



TEACHER TIPS

Join the United Nations and Thomas & Friends and teach your class how to build a better world



#AllAboardForGlobalGoals

**All Aboard
for Global Goals!**

The **17 Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs) agreed upon by all 193 United Nations Member States aim to end poverty, ensure prosperity and protect the planet.

Thomas & Friends have collaborated with the United Nations to teach children about **six of these Global Goals**.

On the website AllAboardforGlobalGoals.com, you will find “Life Lessons” videos from our favorite blue engine, Thomas, to help teach young children about why achieving these Goals is important for everyone in the world.

These Teacher Tips aim to lend discussion points and activities to do together with your class.

See the following pages for **video links, discussion ideas, playful learning activities** and **helpful links** to explore with your class on the following **six Goals** chosen for their age-appropriate skill development potential:



Quality Education

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all and promote lifelong learning



Sustainable Cities and Communities

Make cities and communities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Gender Equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Responsible Consumption and Production

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Clean Water and Sanitation

Ensure access to water and sanitation for all



Life on Land

Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation

See www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment for more information on all 17 Sustainable Development Goals





SDG 4: Quality Education

TEACHER TIPS



What Is the aim of SDG 4?

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.



What Is My Class Learning?

- Importance of learning
- Empathy for others
- Approaches to learning
- Creativity and innovation



Video link: [Thomas & Friends on Quality Education—Goal #4](#)

(1 min 53 seconds)



Conversation Starters. After watching the above video with your class, ask them the following questions to begin a conversation:

- Tell me what Thomas said about schools?
- Does everyone go to school? Why is it hard for some children to go to school?
- What are some fun things that can happen at school?
- How can learning something new help you?



Playful Learning

Remember playing school? This time change it up and have the children teach you something. Ask your class to “set up” the school. What will you need? What does your class want to teach you? It can be how to play a game, put together a puzzle, or build a tower with blocks. As you play ask your class for help and talk about what you are learning.

- Invite others into your “classroom” so they can learn too. We want everyone to come to school!
- For very young children, keep it simple with a 4-5 piece puzzle or have the stuffed animals sit in a circle as you play with a ball or blocks.
- For older children, create a project together such as a number line to decorate your “classroom” or have them read to you!



Useful links

- AllAboardforGlobalGoals.com
- [All Aboard for Global Goals, Early Learning Skills Framework](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Student Resources](#)
- [UNICEF](#)



- [@GlobalGoalsUN](#)
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SDG 5: Gender Equality

TEACHER TIPS



What Is the aim of SDG 5?

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.



What Is My Class Learning?

- Empathy for others
- Self-confidence
- To treat everyone as equals
- Fair to others
- Social development



Video link: [Thomas & Friends on Gender Equality—Goal #5](#)

(1 min 49 seconds)



Conversation Starters. After watching the above video with your class, ask them the following questions to begin a conversation:

- What things did Thomas say the girl engines do?
- What did the girl engine do? Can they do the same things as boy engines?
- Do the girl engines get the same opportunities as boy engines?
- What jobs do you see that girls and boys can do?
- Name a few women your class knows and talk about some things they have learnt from them.



Playful Learning

Everyone can be a hero! Young children begin to build a strong sense of self and their identity as a boy or a girl. Dramatic play can help children in building confidence in who they are and what they can do.

- You'll need old clothes, paper, cardboard, and recycled materials.
- Ask your class if anyone can be a hero. Can boys be heroes? Can girls be heroes? If each child could be a superhero who would he/she be?
- Create the hero costume out of materials with your class. Act out the hero tasks or actions. A costume for younger children may not be needed.
- Act out with your students tasks they think they would do as heroes. Older children can extend the learning by making a chart of the things they can do and things their friends can do — girls and boys.



Useful links

- AllAboardforGlobalGoals.com
- [All Aboard for Global Goals, Early Learning Skills Framework](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Student Resources](#)
- [UN Women](#)



- [@GlobalGoalsUN](#)
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SDG 6: Clean Water & Sanitation

TEACHER TIPS



What Is the aim of SDG 6?

Ensure access to water and sanitation for all.



What Is My Class Learning?

- Healthy habits, personal hygiene
- Safety practices
- Science – matter & energy
- Understanding consequences of behavior



Video link: [Thomas & Friends on Clean Water & Sanitation—Goal #6](#)

(2 mins 35 seconds)



Conversation Starters. After watching the above video with your class, ask them the following questions to begin a conversation:

- What ways of using water did Thomas see?
- How do we use water?
- Where does water come from?
- What happens if our water is dirty?
- Why do we need to wash our hands (our clothes, our faces, etc.)?



Playful Learning

Experiment with cleaning water! You'll need a coffee filter, sand, a jar and a bottle with dirty water. Make up some muddy water. Next talk about how this water probably would not taste very good. Explain how some children may not have clean water to drink. Clean the water. Have your class place the coffee filter and sand (covering the bottom of the filter) over an empty glass jar. Next, have each child slowly pour the dirty water into the jar through the filter. How does the filtered water look? Do you need to clean it again or is it clear enough to drink?

