



ALTERNATIVE INCOME

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Exploring Poverty Activity

Orientation Activity

- **Purpose:** The purpose of this activity is for students to build an understanding of global poverty by discovering what it's like to live on \$2 a day.
- **Instructional method(s):** class discussion, group work
- **Differentiated instruction:**
 - Simplified: Students will work in pairs to determine how to spend their \$2.
 - Advanced: Collect grocery store flyers and retail catalogues and bring them into class, allowing students to search for items they can afford.
- **Curriculum connections:** Grades 2 – 8, The Arts, Health and Physical Education Program, Language, Mathematics, Science and Technology and Social Studies.
- **Estimated time:** 1 hour
- **Steps:**
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 1. Write the word "Poverty" on the board.
 2. Ask students to think of descriptive words that come to mind when they think of poverty. Write these words around the central title creating a word web.
 3. Ask students to think about their own life and reflect on the foods they eat on a regular basis as well as the activities they participate in. Make a list of these items on the board.
 4. Ask students to guess how much they think these basic items cost. Write the prices beside each item.
 5. Divide the class into groups of four and distribute B.L.M.1 to each student.

Teacher Note: The prices on B.L.M.1 were taken from No Frills, Loblaws, Shoppers Drug Mart and Giant Tiger catalogues.

6. Explain to the class that all they have are the clothes on their backs and \$2 that they have earned from working. Tell them that they have to make it through the day on this \$2. Based on B.L.M.1 and the things they need to do in the day, students must budget their money and purchase product(s) in order to fulfill their needs. Encourage students to brainstorm ideas and solutions amongst each other.
7. When each student has completed B.L.M.1, go around the room and ask each student to explain their decision making process and the items they decided to purchase.
8. After this discussion ask students the following suggested questions:
 - Is it possible to live on \$2 a day?
 - What problems did you encounter?
 - Are there any solutions?
9. Explain to students that around the world three billion people live on less than \$2 a day. These people have barely enough money to survive from day to day which robs them of the freedom to be able to decide how to live their life.
10. Read the following statistics to the students:



- One-third of deaths — some 18 million people a year or 50,000 a day—are due to poverty-related causes.
 - 600 million of the world's children live in absolute poverty.
 - 800 million people go to bed hungry every day.
 - Every year, almost 11 million children die before their fifth birthday. That's 30,000 children a day. Most of these children live in developing countries and die from a disease or a combination of diseases that could be prevented or treated if the means were there. Sometimes, the cause is as simple as the lack of antibiotics for treating pneumonia or oral rehydration salts for diarrhea. Malnutrition contributes to over half of these deaths.
11. After hearing these facts ask students the following suggested questions:
- How did these statistics make you feel?
 - Why was this poverty activity important? What did it teach you about poverty?
12. Before concluding this activity ensure students are aware of poverty and its implications.

Participate in Free The Children's Five Days for Freedom campaign as an engaging outlet for youth action. Check out www.weday.com/takeaction to learn more.

Blackline Master 1

Name: _____

My Needs

Item	Price	Choice	Why I made this decision
Bottle of Root Beer	\$1.99		
Bag of Frozen Corn	\$0.65		
Block of Cheddar Cheese	\$2.99		
Package of Hash Browns	\$2.19		
White Rice	\$2.55		
Bag of Chips	\$1.29		
Bag of Marshmallows	\$1.15		
Ritz Peanut Butter Crackers	\$0.65		
Loaf of Bread	\$1.90		
Package of Sandwich Meat	\$0.99		
Eggs	\$1.97		
Toilet Paper	\$1.50		
Frozen French Fries	\$1.00		
6 Nutrigrain Granola Bars	\$2.00		
Toothpaste	\$2.49		
Package of Bottled Water	\$1.99		
Chapstick	\$1.99		
Bag of Cookies	\$1.69		
1 Red Pepper	\$1.29		
1 Cucumber	\$1.09		
6 Bananas	\$0.79		
Apple	\$0.99		

Total cost: \$ _____