

**Teacher's guide** 



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A short activity to help pupils understand and debate who is responsible for ensuring the **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) are achieved, including themselves. Suitable for ages 9-18.

This activity is designed for pupils who already have some understanding of the SDGs and is a good follow up to our own Global Goals string activity.

1. Divide pupils into groups of 4/5. Give each group: - 1 sheet of A3 paper

- image in the middle of the SDGs stimulus sheet

- Sustainable Development Goals information sheet

2. Lead a short discussion on what they already know about the SDGs.

3. Ask the pupils to draw a map of their country in the middle of the paper.

4. Explain that the aim of the activity for them to think about who is responsible for making sure we achieve the SDGs, both in their own country and around the world. Ask them to discuss in their group which organisations and individuals in their country they feel might be responsible for making the SDGs happen. Then ask them to mark where they are on the map.

5. They should then mark any individuals or organisations in other countries e.g. United Nations on the outside of their country.

For younger/less able pupils hand out a selection of Idea cards as a prompt ... choose which cards and how many according to age/ability of pupils.

For older / more able pupils start by not handing out any cards, then hand out if they need a prompt.

6. Hand out the Who's Responsible cards. In their groups ask pupils to select which individuals or groups they jointly believe have most responsibility and to write down their top ones on the cards, so that they each have one card.

7. Gather pupils into a circle, bringing their cards with them. Hand one pupil the ball of string and ask them to explain the choice they have made. Then ask

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them to pass (or throw ... you decide!) to someone else in the circle from a different group, who they think links to their own choice, and ask them to explain why.

**Example 1** – If a pupil had the card **Me** they might link with an International Development charity, because they can give money to a charity to help them achieve the SDGs, or to My country's Government, because they can influence Government by voting/lobbying, or Retail companies because they can decide on whether to buy products from them or not depending on the sustainability of the product.

Example 2 - If a pupil had the card United Nations they might link with an International **Development charity** because the UN gives money to charities, or My country's **Government** because the UN can make rules

If someone says something controversial or interesting, encourage discussion and debate.

8. Continue with the activity until you have a spider's web, all of the groups have been covered and you feel there has been a good discussion.

9. Ask one of the pupils to pull on their string, ask what is happening. When they say that moving one thing affects the others confirm that this demonstrates that all these different people and organisations are interconnected, and that we all need to work together to reach the SDGs.

## **Resources**

## **Pupil activity sheets**

- Sustainable Development Goals information sheet (one per group)
- Image from stimulus sheet (one per group)
- Ideas cards (one set per group)
- Who's responsible cards (one per pupil)

## Equipment

- Ball of string
- A3 paper
- Coloured pens