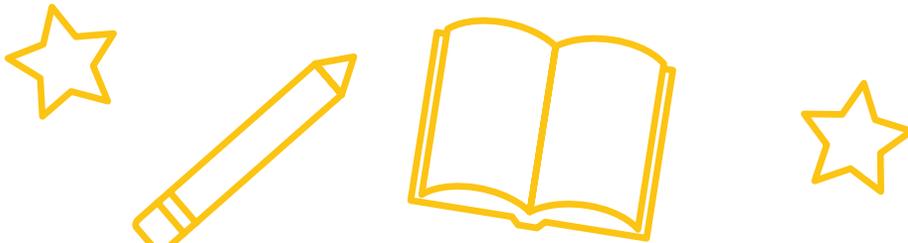


EDUCATION

Education is the first step to breaking the cycle of poverty. Everyone has the right to an education.

On any given day, more than 130 million girls are out of school. Many children face barriers that prevent them from attending school, such as needing to collect water for their families, staying home to perform household activities or living in conflict-ridden areas. With access to education, children gain the skills and tools to empower themselves and their communities. Education provides the opportunity for children to learn, grow and become empowered to lead the life they want to live. When children are educated, they are armed with the courage and self-confidence to better themselves, and ultimately the next generation.



Countries that provide all children with secondary education cut their risk of war in half.

Only 50% of refugee children are enrolled in primary school.

69 million new teachers are needed in order to achieve global universal primary and secondary education.

Girls living in areas of conflict are 90% more likely to be out of secondary school.

Go Deeper

Check out more info and stats on the issue of access to education worldwide at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.weare.org/exploringissues).

Take Action

Your voice is a powerful tool for social change. Use it to speak up or go silent for all of those whose voices go unheard.

WE are 
silent

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** How has going to school helped you become the person you are today?
- 2.** How would your life be different if you did not go to school?
- 3.** What can be done to ensure every child receives an education?
- 4.** What are the main differences between going to school in a developing country, compared to going to school in the UK?
- 5.** What can be done to help more children across the world, particularly girls, receive an education?



WATER

Water is a basic human right, yet more than 840 million people do not have a basic drinking water service.

More than 260 million people, mostly young girls, have the daily task of collecting water from distant sources—time that could be spent in school or earning a livelihood. By cutting the time and distance to collect water in half, girls' school attendance increases by 12 per cent. Poor sanitation and contaminated water can lead to illness and deadly disease. Improving access to clean water is one of the most crucial and quickest ways to lift a community out of poverty. It reduces illness, allows girls to go to school instead of retrieving their family's water and leads to better agriculture and access to food.



By 2050, at least 1 in 4 people will live in communities that have a lack of clean water.

A recent survey of 100,000 healthcare facilities in developing communities found more than 50% lacked running water and soap.

In countries dealing with conflict, children are 4 times less likely to have access to basic water services.

40% of the world's population is affected by water scarcity.

Go Deeper

Check out more info and stats on the issue of access to clean water at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.weforwater.org/exploringissues).

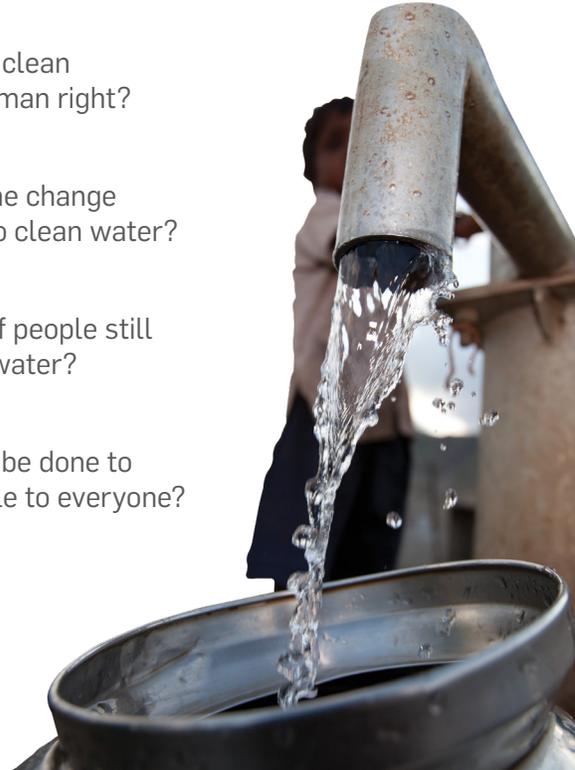
Take Action

Walk to raise awareness and provide people with access to clean water for life.

