The Biscuit Game  Looking at global imbalance 30 minutes

This activity aims ‘to investigate how and why some people may experience inequality/social exclusion on the basis of their material circumstances in local and global contexts.’ (NI Curriculum)

Students will;

- Be introduced to world resource distribution.
- Become aware of our unequal and imbalanced world both locally and globally.
- Explore how the unequal distribution of wealth may give rise to conflict.

You will need;

Biscuits

Methodology

- As students enter the room, instruct them to sit at tables numbered 1-6. Each table should have a bag containing biscuits according to the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table</th>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>No. Of Students</th>
<th>No. Of biscuits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Australasia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>South America</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Students are given a few minutes to eat all their biscuits. The teacher should not interfere.
- To conclude each table should pin their number on a world map to whichever continent they think they are.
- See [OSDE North South activity](#) for follow on work.
How did you feel about receiving a large/small amount?
How did the other tables respond to you?
Is this distribution fair? Why/why not?
Why do some have so much and some have so little? What would make it fair?
What do the 6 tables represent?
Discussion points may arise depending on the students’ reactions.
E.g. If there was sharing this could be used as a metaphor for discussing aid, or if there was bargaining, maybe trade could be addressed.
If you lived in one of the poorer countries, what are some of the other things that you may not have?

Opportunities for action

- Show the slideshow of average weekly food consumption of families around the world as a discussion starter.
- Have students research Sustainable Development Goal 2 ‘No Hunger.’
- Research different standards of living both in other countries and at home. Compare countries using the Human Development Index or carbon emissions data and discuss some of the challenges facing poor countries.
- Calculate your Carbon Footprint using online calculators and set up a campaign to get friends and families to reduce their emissions.
- Check out Act on CO2 website for more creative ideas on how to take action to reduce our impact on the planet.
- Contact your local politicians and ask them what they are doing about international justice issues such as poverty and hunger.
- Get involved with NGOs such as Children in Crossfire, Save the Children, Concern and Trócaire who work for justice and development in economically poor countries. Invite in a speaker to tell you more about the issues and how you can get involved. A full list of the international development NGOs working in Northern Ireland and the education services they provide can be found on line here.