

G8 SUMMIT AT GLENEAGLES

SECONDARY LEVEL - ROLE PLAY

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL #8: Develop a global partnership for development

Activity Snapshot:

Working in groups, students will re-enact/simulate elements of the 2005 G8 Summit. They will present the promises that were made to reduce or cancel debt. They will also address reasons why more debts were not cancelled. Finally, students will present arguments that explain or justify why G8 governments have not yet met their obligation of giving 0.7 per cent of their gross national income (GNI) toward foreign aid (also known as Official Development Assistance).

Rationale:

The success of the first seven Millennium Development Goals is dependent on a concrete commitment to uphold this eighth MDG, which calls for global partnerships to support development. A good place to start is with developed nations living up to the internationally agreed-upon promise of devoting 0.7 per cent of GNI to foreign aid. Another place for such a partnership to flourish is the annual G8 Summit. At these meetings, the governments of the eight largest economies in the world—Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, United Kingdom and United States—meet to discuss international economic, political and social issues. It is one of the best opportunities for developed nations to take a leadership role in global development. While the G8 Summits usually receive a lot of media attention and international interest, the Live 8 concerts and Make Poverty History movement shifted the 2005 G8 Summit at Gleneagles into the spotlight for the average citizen.

Many promises were made, but the eight nations that account for a big part of the world's economy (and only 13 per cent of the population) still fell far short of the commitments needed to pull almost half of the global population—that's close to three billion people—out of poverty.

Objectives:

Students will:

- be introduced to the purpose and practices of G8 Summits.
- understand the concept of debt reduction and cancellation.
- see the difficulty when G8 nations make promises that are not followed through upon.

Time: Two or three 60-minute periods

Materials: Internet, handout/worksheet S23: G8 Summit at Gleneagles – Student Handout

Steps:

Introduction:

8. Divide your students into seven groups (information for Russia's ODA contribution is unavailable). Each group will represent one of the following G8 countries: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom and United States. Conduct a large group introductory discussion to assess the knowledge levels of the terms "trade," "aid" and "debt."
9. Ask students to do Internet research in their groups to learn more about trade, aid and debt. They

should find some basic information on how fair trade, sufficient aid and the cancellation of debt will help billions of people in the developing world.

Transition:

10. Each group should prepare a five to eight-minute presentation as representatives from the G8 country they have been assigned.
11. As representatives from the countries they have been assigned, students' presentations should include the following elements:
 - a. Promises made at the 2005 G8 Summit with an explanation of intended outcomes of these promises
 - b. Explanation of why the G8 leaders felt these were sufficient results for the summit (and why more was not promised)
 - c. A rationale on why more was not done
 - d. Valid reasons why their government does not contribute 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to foreign aid

Extension:

Encourage some of the students to take on the role of some of the other people who played an instrumental role in raising awareness in 2005. Some examples can include: a representative from the Make Poverty History movement, musicians Bono or Bob Geldof, representatives from the developing world, etc. These people can make up a panel that questions the "leaders" of the G8 governments on their performance at the summit (i.e. during their presentations). They can ask questions like:

- a. Why don't countries always follow through on their promises?
- b. What kinds of measures can you take to ensure that national governments will stay the course with their promises even when political agendas change (especially through elections, special interest groups, etc.)?

Closure:

Based on what your students have learned, create five "We believe" or "We know" or "We recognize" statements that students create as a group. Ask all students to sign the document and post it in a visible place in your school. Share the statements with the rest of the school at an assembly or over the morning announcements.

Assessment Suggestions:

- Student discussion and debate
- Presentations