

## Education

### Learning Objectives:

- To help pupils understand the situation for many children in different African countries, especially in relation to poverty.
- To raise awareness of the importance of education in our own lives and as a means of reducing poverty both in the UK and in Africa.

### You will need:

- Access to the internet:  
[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/beyondwave/daytwo\\_am.htm](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/beyondwave/daytwo_am.htm) (optional). This Oxfam link and the background information and activities on education and poverty could be used in conjunction with this activity.
- Copies of 'Emma's Story' (one copy for each group).
- Copies of the "Reasons Why It Is Important to Go to School" sheet cut up (one copy for each group).



### Instructions:

#### Preparatory Activities:

- Do the suggested activities from the Oxfam website (optional).
- Link with 'Emma's Story' and focus on Education as a Right.

#### Why Education is Important:

- Ask the children to think individually about their own experience of school.
  - Can they remember their first day?
  - How did they feel?
  - How do they feel now?
  - What do they like best about school?
  - What would they change?
- Divide the class into groups of three or four and ask them to think about why education is important.
- Ask the groups to feedback and give their reasons (note responses on a flipchart).

#### Reasons Why it is Important to Go to School:

##### Part1:

- Now give each group a copy of 'Reasons Why it is Important to Go to School' (A or B depending upon reading and comprehension ability).
- Ask the groups to prioritise the statements in terms of most important (at the top) and least important (at the bottom).
- Ask each group to feedback their most and least important reasons.
- Discuss similarities and differences in responses.

##### Part2:

- Give each group copies of 'Emma's Story' to read and ask them to discuss the following questions:
  - Why is education important to Emma?
  - What difference did it make to her life?
- Ask each group to feedback to the whole class (note responses on a flipchart).
- Compare the reasons that the class suggested and those from the story. Which are similar? Which are different? Why?

## A: Reasons Why It Is Important to Go to School

<b>To learn to read and write</b>	<b>To develop as a citizen and take part in your community and nation</b>
<b>To be able to understand the situation and environment in which you live</b>	<b>To develop thinking skills, recognise bias, for example the difference between fact and opinion</b>
<b>To know and understand something about other places and our links to them</b>	<b>To become a confident person who recognises their own rights and responsibilities and those of other people</b>
<b>To learn what is fair/unfair and right/wrong and act accordingly</b>	<b>To grow in self-knowledge and respect for other people</b>
<b>To learn how to live in harmony with other people</b>	<b>To grow healthily physically, spiritually, emotionally and socially in our relationships.</b>
<b>To be able to make the most of opportunities later in adult life in employment and other areas of life</b>	<b>To be able to know and understand why some people are poor and to take action to change it</b>
<b>To be able to develop our own talents and skills and enjoy art, music, stories, poetry, dance</b>	<b>To break the link between poverty, ignorance and ill-health</b>

## **B: Reasons Why It Is Important To Go To School**

<b>To learn to read and write</b>	<b>To know how to be part of a group and make a contribution to it</b>
<b>To understand what is going on in your own life and environment</b>	<b>To learn and develop thinking skills</b>
<b>To learn how to live well with people around you who are different</b>	<b>To learn about other people's lives in different parts of the world and how we are linked to them</b>
<b>To grow healthily in all aspects of our person: in our bodies, hearts and minds</b>	<b>To know what is wrong/ right, fair and unfair</b>
<b>To know your own rights and responsibilities and protect those of others</b>	<b>To be able to stand up for what is right</b>
<b>To enjoy books, music, art and develop our own talents and gifts</b>	<b>To be able to have more choices in your adult life, for example in the job you have</b>