WEwalk
for water

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** What would you do if the only water you had access to was contaminated?
- 2.** Why do you think access to clean drinking water is a basic human right?
- 3.** How would your daily routine change if you did not have access to clean water?
- 4.** Why do you think millions of people still do not have clean drinking water?
- 5.** What do you think needs to be done to make clean water accessible to everyone?



HEALTH

Health is a key factor in the livelihood of a population, but half of the world's population still lacks access to essential health services.

For the 800 million people who spend at least 10 per cent of their household budget on health expenses, becoming trapped in a cycle of poverty is an unfortunate reality. However, preventative health measures, like vaccinations for newborns, and check-ups and vitamins for expecting mothers, could save millions of lives each year. This would make vaccinations one of the world's most successful and cost-effective health interventions. Yet in so many regions around the world, families go without even the most basic healthcare. A healthy population contributes to the economy by being more productive in their everyday lives.



Almost half of all deaths are now recorded with a cause, meaning improvements are being made globally in collecting vital statistics.

Despite tuberculosis (TB) being a curable disease, there were an estimated 1.4 million TB deaths in 2015.

Since 2000, measles vaccines have prevented more than 15 million deaths.

High healthcare costs have pushed 100 million people into extreme poverty.

Go Deeper

Check out more info and stats on the issue of access to healthcare worldwide at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.ve.org/exploringissues).

Take Action

Contact your WE Schools Programme Manager or Coordinator to learn more about how you can take action.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

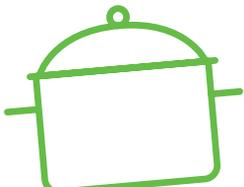
- 1.** What are some of the barriers that prevent children in developing countries gaining access to quality healthcare?
- 2.** What are the consequences of not having access to healthcare?
- 3.** What role do hospitals play in your community?
- 4.** Why do you think poor health affects other aspects of life?
- 5.** How can we make healthcare accessible to everyone?



FOOD

There are approximately 815 million people around the world who do not have enough food to lead a productive life.

With the global population expected to reach 10 billion by 2050, food production will need to increase by 50 per cent globally in order to feed another two billion people. Climate-related events, such as drought, can limit the availability of food sources in many regions. Conflict, coupled with climate change, is beginning to reverse the long-term declining trend in global hunger. Many families suffering from food insecurity are forced to pull their children out of school to help with farming, having lifelong effects on the well-being of millions of young people around the world.



Soil erosion from croplands carries away 25–40 billion tonnes of topsoil every year, significantly reducing crop yields.

More than half of people facing hunger—489 million—live in countries affected by conflict.

More than 20 million people in Yemen, South Sudan, Somalia and Nigeria are facing starvation and famine.

The United Nations has pledged to end hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

Go Deeper

Check out more info and stats on the issue of access to food worldwide at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.we.org/exploringissues).

Take Action

Contact your WE Schools Programme Manager or Coordinator to learn more about how you can take action.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** How does growing food help people in developing communities?
- 2.** What are some of the causes of global hunger?
- 3.** How is food insecurity related to education, health and poverty?
- 4.** Why do you think women do not have equal access to farming?
- 5.** What can be done to help reverse the effects of conflict and climate change on global hunger?



POVERTY

More than 700 million people live in extreme poverty.

Despite the progress made in reducing poverty, 767 million people still live on less than £1.50 a day. But it's not only about not having enough money to live on. Poverty affects many aspects of life, including not being able to afford access to education, food, healthcare and job security. On a deeper level, poverty is not having access to opportunities to improve your livelihood and take control of your future. Social safety nets, such as social pensions and school feeding programmes, are making an impact in the fight against poverty. In fact, they have helped an estimated 36 per cent of the very poor escape extreme poverty. When people in developing countries have the education, tools and skills to earn a living, they are in a better position to provide for their families, and improve the financial and health outcomes to create sustainable communities.