- For younger children, help them pour the water and assist in making the muddy water.
- For older children, test different types of filters such as gravel, paper towel, etc. Make a chart of the cleanest to the dirtiest water with snapshots of the water in the jars.



Useful links

- AllAboardforGlobalGoals.com
- [All Aboard for Global Goals, Early Learning Skills Framework](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Student Resources](#)
- [International Fund for Agricultural Development \(IFAD\)](#)



- [@GlobalGoalsUN](#)
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SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

TEACHER TIPS



What Is the aim of SDG 11?

Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



What Is My Class Learning?

- Responsibility
- Understanding families and communities
- Geographical concepts
- Problem solving and creativity



Video link: [Thomas & Friends on Sustainable Cities—Goal #11](#)

(2 mins 12 seconds)



Conversation Starters. After watching the above video with your class, ask them the following questions to begin a conversation:

- What places does Thomas see?
- Where do all the people live?
- How do the people move around in the cities?
- What kinds of things do people need in a city?
- Where else do people live (town, village, countryside)? Where do we live?



Playful Learning

Engineer some fun! You'll need blocks, recycled materials like paper tube or cardboard, and toy trains or cars.

- Make a bridge or a ramp with your class. Talk about how the bridge helps people move around the city by crossing a river or a street below. Using the toy trains, test your bridge or ramp.
- Next try to build buildings — places for people to work and live. How tall can you make a tower? Make sure it doesn't fall! Explain it has to be safe for the people who will live there.
- For younger children, help them with the bridge construction or start by building a tower.
- For older children, make a simple map of a city or town on a large piece of poster paper.
- Add cardboard buildings in locations on the map. Make sure your class adds green spaces.



Useful links

- AllAboardforGlobalGoals.com
- [All Aboard for Global Goals, Early Learning Skills Framework](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Student Resources](#)
- [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#)



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SDG 12: Responsible Consumption & Production

TEACHER TIPS



What Is the aim of SDG 12?

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.



What Is My Class Learning?

- Responsibility
- Social development
- Creativity and innovation
- Problem solving



Video link: *Thomas & Friends on Responsible Consumption—Goal #12*

(2 mins 53 seconds)



Conversation Starters. After watching the above video with your class, ask them the following questions to begin a conversation:

- What happened to Sidney at the waste dump? How do you think he felt?
- What kinds of things do people throw away?
- How can we reuse things at school?
- What happens to all of the waste?
- Should we throw away old toys? What should we do with them?



Playful Learning

Get creative! You'll need recycled materials or things you find thrown away (clean them first!). You can use egg cartons, plastic bottles, fabric, paper and string. What can you make from the materials — a funny animal, a spaceman, a place for people to live?

- Recycle at school — use a few old boxes or baskets and label each one — plastic, cardboard, paper. Ask students to throw those items in the box instead of the trash. How much do you have at the end of the week? How can you reuse the materials? Have fun!
- For younger children, guide them with ideas of what to make. Keep it simple. Make fanciful, funny animals or use a paper plate and/or other materials to make a face.
- Challenge older children to make something fun while using all of the materials.



Useful links

- AllAboardforGlobalGoals.com
- [All Aboard for Global Goals, Early Learning Skills Framework](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Student Resources](#)
- [United Nations Environment Programme \(UN Environment\)](#)



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SDG 15: Life on Land

TEACHER TIPS



What Is the aim of SDG 15?

Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss.



What Is My Class Learning?

- Science – Earth science, natural world
- Responsibility
- Geography – physical features
- Inquiry and prediction



Video link: [Thomas & Friends on Life on Land—Goal #15](#)

(1 min 32 seconds)



Conversation Starters. After watching the above video with your class, ask them the following questions to begin a conversation:

- Why are trees important to us?
- How many animals can we name that live in trees?
- What would happen if we didn't have trees?
- Where can we find trees?
- What can we see on a tree (leaves, branches, trunks, flowers, etc.)?



Playful Learning

Start with a seed! You'll need a few seeds, or small plants, dirt, cups or pots, and water. Find a place in your yard to plant your seeds or small plants. Talk about what the plants need to grow — water, food, sunlight. No yard? Plant the plants or seeds in a pot in the house and place them near a window. Work with your class to take care of the plants or seeds each week. Take pictures of the plants as they grow and measure their heights. Extend the learning by planting edible plants such as lettuce or herbs. This activity is recommended for children age 3 years and up.

- Younger children will need help in placing the seeds in a cup or pot. Count the number of seeds with your class as you plant them.
- For older children, take a nature walk. Talk about the trees and what types of animals use the trees. How many different types of trees and other plants do you see? Challenge older children to make something fun while using all of the materials.



Useful links

- AllAboardforGlobalGoals.com
- [All Aboard for Global Goals, Early Learning Skills Framework](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Student Resources](#)
- [United Nations Environment Programme \(UN Environment\)](#)



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