

The Millennium Development Goals

Information about the poster and activities



The Millennium Development Goals are a set of realistic and achievable targets. By signing up to these goals, governments of both developing and developed countries have committed themselves to working collaboratively towards a better future for all of us.

Activities for this goal include:

Introducing goals

Pupils think about their own life goals and then learn what the Millennium Development Goals are.

What do you know about the United Nations?

Pupils decide what they would like to know about the UN and then use the internet to find out this information.

The Millennium Development Goals

Pupils examine the Millennium Development Goals and think about the issues behind them.

Taking Action on The Millennium Development Goals

Pupils make messages about the Millennium Development Goals and take the issues to others.

The Millennium Development Goals

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are international targets for reducing global poverty. By the year 2015 these goals, if they are reached, will have lifted around 500 million people out of poverty. Fewer women will die in childbirth, fewer people will die from treatable diseases, many more boys and girls will go to school and the lives of millions of people will improve dramatically.

How did they come about?

In the year 2000, the member states of the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the Millennium Declaration. This document outlines the 189 countries' commitment to the UN's principle of working towards a more just, peaceful and equal world. The MDGs, as a set of realistic and achievable targets, are central to this process. By signing up to these goals, governments of both developing and developed countries have committed themselves to working collaboratively towards a better future for all of us.

What is happening now?

Progress on the goals will be measured each year, in order to help achieve them all by 2015. For the first seven goals, the onus is on the governments of developing countries to ensure that targets are met or bettered. It is however the eighth goal, to 'build a global partnership for development', that will create the conditions necessary for achieving the other seven. With this goal, the responsibility falls on the richer countries and the wider 'global community' to reduce debt, to give more and better aid and to make trade fairer, among other measures. At the current rate of progress, many of the targets will be missed and it is therefore vital that pressure is stepped up on the global community to increase efforts to achieve them.

For more information:

www.un.org/millenniumgoals www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/health_and_education
www.undp.org/mdg (Oxfam's campaigning and research on health and education)
www.endpoverty2015.org www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources
(Oxfam's information and activities for teachers)

Notes for use of the poster set

- This set of posters is aimed primarily at pupils aged 7 to 14, but could be used by any group of people wishing to explore some of the issues behind the MDGs.
- Teachers are not expected to use all the material within this poster set but should select activities appropriate for the group of pupils that they are working with.
- For reasons of space, this poster set is not meant to be an exhaustive resource about the MDGs. Therefore, teachers wishing to delve further into the issues should consult the websites listed above.
- Teachers who intend to use the posters primarily for display might want to concentrate on the activities which go with the poster for Goal Eight, 'Share responsibility for making the world a better place'. These activities concentrate on international trade, aid and debt – global issues where reform needs to happen if the MDGs are to be achieved.

Aims of this resource

- To inform pupils about the Millennium Development Goals.
- To help them develop an understanding of the issues behind the MDGs.
- To help them relate the goals to their own lives.
- To improve their ability to communicate about these issues.
- To encourage them to consider what their own contribution to the achievement of the MDGs could be, based on information, reason and independent thinking.

Curriculum links: Literacy, Citizenship, PSHE, PSE.

Skills: Thinking skills (reasoning, enquiry, critical reflection), communication, problem-solving, working with others, building empathy.

Activity 0.1	Introducing goals (ages 7–14)
<p>Aims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To help pupils understand the concept of goal-setting and to encourage them to consider setting some important goals for themselves. •To teach pupils what the Millennium Development Goals are. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask pupils to call out what they think of when they hear the word 'goal'. They will probably say 'football'! Encourage them to think what it means to score a goal – that it is something the players are trying to achieve; this is what they have set out to do. 2. Ask pupils to think of personal goals they may have. They could do this individually or in small groups. Help them by suggesting they look at different aspects of their lives, e.g. school, family, friends, sport and hobbies. 3. Ask them to prepare a 'charter' of their goals. They could then set a time limit on these. By when should they be achieved? Ask them to draw a time line to illustrate this. They should add some detail about how they will achieve their goals. What steps will they take towards them and when? 4. Explain what the MDGs are, how they came about and that the governments of the world have pledged to achieve all the goals by 2015. Pupils could copy them down and keep them with their personal charter. How old will they be in 2015? Do they think the world will be a better place then?

