

Take Action!

U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Audience: Social Studies - Grades 6-8

Materials:

- U.N. SDG Poster
- U.N. SDG site: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>
- Graphic Organizer for students to complete
- Note sheets

Additional Resources:

[The World's Largest Lesson Introduced by Malala Yousafzai](#)

Objectives:

- Understand and explain what the U.N. Global Goals for Sustainable Development are.
- Think about and give examples of how the U.N. Global Goals for Sustainable Development could be used to create a better future.
- Students connect the Global Goals and their own lives.
- Design a vision project to take action and educate the world on what the U.N. Global Goals for Sustainable Development are and why the goals are important.

Background: Mobilizing ourselves in our communities and the world to take action about a global social issue can be daunting! “In 2015, world leaders agreed to 17 goals for a better world by 2030. These goals have the power to end poverty, fight inequality and address the urgency of climate change. Guided by the goals, it is now up to all of us, governments, businesses, civil society and the general public to work together to build a better future for everyone” (<https://www.globalgoals.org/>). Many of these goals are transferable into a school setting and much more could be done to raise the awareness of them in our communities. This lesson aims to help students understand the U.N. Global Goals for Sustainable Development and to examine how students can raise awareness and make a real difference in their local community and wider world.

Instructions:

1. Begin by asking students to take three minutes to brainstorm, “What are the biggest problems faced by people in our community, country, continent, and world? Possible responses include: *Hunger, unemployment, polluted oceans, violence in the community.*
2. Show students The 17 U.N. Global Goals for Sustainable Development and give them quick background information. Have students compare the problems which they have identified and see if the problems on their lists match any of those addressed in the U.N. Global Goals for Sustainable Development.
3. Have students then go to the the U.N. Global Goals website. On their note sheets for each goal, students summarize in one sentence their knowledge of the U.N. Global Goal and write one action that they could take to reach the goal.
4. At the end of the exploration of the U.N. Global Goals for Sustainable Development, have students make further connections by asking how old will they be in 2030 and then thinking about *what they might be doing in 2030, what job might they have, what would they like to study or how will they be spending their time? How do you think you could relate your future life to the U.N. Global Goals? Which goal do you think is most important to you and why? Are there any goals missing?*
5. For the main group learning activity - Divide the class into groups of 2-5 students (depending upon the size of the class). Explain that the main task today is to design a Global Goals poster to increase social awareness.

Name:

Poster for Social Awareness

Directions: Design a poster and one tweet that will bring attention to one of the 17 U.N. Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Your group will select the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) which it thinks is the most important for society to focus on and design a poster with this Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) as its topic.

Process: A picture is worth a thousand words - Begin by searching on Google “posters for social change” for ideas.

Next in your group, spend some time researching and thinking about the SDG goal that your group thinks is the most important for society to focus on in order to achieve the most progress toward sustainable development. Why should people be concerned about this goal? How can you motivate and inspire other people to care about this goal? Think

about non-profit organizations and businesses in your community that are associated with that cause. Who would benefit from caring about this cause or want to use your poster? What places in the world are affected by this goal and why? Identify which processes are causing the issue? Which groups have power over achieving the goal? What are the possibilities for change targeted by the goal by 2030?

Brainstorm with your group images and words (short phrases) that express the U.N. SDG goal you are promoting. Come up with a call to action: What should the viewer of your poster do?

With one of the 17 U.N. Sustainable Development Goals as a topic, now design a poster and create a tweet to **@TheGlobalGoals** (140 characters, and use image and hashtags) as an advertisement campaign for a non-profit or business organization of your choosing. In addition to communicating your cause, select a strategy for your advertisement campaign (humor, fear, shock, facts).

You may use any media to design your poster: illustration, type-only, image+type, digital collage in photoshop, or photography.

Extension Activity: If some groups finish early, have the students find a recent news story that has a clear link to their goal.

Name _____

Date _____

**United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
Note Sheet**

Directions: Use <https://www.globalgoals.org> to summarize at least one thing you learned about each goal, and list one action that you could take to reach the goal.

Goal 1: No Poverty	
Goal 2: Zero Hunger	
Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being	
Goal 4: Quality Education	
Goal 5: Gender Equality	
Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	
Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	
Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	
Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
Goal 10: Reduced	

Inequalities	
Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	
Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	
Goal 13: Climate Action	
Goal 14: Life Below Water	
Goal 15: Life on Land	
Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	
Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals	

Which goal is most important to you?