into smaller teams.
- Give Team 1 some cardboard and cello-tape, give Team 2 just cardboard and give Team 3 some straws.
- Tell the children that Team 1 can take anything they want from Team 2 and 3 but Team 2 and 3 cannot take anything from any team.
- Now tell the teams the competition is who can build the tallest tower.
- Set a time limit for the teams to build the towers in.
- Once the time is up ask each team how they felt during the game.
- Get the class to discuss if they felt the game was fair or unfair.
 - Did each team have an equal chance to build the tallest tower? Why/why not?
 - Did you all have the same materials? Did you all have the same chance to use your materials?
 - Imagine if each team was an Irish person. What would that tell us about inequality in Ireland?
 - Imagine if each team was a country. What would this tell us about inequality all across the world?
- Reinforce with the children that just like in the game, people around the world do not have the same materials to build their lives as others – some people have more and some people have less. Similarly all countries do not have the same materials as each other – some countries have a lot less than Ireland.

- Get the class to talk about what they have learned from this game.
- Everyone does not have an equal chance to succeed in the world. Why?
 - Example: some people are very poor. There are poor people all over the world.
- There are some things which hold people back from succeeding. What kind of things?
 - Example: some people do not get to go to school.
- This happens in Ireland. Lots of people in Ireland do not have the same opportunities which means that they might not succeed. Can you think of examples?
 - Example: some people in Ireland do not have homes.
- Sometimes this can even happen with a whole country! Some countries have a lot of money and power and they make it difficult for other countries to succeed. Can you think of examples?
 - Example: sometimes countries do not want to share their materials with other countries. These materials might include, oil, food, or money.



CONCLUSION:

Activity Time!

- To conclude the class ask the children to think about what they have discussed and learned today and to write a poem based on inequality.
- It should explain how inequality feels (remind them of how they felt during the tower game)
- It should give an example of inequality in the world
- It should give an example of inequality in Ireland
- If there is time do this activity in class and allow time for any children that want to read their poem aloud to do so. Alternatively this activity can be given for reflective homework.

Reflection Time!

- What have you learned today? What does inequality mean? What types of inequality exist? How did it feel when you weren't given an equal opportunity to build a tower?

LINKAGE AND INTEGRATION FOR THIS LESSON:

ENGLISH

Strand: Receptiveness to language

Strand Unit: Writing

- Creating and fostering the impulse to write

Strand: Emotional and imaginative development through language

Strand unit: Oral language

- Developing emotional and imaginative life through oral language

DIFFERENTIATION:

- During the game the teacher will ensure each child has a role that meets their needs and abilities.
- Some children may not feel comfortable writing a poem and might need extra assistance to understand what a poem is and how to write one.

ASSESSMENT:

- The children will reflect and self-assess during the discussion after the tower game.
- The teacher can assess the children's learning and self-reflection in the poems that they write.
- During reflection time the teacher can observe if children have progressed their learning since the beginning of class.

RESOURCES:

- IWB/flipchart/big sheet of paper
- Whiteboard markers/pens
- USB presentation
- Cardboard, cello tape, straws

GLOBAL INEQUALITY:

WHY IS THERE INEQUALITY?

LESSON 2 Structural Inequality

LET'S THINK...

What is inequality?

Why do you think inequality exists?

GAME TIME!

Get into three teams

- Team 1: You have cardboard and cello-tape
- Team 2: You have cardboard
- Team 3: You have straws

Rules:

- Team 1 can take anything they want from Team 2 and 3.
- Team 2 and 3 cannot take anything from any team.

BUILD THE TALLEST TOWER!!!

Was this game fair?

- Why was it fair or unfair?
- Did everyone have an equal chance to build the tallest tower?
- What if the teams were Irish people? What would that tell us about inequality in Ireland?
- What if the teams were countries? What would that tell us about inequality in the world?

What have you learned?

Share with your class and help your teacher write the answers on the whiteboard!

Question Time!

- Everyone does not have an equal chance to succeed in the world. Why?
- There are some things which hold people back from succeeding. What kind of things?
- This happens in Ireland. Lots of people in Ireland do not have the same opportunities which means that they might not succeed. Can you think of examples?
- Sometimes this can even happen with a whole country! Some countries have a lot of money and power and they make it difficult for other countries to succeed. Can you think of examples?

ACTIVITY TIME!

Write a poem about inequality

- It should explain how inequality feels
- It should give an example of inequality between countries
- It should give an example of inequality in Ireland

**REFLECTION
TIME...**

**STRUCTURAL
INEQUALITY**