Activity 0.2	What do you know about the United Nations? (ages 10–14)
<p>Aims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To develop pupils' understanding of what the UN is and the role it plays. To help pupils develop their research skills. <p>You will need</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Information about the UN or access to the internet for pupils 	<p>Ask pupils to brainstorm in groups what they know about the UN, feed back their information to the whole group and compile a joint 'What we know' list.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Using this list as a reference point, ask them to devise a number of questions they would like to ask about the organisation and its work, either in small groups or as a class. 3. Share the research questions out among the groups and help the class decide on relevant sources. 4. Allow time for research. 5. Ask each group to report back to the class and combine all the information they have discovered. 6. Help the class to agree on a way to collate and share the information gained. <p>Note: The following website might be useful: www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/links</p>

Activity 0.3	The Millennium Development Goals (ages 9–14)
<p>Aims</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •To help pupils develop an understanding of what the MDGs are and to consider some of the issues behind them. •To enable pupils to express, justify and defend orally a personal opinion. 	<p>Note: You will need to have done Activity 0.1 with the pupils before doing this activity.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review briefly the goals the pupils drew up for themselves in Activity 0.1. Ask them which ones they consider the most important, and which ones they need the most help to achieve. 2. Use the idea of their goals to reintroduce the idea behind the MDGs. Remind them what the MDGs are and refer to the front of this poster to highlight what each goal is about. 3. Ask them to work in groups of three or four, and give each group a copy of the Millennium Development Goals summary below. Ask them to cut them out and arrange them according to how important they think each goal is.

You will need

•A photocopy of *The Millennium Development Goals*

(below) for each group of pupils

4. Put two groups together and ask them to compare their results. They should explain to each other how they arrived at their decisions.

5. In a plenary discussion ask the pupils:

- Which MDGs did they consider most important and why?
- Who did they have in mind when they made their decisions?
- Do they think everyone, everywhere would agree with their conclusions?
- Why? Or why not?

6. The aim of this ranking exercise is to get pupils to engage with the goals and to discuss them together. You could tell them that specialists think that all the goals are of equal importance, as none of them can be achieved without the others.

Furthermore, the first seven goals depend on the eighth goal (to build a global partnership for development through fairer trade, more aid and debt relief).

The Millennium Development Goals

By 2015, the governments of the world have promised to ...

Reduce poverty

Educate every child

Provide equal chances for girls and women

Reduce the number of babies and children who die

Ensure safe and healthy motherhood

Fight infectious diseases

Clean up the environment

**Share responsibility for making the
World a better place**

General ideas for using the posters

- Display the posters around the room. Ask pupils to identify the one that they like best. They should stand next to it and discuss with others why they like it. Ask them to describe it in detail and to say where they think it is.
- Ask pupils to imagine what they might be able to see, hear and smell if they were in this place.
- On a map of the world, mark the countries that feature in the posters.
- Give each pupil four speech-bubble sticky notes and ask them to write what some of the people in the poster could say about the MDGs or what they might be thinking.
- Ask pupils to devise a set of questions they would like to ask one of the characters in the posters.
- Ask one pupil to describe the poster to a partner who tries to draw it from the description.
- Send five pupils out of the room. Ask another pupil to study one of the posters carefully and then to describe it to the first pupil to come back in. On the basis of that description the first pupil then describes it to the next to come in, and so on.
- Ask pupils to find images, or take photos, of similar topics in the UK, e.g. taking care of very young children.
- Ask pupils to consider what the message of each poster is.

General ideas for using the stories that go with the photographs on each poster

- Ask pupils to retell the story in their own words.
- Photocopy the story and ask pupils to identify words that give them specific information, e.g. whether the people in the story are happy or not, what they would like, what stops them doing what they want.
- Develop the story into a drama, improvising what might happen next.
- Ask pupils to rewrite the story as a report to present to a country leader or politician, or as a newspaper report.
- Ask pupils in groups to brainstorm their feelings about and reactions to the stories, and the feelings they think the person in the story has.

