



M A Y

Wealth

Some people and countries are very wealthy, meaning that they have a lot of money and resources. Others have a lot less, and this can affect many things in their lives including their health, the way they are treated, and the opportunities that they have.

Many of the richest countries today (including the UK) became wealthy when they stole people, resources, and land from other countries.

If we want to create a fairer world, we need to care more about each other and the planet than we do about creating wealth, and find better ways to share with people who have less than us.

Being wealthy means having a lot of something valuable - like money or resources.

Conversation starter

What do you have which you can share with others?

Class activity

Distributing Wealth and Power

Hide 100 1p coins or counters around your classroom/learning area.

Instruct your class that they have 5 minutes to find all the coins/counters – they represent all the wealth in the world today.

Once all the coins have been collected, ask the class to report how many coins each of them has. For all those with 6 or more coins, list their names on the board under the heading “Great Wealth and Power”, for those with 3-5 coins, they should be listed under “Some Wealth and Power”, and for those with up to 2 coins, they should be listed under “Little Wealth and Power”.

Once everyone’s names are on the board, explain that students are welcome to donate their coins to other students if they would like to, but no one is obliged to do so. If anyone does this, adjust the lists of names if necessary.

Now present the following scenario: 15 coins have to be spent worldwide to tackle the climate crisis, and 20 need to be spent to tackle hunger and inequality. Who in the class should provide these coins and why?

After the session, debrief for 15 minutes using the questions on the next page.

Adapted from [Activity 2](#) of [The Human Rights Education Series](#) published by the Human Rights Resource Center, University of Minnesota.

Wealth and Power Debrief Questions

After the activity has been completed, bring the class together for a 10-15 minute debrief. This would work best with everyone sat in a circle, where they can all see each other.

You might wish to use the following questions:

- Did you think the way the coins were distributed was fair? Why/why not?
- How did it feel to be someone with Great Wealth/Some Wealth/Little Wealth?
- Did anyone donate coins to anyone else? Did anyone donate enough to drop them down to a lower category? How did that make you feel?
- Were you able to come up with a solution that everyone agreed to, to address climate change and inequality? What were the challenges?
- Were you treated fairly?
- How could it have been fairer?
- How do you think this activity was similar to the way wealth is distributed in our world today? How do you think it is different?
- In what ways does wealth come with power?

THIS MONTH'S CHALLENGES

Wealth

Complete one or more of the challenges below as a whole class, or choose 2 or 3 pupils to complete one each month over the course of the year.

Creative challenge

Rewrite a Rap

Many songs that we listen to are about money, how much the singer has, and how they spend it.

Write your own song or rap about the things you value in your life that aren't money. For example: your friends and family, the natural world, or your favourite hobby.

Use it as an opportunity to explore what "wealthy" really means – what is really valuable to you, and what really makes you happy?

Research challenge

Distribution of Natural Resources

Natural resources are not distributed evenly around the world. Research which countries have access to which natural resources and present your findings.

Does an abundance of natural resources correlate with wealth? Compare the distribution of natural resources with the distribution of wealth in the world.

Action challenge

Bake and Trade

Invite everyone in the class to bake a batch of their favourite biscuits, cakes or other treats. Decide as a group, would you like to gift them to people? Or would you like to sell them to raise money for a cause that you care about? How else could you share your skills, resources or support with others?