

Starting the SDGs

Bringing the Sustainable Development Goals into your classroom

Please visit Manitoba Education & Early Childhood Learning for curriculum correlations with the SDGs, resources, school plans, related links, and many other resources. Explore www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/esd/index.html for more information!



PURPOSE: Learn more about the SDGs.

LENGTH: 30-40 minutes

Section 1: Introduction

ACTIVATE: What is sustainable development?

Brainstorm or do small group mind-maps of all the things that come to mind when hearing the term “sustainable development”.

ACQUIRE: What are the SDGs

Find and display an image of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals for your class. See an example below.



Ask students:

- What comes to mind when you see these tiles?
- Which tile or goal stands out to you and why?
- How do you think the goals are connected to each other?

A Quick History of the SDGs: The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by all United Nations members in 2015 to provide a “shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future”. Find more information on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, visit <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.



Do you know all the SDGs?

Watch the short video below to see if you know all the SDGs! Find it at <https://youtu.be/OXTBYMfZyrM>



The SDGs are interconnected; one goal cannot be solved without addressing many of the other goals. For example, No Poverty (SDG1) will not be achieved without implementing strategies that improve health (SDG3) and education (SDG4), reduce inequalities (SDG10), and stimulate fair economic growth (SDG8).

When the SDGs were adopted in 2015, members agreed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which resolved to solve all 17 goals by the year 2030. We only have a few years left and a lot of work still needs to be done!

For more information on the SDGs, explore The 17 Goals by the United Nations, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

Section 2: Explore the SDGs Further

Choose any Sustainable Development Goal that is relevant to your current unit or classroom goals. Find it in MCIC’s Sustainable Foundations guide—paper copy or explore the online chapter on the MCIC website.

Each chapter will support you in identifying and exploring:

- The Big Questions (including who is being impacted and why the issue matters)
- Connection to the Other Goals
- Reflection and Action Questions
- Educational Resources
- Case Studies

Engage your students in a discussion and activity around your chosen SDG. Cross-curricular implementation is encouraged to show students the “real-life” applications of the SDGs.



SUGGESTED RESOURCE

Sustainable Foundations: A Guide for Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals

MCIC has a great guide to provide educators with information, educational resources, and other supports to help engage and educate young people on the SDGs. It includes ways that you can incorporate the different topics covered by each goal into your lessons across multiple subjects.

Sustainable Foundations is available for download by individual chapters on our website at <http://bit.ly/mcic-SF> or order a print copy by getting in touch with us at info@mcic.ca.



Section 3: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership

APPLY: The 5Ps of the SDGs

One way to understand how the 17 SDGs can affect our world is by using the “5 Ps of Sustainability”: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership. Exploring the 5Ps can help students understand how the SDGs are interconnected rather than individual, independent goals and can illustrate how we will all benefit from addressing each goal by 2030.

Let’s take a closer look at the 5Ps. Display the image below for your class to help with the discussions.

PEOPLE: We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfill 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, sustainable management of natural resources and by taking urgent action on climate change, so that the planet can support the needs of present and future generations.

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.

PARTNERSHIP: We are determined to implement this agenda through a global partnership, based on a spirit of global solidarity, focused on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.



Diagram adapted from the Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry (DEAC)



Ask students to do a journal entry: Choose one “P” they wish to reflect on when thinking about sustainable development for a better world. Use these questions to prompt a written reflection (could be a paragraph or a page).

- Which “P” stands out to you and why?
- When you think about each “P”, what comes to mind?
- What does that “P” look like? Sound like? Feel like?
- Who or what is most affected by each “P”?

ASSESS: Pair Share

Encourage students to summarize their reflection, either with a partner, in a small group, or with the class (whichever is appropriate). Presenters can entertain questions or comments.

MORE INFORMATION

If you're looking for more information on the 5Ps, check out the blog article, **The Sustainable Development Goals in 2019: People, Planet, Prosperity in Focus** on the United Nations Foundation blog.

You can find it here, www.unfoundation.org/blog/post/the-sustainable-development-goals-in-2019-people-planet-prosperity-in-focus/



Stay in touch with MCIC!

We love to hear from you! Did you try this lesson plan? Would you like us to facilitate it in your classroom? Email us at youth@mcic.ca

