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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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A one-stop-shop for educators with useful UN resources  
and curated content to teach and learn about the UN for kids grade K-12

# THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## Overview:

- This resource provides an introduction the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key questions along with primary sources are provided to facilitate comprehension and engage students critically. Through analysis of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, students will understand the importance of the SDGs in their daily lives and in the global community.

## Grade:

- K -12

## Subjects:

- Social Studies; Science

## Students will:

- Engage in dialogue
- Utilize primary source documents
- Formulate written and oral responses

## Goals:

- To answer the questions posed in this resource and to better understand the SDGs broadly.
- To realize that everyone is an active participant in his/her community, and thus, by extension, in the achievement of the SDGs.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## Discuss:

- What do you see in the image above?
- What is your initial impression?
- Do you think that these goals apply universally? Why or why not?



## What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also known as the Global Goals, are a shared agenda to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect the planet.
- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted in 2000, aimed to address a range of social and economic issues, including poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, and access to water and sanitation.
- The SDGs go much further than the MDGs to ensure that no one is left behind.



UN and Hello Kitty to Promote SDGs ©UN Photo





## These are the 17 goals:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

## MAKING SENSE OF THE SDGS:

### *THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*

#### **Read the following paragraph:**

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted unanimously by UN Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. At its heart are the 17 SDGs, which are an urgent call for action by all countries - developed and developing - in a global partnership. They recognize that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.

Source: [DESA](#)

#### **Discuss:**

- Think about the interrelationship of the 17 SDGs, as referenced in the above paragraph.



Read the Preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **Preamble:**

- This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.
- The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet:



- **People:** We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.
- **Planet:** We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.



Face of the Mau: Community Leader Planting Trees ©UN Photo





- **Prosperity:** We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.
- **Peace:** We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.



Launch of Collaboration to Teach SDGs on Thomas & Friends™ Television

Show ©UN Photo



- **Partnership:** We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people. The interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized. If we realize our ambitions across the full extent of the Agenda, the lives of all will be profoundly improved and our world be transformed for the better.

· Link to Preamble website and document: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

### Discuss:

- What does the Preamble of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development cite as inspiration for the SDGs?
- What do the SDGs seek to accomplish?



Read the “Our shared principles and commitments” section from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **Our shared principles and commitments:**

- The new Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. It is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.
- “Our shared principles and commitments” section:  
<https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

#### **Discuss:**

- Explain why the references in this text to human rights and the right to development are relevant to the SDGs.



## SDGs in Action:

- Osaki is known as a recycling town in Japan. With a population of around 12,000, the town recycles about 80 percent of its waste, avoiding the need for an incineration plant.
- Compressed waste is sent to factories for recycling, while the money earned is used for students' educational scholarships, and food waste is turned into rich compost.
- **SDG: 1, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15**



Watch Video [Here](#)



## SDGs in Action:

- An all-woman-led architecture firm in Bangalore, India, is reviving raw-earth construction to build sustainable structures with mud that can withstand extreme weather events, such as flash floods and intense heat. The firm is also championing more women in architecture and training more women to be stone masons on site.
- The mud's breathable nature allows moisture into the home, improving indoor air quality and avoiding buildup of dampness and mold. This reduces the need for air conditioning units, which consume large amounts of electricity and contain refrigerants that are potent greenhouse emissions.
- **SDG: 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13**



Sindhoor Pangal (Center) Worked with Masons Ink and a Team of Women Masons To Create Her Mud Home ©UN, Sindhoor Pangal

Watch Video [Here](#)





## SDGs in Action:

- UNICEF in Côte d'Ivoire has partnered with Conceptos Plásticos, a Colombian social business that transforms plastic waste into construction materials to build a better future for children. With this innovative project, UNICEF and Conceptos Plásticos are contributing to a cleaner planet by recycling plastic.
- This project fights child mortality by preventing the spread of diseases exacerbated by pollution, such as pneumonia and malaria, and provides low cost and comfortable learning spaces for children. Every child has the right to play and learn in a clean environment.
- **SDG: 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13, 14, 17**



Turning Plastic Waste Into Classrooms ©UNICEF

Watch Video [Here](#)



## SDGs in Action:

- The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) school meals programme started in Venezuela in 2021 and has since delivered take-home food baskets to more than 450,000 people in eight states, covering 2000 schools. The main recipients are children and school personnel, including people with disabilities who attend special education schools.
- WFP has expanded its school meals programme to include hot meals prepared with fresh food served to 16,000 schools in Falcón state, Venezuela. This programme is a strong platform to help generate demand for locally-produced nutritious food, which created development opportunities for the communities as well.
- **SDG: 2, 3, 10, 16, 17**



Children Enjoying Fresh Food Meals in a Venezuelan School

©WFP





## SDGs in Action:

- In order to improve the situation and ensure access to safe water in Dhamar, Yemen, UNICEF worked in 2017-18 with the Local Water and Sanitation Foundation (LWSF) to install a sanitation system and rehabilitate the water tanks to eliminate the sources of contaminated water in a sustainable way to prevent cholera from spreading further.
- With the support of the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) and the German development bank KfW, UNICEF equipped the affected households with a comprehensive sewage system linked to a major drainage line, discharging wastewater to the Dhamar sewage treatment plan.
- Furthermore in 2018, UNICEF installed a solar-based water pipe network to ensure safe and drinkable water, one of the three innovative water projects in Dhamar city supported by UNICEF.
- **SDG: 2, 3, 10, 16, 17**



UNICEF Facilitates Access to Clean Water and Sanitation  
Services for Children and Their Families in Yemen

©UNICEF



## Test your knowledge:

 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> NO POVERTY            </div>	 <div>             2 <input type="checkbox"/>  </div>	 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING            </div>
 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> QUALITY EDUCATION            </div>	 <div>             5 <input type="checkbox"/>  </div>	 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION            </div>
 <div>             7 <input type="checkbox"/>  </div>	 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH            </div>	 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE            </div>
 <div>             10 <input type="checkbox"/>  </div>	 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES            </div>	 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION            </div>
 <div>             13 <input type="checkbox"/>  </div>	 <div>             14 <input type="checkbox"/>  </div>	 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE ON LAND            </div>
 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS            </div>	 <div> <input type="checkbox"/> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS            </div>	<p> <a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment">www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment</a>  <a href="http://www.un.org/en/teach">www.un.org/en/teach</a>  <a href="http://www.un.org.visit">www.un.org.visit</a>            Twitter: @VisitUN            Facebook: UN Visitor Centre         </p>



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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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For more information:

UN Department of Global Communications (DGC):

[https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ UN](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/UN)

UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA):

<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

UN Development Programme (UNDP):

<https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals>

For more information on Teach the UN:

<https://www.un.org/en/teach>

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