

Sustainability Teachers' Academy Lesson Plan

If the World Were 100 People

Topics Covered

Sustainability
Three Pillars
Social Equity

Grades

6-8

Duration

15 Minutes

Sustainability Competencies

Values Thinking
Future Thinking
Systems Thinking
Collaborative Thinking

Online Resources

[100 People Foundation](#)

Objectives

Students will visualize world population statistics using manipulatives and data from the 100 People Foundation.

Materials

- Laptops or tablet with Wi-Fi internet access
- Alternatively printed copies of the 100 People detailed statistics can be used
- Dried beans of 2 different colors (100 beans of each color per student pair or trio)
- Graduated cylinders, or test tubes (3-4 per student group)

Teacher Preparation

Review the Statistics page on the 100 People Foundation website. Organize student groups. Collect and organize materials.

Background Information

The 100 People Foundation provides online resources to help students visualize statistical information and demographics world-wide. Their website helps students to visualize and think about the global population by representing these statistics in a population of 100 people.

For example, if the world population were 100 people, 83 of them would be able to read, while 17 would not.

Recommended Procedures

Arrange students in pairs or groups of three. Assign each group a category from the 100 People statistics page (for example, age, sanitation, technology).

Introduce students to the 100 People statistical data (either online or using printed copies); allow students a few minutes to familiarize themselves with the data.

Each pair or group of students should use the assortment of beans they have to represent the statistical information they are assigned. They can do this by sorting the beans into separate graduated cylinders or test tubes, using different colored beans for each segment of the population (1 bean = 1 person).

Ask students to display and share their representations of the 100 people data. Allow the class to discuss any data they found surprising, or concerning (for example, 22 people of 100 do not have access to electricity).