**The Millennium Development Goals
(full UN versions)**

- Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4 Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5 Improve maternal health
- Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8 Build a global partnership for development

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to all Oxfam colleagues who helped with this pack.

Thanks to the DfID-funded Support to the Safe Motherhood Programme in Nepal for the photo and case study for Poster 5.

Sources: Unless otherwise stated, all statistics are taken from the Millennium Development Goals section of the United Nations website (www.un.org/millenniumgoals).

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Oxfam works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering.

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Oxfam is committed to providing the best possible support to schools and youth groups and we wish to assess the impact of our work with young people.

Please use the slip below to tell us about your MDG lessons and projects or e-mail us at education@oxfam.org.uk

.....✂️.....

Name of Teacher:

Age of pupils:

Name & Address of School:

Description of MDG learning:

Please return this slip to:

Postcode:

Oxfam Youth & Schools Team

Email*

Oxfam House

John Smith Drive

Oxford OX4 2JY

Number of pupils taught about the MDGs:

*Please provide your email address to receive messages from us about our projects and activities. You can unsubscribe at any time.

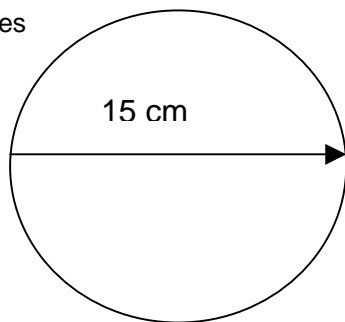
We would like to keep you informed about our projects and activities. However, if you'd rather not receive such information, please either email us at changes@oxfam.org.uk, phone 0300 200 1300 or write to Supporter Relations, Oxfam House, John Smith Drive, Oxford OX4 2JY.

How to Take Action on the Millennium Development Goals

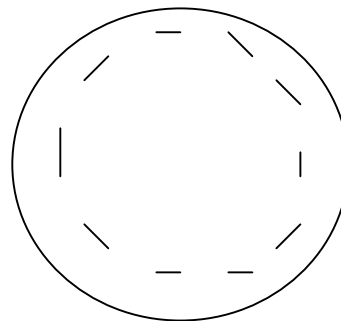
- Complete and send a MDG action card (www.oxfam.org.uk/education).
- Decorate and put your message on the Millennium Millipede, (see below) send it to us and we'll put it on display.
- Make your own millipede from circle of fabric. Remember when you put them on display to include messages about the Goals.
- Make MDG tree in town square. Make sure you have permission and that you have taken health and safety into account. You could cut out action apples saying what needs to happen for each MDG or find some other way of drawing attention to the Millennium Development Goals.
- See www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/activists/guides for ideas on becoming an activist.

How to make a fabric millipede

1. Use a template to cut 9 circles of fabric

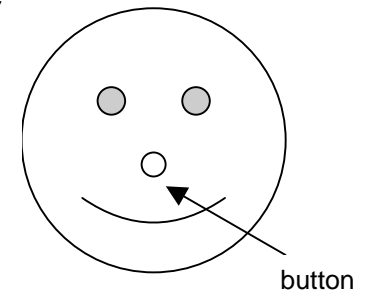


2. With a needle and thread, make running stitches 1 cm in around the circumference



3. Pull thread ends and gather circle to make a pouch. Tie off the thread ends and make 8

4. Stuff the head and glue on felt eyes. Tie a thin piece of elastic to a button and thread the other end through a needle. Pass the needle through the middle of the face and through the centre of the remaining eight



Send your message to the Government about the Millennium Development Goals

1. Write your name and message to the government about the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Decorate The Millennium Millipede

3. Cut it out and send your millipede to:

*Youth & Schools Team
Oxfam House
John Smith Drive
Oxford OX4 2JY*

We'll make sure others get to see your message.

Name: _____

Message: _____