Gender inequality in the economy costs women in developing countries over £6 trillion a year.

Extreme poverty rates have been cut in half since 1990, but 1 in 5 people in developing regions still live on less than £1.50 a day.

It would cost around £100 billion per year to end extreme poverty worldwide in 20 years.

Globally, women earn 23% less than men.

Go Deeper

Check out more info and stats on the issue of access to opportunity worldwide at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.weforum.org/exploringissues).

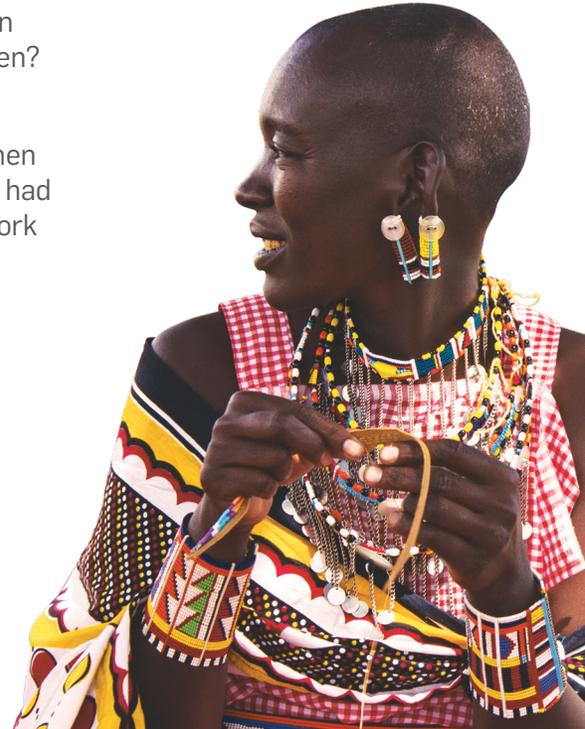
Take Action

Empower female artisans in developing communities. Sell handcrafted Rafiki bracelets and give back to the women who made them.

WE are 
rafikis

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

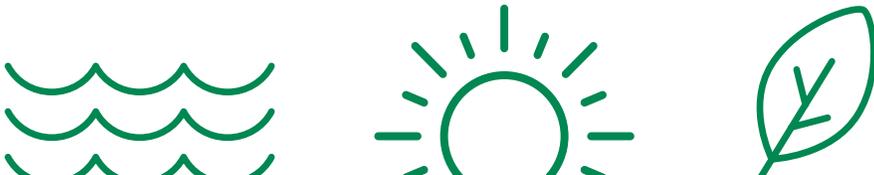
- 1.** What would you do if your family had to live on less than £1.50 every day?
- 2.** Why do you think more men are in paid work than women?
- 3.** What would happen if women in developing communities had access to the same paid work opportunities as men?
- 4.** How will empowering women help break the cycle of poverty?
- 5.** How can social safety nets help people escape poverty? What other steps can be taken?



ENVIRONMENT

Shrinking glaciers, loss of sea ice, accelerated sea-level rise and stronger storms are just a few of the current effects of climate change.

Our everyday choices have a direct impact on the future. As the population grows, so do the demands we put on the environment. In almost every region, rising levels of consumption are leaving communities struggling with increasing environmental issues and diminishing access to natural resources. And on a global scale, between 1 January and 13 August 2015, the population used up all of the resources the planet would produce for the whole year. We're depleting forests faster than we can regrow them, and at current rates, world fishing populations are set to completely collapse by 2048. Now is the time to make the changes to our daily habits by protecting the environment. By creating a better tomorrow, it helps to preserve the world for future generations.



Sea levels are rising by 3.2 millimetres per year, roughly twice the average speed of the previous 80 years.

Each year in the UK we throw out 1.2 million tonnes of electrical items—that's the same as 150,000 double decker buses.

1 recycled plastic bottle would save enough energy to power a 60-watt light bulb for 3 hours.

17 of the 18 warmest years on record have occurred since 2001.

