

Take Action!

U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Audience: Social Studies - Grades 6-8 This lesson was specifically designed to focus on the country of Japan and four Japanese businesses which sponsored the 2019 Keizai Koho Teacher Fellowship.

Materials:

- U.N. SDG Poster
- U.N. SDG [site: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)
- Graphic Organizer for students to complete
- Note sheets
- Map of [Japan](#)
- Links to the following Japanese companies for research: [KDDI Corporation](#), [OMRON Corporation](#), [KYOCERA Corporation](#), and [Nippon Life Benefits](#) .
- Japanese businesses research note sheet

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.
- Students connect the Global Goals to the country of Japan.
- Design a vision project to take action and educate a Japanese business on what the U.N. Global Goals for Sustainable Development are, the importance of the goals and why it would be beneficial for the company to implement these goals.

Background: Mobilizing ourselves in our communities and the world to take action on 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 global goals are transferable into a school setting and much can 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 examine how they can raise awareness and make a real difference in their local community as well as the wider world. Specifically, this lesson is designed to help students develop and understand arguments as to why a Japanese businesses might adopt Global Goals for Sustainable Development and be forefront leaders for other world companies.

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 brief background information. Have students compare the problems which they have just 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 U.N. Global Goals website. On their **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Note Sheet**, students summarize in one sentence their knowledge of each 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 they will be in 2030 and then think about *what they might be doing in 2030, what job might they have, what they might like to study or how they might be spending their time? How could you 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 to achieve sustainable development?*
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 for a Japanese business to increase social awareness of this goal and to help the business identify ways to work on this goal to positively impact the country.