



Age range

8-14 years

Total time

30 mins

The world is not equal. Is that fair? (Online or at home learning)



Objective:

Students explore how access to the internet affects educational inequality

Please note: This lesson plan assumes that you are able to communicate online with your students during the COVID-19 crisis. Caution will need to be exercised to first understand whether any of your students are impacted by the inequalities discussed.

This activity requires students to do a poll – here all links to videos explaining how to set that up on the following:

- Zoom: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/213756303-Polling-for-Meetings>
- Microsoft Teams: <https://www.polly.ai/microsoft-teams>
- Google Classrooms: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH0s6JDKoj8>

Step 1:

- If speaking to students online, mute the speakers of some of the students so that they are not allowed to speak or answer questions. Pick an arbitrary way for choosing this e.g those students were wearing blue. *Ask students is this fair? Should there have been another way of choosing who could speak and who couldn't?*

Step 2:

- Introduce the idea of **social inequality** as the theme of the lesson. Can students try and work out what it might mean? **Social inequality:** *A situation in which people are not equal because some groups have more opportunities, power, money or access to education than others.*

Step 3:

- Share the true or false statements (Appendix 1) with students and ask them to respond whether they think they may be true or false? Then go through them with students – *were there any statements they were surprised by?* All the statements are true to try and initiate student engagement and discussion.

Step 4:

- Display the speech bubbles (Appendix 2) from different activists. Ask students to read the statements and then select the ones they most identify or agree with.

Step 5:

- Group students together who select the same speech bubbles. Their task is to research these areas of inequality to create a short 1 min presentation to share. You could ask them to record themselves, create a PPT or present “live”, next time you meet.

Appendix 1 True or False?

1. The 85 richest people in the world have as much wealth as the poorest half of all humanity, 3.5 billion people.
2. In most developed countries the unemployment rate for people with disabilities is at least twice that for those who have no disability.
3. By 2040, it is estimated that over 25% of Europeans are expected to be at least 65 years old.
4. Globally, women occupy less than a 25% of all seats in parliament.
5. In the UK two thirds of pensioners living in poverty are women.
6. In Europe, easy access to green spaces levels improves the health of poorer people by as much as 40%.
7. In the USA, people living close to public transport can access up to three times as many jobs.

Appendix 2: Answers to true or false!

1. *The 85 richest people in the world have as much wealth as the poorest half of all humanity, 3.5 billion people.*

True.

From a report by Oxfam UK in 2014. You can read more from their report here:

<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2014/jan/20/oxfam-85-richest-people-half-of-the-world>

2. *In most developed countries the official unemployment rate for persons with disabilities of working age is at least twice that for those who have no disability.*

True. Business Disability Forum. <http://businessdisabilityforum.org.uk>

3. *By 2040, it is estimated that over 25% of Europeans are expected to be at least 65.*

True. US Census Bureau, 2008. <http://www.efa.org.uk/pages/older-people-global-perspective-.html>

4. *Globally, women still occupy less than 25% of all seats in parliament.*

True. Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2015. <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/datablog/2015/mar/08/international-womens-day-number-of-female-lawmakers-doubles-in-20-years>

5. *In the UK two thirds of pensioners living in poverty are women.*

True. Mordaunt et al, 'One in Four', 2003.

6. *In Europe, easy access to green spaces levels off inequalities in health between the rich and poor by as much as 40%, when compared with those with poorer access to green spaces.*

True. Centre for Research on Environment, Society and Health, 2015.

<http://fashion.telegraph.co.uk/article/TMG11551673/How-green-spaces-stop-the-wealth-gap-becoming-the-health-gap.html>

7. *In the USA, people living close to public transport can access up to three times as many jobs per square mile.*

True. American Public Transport Association, 2013.

<http://www.apta.com/resources/statistics/Documents/NewRealEstateMantra.pdf>

Appendix 3: Quotes about inequality from global activists

1. "I believe that equality for men and women is important because women make up half of all people but they are often paid less than men, less represented in governments and receive less education than men. Barriers to women's success need to be removed"
2. "I believe that equality for people of all backgrounds and ethnicities is important because all people should have the same opportunities in life and know that they will be treated fairly and with respect regardless of where they come from, the colour of their skin or what they believe."
3. "I believe that equality for people regardless of whether they have a disability or not is important because everyone should be able to go to school and to work and to move freely around their local environment. All people can contribute to our society."
4. "I believe that equality for people of all ages is important because people of all ages can contribute to our society and economy. Young and old have skills that we need. We need to provide opportunities for all people and make sure no one is excluded."
5. "I believe that equal access to education for all people regardless of who they are or where they live is important because everyone deserves the opportunity to learn and improve their lives, and it will benefit us all if everyone has basic skills and can contribute to our society and economy."
6. "I believe that equal access to parks and green spaces is important because we all need places to relax, to exercise and to enjoy ourselves. These spaces shouldn't be restricted to the wealthy. Everyone benefits from a healthier and happier society. Bonus, green spaces help the environment too!"