Go Deeper

Check out more info and stats on the issue of climate change at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.wego.org/exploringissues).

Take Action

Reduce your negative impacts and boost your positive ones with **WE Go Green**.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** What are some of the causes of air pollution and climate change?
- 2.** Have you noticed any unusual weather patterns where you live and around the world? How have they affected you?
- 3.** How can you recycle, reuse and reduce the items you use, to eliminate waste and help protect your environment?
- 4.** What steps can the government take to help reduce the effects of climate change?
- 5.** What are actions we can take each day to help reduce the effects of climate change?



NUMERACY

Strong numeracy skills help us to achieve at every stage of life—in school, higher education and throughout our careers.

Too many people do not have the necessary numeracy skills to fulfil their potential. In part, this is due to negative attitudes, whereby people believe that numeracy doesn't matter, or is a subject that they will never be good at. These attitudes hold individuals back from improving their numeracy skills, and can stop young people from making an effort in the classroom. As our world becomes increasingly digital, numeracy skills have never been more relevant, or more crucial. Strong numeracy skills are important for every aspect of daily life—from the small things, like baking a cake or fixing our computer, to the bigger things, like budgeting and paying household bills. Numeracy also opens the door to a wide range of career paths and is linked to higher wages and self-esteem.



Across the UK, roughly 4 in 5 adults have a low level of numeracy.

People with poor numeracy skills are more than twice as likely to be unemployed.

High numeracy levels are connected to better health and well-being, as well as to employment and higher wages.

Research estimates that poor numeracy skills cost the UK economy £20.2 billion every year.

Go Deeper

Check out more info and stats on numeracy at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.need.org/exploringissues).

Take Action

Spread awareness about the power of numeracy by taking action with **WE Need Numeracy**.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** Why is numeracy important for success throughout your life?
- 2.** Why do you think some people have negative attitudes to numeracy?
- 3.** Why do you think strong numeracy skills can improve our health and well-being?
- 4.** What are some careers that use numeracy? How many can you think of?
- 5.** How can you improve your numeracy, and the numeracy of others?



ILLITERACY

The definition of literacy continues to be redefined as our society changes and grows.

Being literate in the 21st century means having the ability to read, write and express critical thought through verbal, print, visual and digital formats. However, many people are illiterate, which means they do not have the skills to read or write. The largest barrier to children's literacy in low-income communities is a lack of books. Without access to books, children are unable to build critical reading skills and are less likely to reach their academic potential. With limited access to learning resources, many children and adults experience challenges with their reading and writing. Without proper literacy skills, things such as completing job applications, checking medication labels and reading basic signs can become inaccessible—decreasing the chances of a healthy and productive life. Well-rounded literacy skills allow people to function to their full capability.



Poor educational outcomes like illiteracy, are tied to poverty, unemployment, illness and crime.

25% of working-age Britons are functional illiterate, costing the UK economy around £36 billion a year.

In a recent study, English teens had the lowest literacy rates out of 23 developed nations.

Children who enjoy reading are nearly 5x more likely to read daily outside class than those who don't enjoy reading.

Go Deeper

Check out more info and stats on the issue of illiteracy at WE.org/exploringissues.

Take Action

Be an advocate for literacy with **WE Read Together**.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** What does the term “illiterate” mean to you?
- 2.** Why is being able to read and write important? How does this benefit your life?
- 3.** How does reading help you learn?
- 4.** How different might your life be if you had never learned to read and write?
- 5.** What do you think you can do to help raise literacy levels within your school community and beyond?



CYBERBULLYING

Cyberbullying includes sending, posting or sharing negative, harmful content about someone else digitally.

With more people using technology every day, bullying is something that no longer needs a playground. Around 8 out of 10 young people say they have witnessed cyberbullying through social networking sites. Major tech companies have strict policies against bullying behaviour on their services, but it is hard to enforce and many rely on users to report abuse. Cyberbullying can be worse than traditional forms of bullying as victims may not know who is targeting them. Hurtful actions have the potential to go viral, and since cyberbullying can be done from distant locations, it is easier for people to say things they wouldn't say to someone's face. When we can help inform others, together, we gain the confidence to intervene and stand up for those who can't stand up on their own.



