

U4L1A4 | Beyond GDP

overview

This lesson will help you to discover the how different development indicators can be used to assess the well-being of a nation.

learning goal

- To analyze and compare the measures of development in different regions around the world.
- To understand how statistics can help to improve the well-being of a nation.

success criteria

- Students will be able to reflect on what the world would be like if we evaluated using different development indicators and be able to justify their opinion of which one that they feel is best for developing sustainably.

Inquiry Questions

- Which development indicator values the factors that you feel are most important in your life?
- How can various different statistical measures give insight into the overall level of development and sustainability in a society?

Instructions:

Think back to yesterday's scenario and consider the following:

1. What were the things you missed most? Why?

2. Use this thought to help you to list "What you value most in life?" Take a couple of minutes and make a list of the things you value most in your life. Once you have made a list, for each item give it a dollar value.

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3. How easy or difficult was it to put a price on these things? Why do you think this is?

Lesson on development indicators:

As you learn about the following development indicators, consider the following questions:

1. What methods do you know of that are used to measure development around the world?
 What about measuring sustainability?
2. Which indicator values the items you value the most?
3. Which indicator values sustainability as an indicator of development?
4. How do you think development and sustainability are linked?

Indicator	Definition	Factors measured
Gross domestic Product (GDP)		
Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI)		
Human Development Index (HDI)		

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Indicator	Definition	Factors measured
Gross National Happiness (GNH)		
Happy Planet Index (HPI)		
Sustainable Society Index (SSI)		
Social Progress Index (SPI)		

Summary of development indicators

Examine the chart and the given rankings and results.

1. Do any of the above results surprise you? Why or why not?

2. Which one seems to be quite different? Why do you think that this is this the case?

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Reflection questions

1. Consult the list you made at the start of class, how many items are valued by GDP?
Does this indicator value your life?

2. Given this analysis, how effective is GDP as an overall indicator of progress and development?

3. Which indicator valued the objects you valued the most?

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4. Reflect on what the world would be like if we evaluated using each indicator. Evaluate the Pros and cons of each indicator. Which do you feel is most and least effective? Explain your choices.

5. Why do you think the world is slow to adapt these indicators when evaluating development?
