

Wants and Needs

Objectives

- To help the pupils distinguish between wants and needs.

You will need:

- Sets of Wants and Needs cards (one set for each group)

Time: 20-30 minutes

Instructions:

- Pupils work in groups of up to four and each group receives a set of the fourteen Wants and Needs cards.
- Ask pupils to imagine that a new government office is being set up to ensure that young people are provided with all the basic things that they want and need. The cards represent the list of wants and needs that the office has drawn up. The officials would like young people themselves to add any items that might be missing: ask the groups to decide together on four additional items, and to write them on the blank paper.
- Announce to the group that the new commission has found that, for political and economic reasons, it can only provide young people with ten of the items on the list, rather than all fourteen. Ask the groups to decide which items they are willing to give up. Ask them to return their discarded cards.
- When all groups have discarded four, announce that still further cuts in what can be provided to young people must be made. Ask the groups to reduce the number of items by four and return the discarded cards, leaving six. These should represent what they need to survive.



Discussion:

Discuss the following questions with the entire group:

- Which items were most commonly eliminated in the first round? Why?
- Was the second round of eliminations more difficult than the first? Why?
- Did you and others in your group have any disagreements over the items to eliminate? Which ones, and why? How did you resolve this?
- What is the difference between wants and needs? Which items on the list are wants and which are needs?
- Do wants and needs differ for different people? Why or why not?

Wants and Needs Cards

Food	A computer
Clean water	A special person to care for you
Materials to build somewhere to live	Toys
Money	Good clothes
Friends	
Medicines	