

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	Continent	No. Of Students	No. Of biscuits
1	Australasia	5	5
2	Asia	6	4
3	Europe	5	8
4	South America	5	2
5	Africa	8	1
6	North America	1	10

- 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 on line 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](#).