

Wealth and the Coronavirus Crisis

Information for students

- In your Contemporary World class, you have likely explored the theme of wealth. Some of the topics include:
 - The distribution of wealth
 - Balancing social justice and economic development
 - The control of resources
- During the last several weeks, it has become apparent that dealing with the coronavirus crisis and its consequences is more challenging for some people than others, especially because of an unequal distribution of wealth that causes disparities in the world, and within societies. Since the distribution of wealth generally favours the northern countries over the southern countries, the worldwide sanitary crisis reflects that reality.
- Determining the extent of the crisis in some countries is difficult for a number of reasons: lack of transparency, weakness of the healthcare system, inability to keep track of the number of cases and deaths linked to the virus, etc. These countries are far more at risk than others, and their citizens are unable to be tested, to practise social distancing or to get proper medical care.
- Think about topics that may have been covered in class. How might the pandemic affect certain vulnerable populations or groups of people – and why? Consider the situation of:
 - Refugees, migrants and asylum seekers
 - Communities with no access to clean water
 - The world's most densely populated cities
 - People without adequate health insurance
 - Countries most at risk of being plunged into famine
- Considering that there is a consensus on the need to reduce poverty in the world, but that the way to achieve it is a matter of debate, do you think the international community has an added responsibility during worldwide crises like the ongoing pandemic? Why?
- Do you think it's fair that some countries can control access to key resources (tests, medical/protective gear, ventilators, etc.) and have an advantage other countries when it comes to purchasing these resources? Why?
- Make a list of changes and events you might have seen happening around the world in connection with the pandemic while browsing on social media, watching the news or listening to the radio. In your opinion, to what extent is a fair distribution of wealth possible?
- To support your opinion, consult the [United Nations website](#) to find out more about the COVID-19 pandemic around the world.

Materials required

Useful resources, depending on personal preferences and availability:

- Device with Internet access
- Paper and writing materials (paper, pencil, etc.)

Information for parents

- Remember that the purpose is for your child to do research and to become informed, not to produce work to be evaluated.
- You can familiarize your child with some concepts that might be challenging for them. Think about what you might have seen online or on TV.
- Discuss the questions together and perhaps encourage your child to contact a classmate if they have more questions or want to compare their findings.