Young people who bully are almost 40% more likely to commit criminal offences as adults.

39% of young people do not enable their privacy settings on social media.

People who spend more than three hours a day on social networks are 110% more likely to be cyberbullied.

1 in 3 young people feel they are more accepted on social media networks than in real life.

Go Deeper

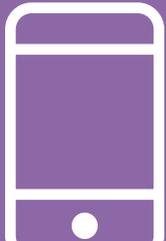
Check out more info and stats on the issue of cyberbullying at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.weriseabove.org/exploringissues).

Take Action

Stand up to cyberbullying by taking action with [WE Rise Above](https://www.weriseabove.org).

Need Help?

To learn more, visit [Childline](https://www.childline.org) or [Place2Be](https://www.place2be.org).



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** What does the term “cyberbullying” mean to you?
- 2.** How would you respond to receiving unwelcome messages on social media?
- 3.** What are some ways you can help someone you know who is being cyberbullied?
- 4.** Why is it important to protect your privacy when you use electronic devices?
- 5.** What are some ways to make your online interactions more welcoming and respectful?



HUNGER

Each month, increasing amounts of people are turning to foodbanks for help, including children and young people.

Food insecurity (not having access to affordable, nutritious food) and hunger at an early age are associated with childhood mental health problems, and also increase the risk of asthma and depression. One of the most pressing issues is the availability of and access to an adequate amount of affordable, healthy, nutritious food that meets populations' dietary needs and food preferences. Hunger is not always easy to spot. But just because you can't always see it, that doesn't mean it's not affecting people around you. Food insecurity is closely connected to income. As a household's income begins to decline, the risk of food insecurity increases.



In 2017-18, Trussell Trust foodbanks gave 1.3 million three-day emergency food supplies to people in crisis.

The main reasons people use foodbanks are low wages, delays in receiving benefits, and debt.

An increasing amount of professionals like doctors and social workers, give foodbank vouchers to people in crisis.

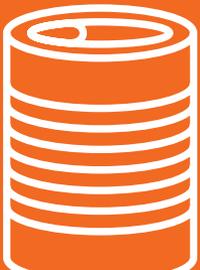
Over 2 million people in the UK are estimated to be malnourished, and 3 million are at risk of becoming so.

Go Deeper

Check out more info and stats on the issue of hunger at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.wefund.org/exploringissues).

Take Action

Want to help your community fight hunger? Take action with **WE Scare Hunger**.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** How would your everyday life be different if you were to experience hunger on a daily basis?
- 2.** What does food insecurity mean to you?
- 3.** What are the long-term health issues and risks as a result of hunger?
- 4.** What are some examples of food that may be affordable but not nutritious?
- 5.** How can you support people experiencing food poverty in your local community?



HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness isn't just what we see on the streets—it takes many forms and affects many different people.

On any given night in the UK, more than 300,000 people experience a form of homelessness. In some of the big regional cities like London and Manchester, there have been substantial year-on-year increases in the rate of homelessness. Many of whom, are unlikely to be entitled to social housing or benefits and count towards the thousands of “hidden homeless” people. For many, the climbing expenses of rent, food and other bills, force difficult decisions that often lead to homelessness. By identifying the needs of homeless people and developing effective strategies to respond appropriately in each community, homeless people can get the vital support they need. When homelessness is not addressed, governments end up spending more money on healthcare, emergency services, employment and crime prevention.



Despite the rise in homelessness, more than 11,000 homes in the UK have stood empty for at least a decade.

41% of homeless people have a long-term physical health problem.

In 2017, more than 120,000 children were living in temporary accommodation.

13 million people live below the poverty line in the UK.

Go Deeper

Check out more info and stats on the issue of homelessness at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.wecanendhomelessness.org/exploringissues).

Take Action

Shed light on the realities of homelessness with **WE Won't Rest**.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1.** What do you think of when you hear the word "homeless"?
- 2.** What are some of the stigmas associated with homelessness?
- 3.** What are some of the causes of homelessness?
- 4.** What are the main differences between a house and a home?
- 5.** What steps can you take to help reduce homelessness in your city?

