

Teacher's notes: Make a toy

Objective

Students reflect on the differences in living conditions of children living in poverty compared to their own lives. Using only commonly available resources, students design and create a simple child's toy or game.

Resources

- Commonly found materials, for example: stones, small blocks of wood, twigs, leaves, scraps of cardboard, plastic scraps or bottles, metal wire, scraps of material, wool or cotton
- Glue
- Elastic bands
- Blank paper (optional)
- Pencils (optional)

Activity

Ask students to think about some common, simple children's toys and games. Talk with students about how children living in poverty, like Lucy [from the activity "Lucy's Story" – check students have seen the film clip], also like playing games and having toys. For these children, however, their families cannot afford to buy them toys, so they have to be clever and creative by making their own using scrap materials they can easily find in their local environment.

In pairs or threes, students have to design and create a simple toy or game using the available materials.

Option: When students have finished their toy/game they show it to the rest of the class, explaining what it is / how it works, and how they created it.

Notes

Children living in poverty in developing countries do not have a lot of resources so their toys / games tend to be quite simple. For example, in countries like Nepal children play jacks using small stones instead of the plastic 'knucklebones' available in Australia.

Other children may use a block of wood, for example, as a simple car or train. A twig and large leaf could form a boat. Scraps of material and wool can be formed into a small doll or football. Small stones or sand in a plastic bottle could make a 'rattle'.