

KS3 (Year7/8) Citizenship GLP Activity

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How to develop the city of Lucksville?

This is a Citizenship lesson activity to give students the opportunity to make decisions over how to develop the make-believe city of Lucksville. The activity is designed to help them to consider different approaches to development, and the impact that this can have on different people groups in the city. It requires them to cast an individual vote at the end of the lesson on which idea they would support the most, and supports them to think critically around the challenges behind their decision.

GLP knowledge: Knowledge of different ways to achieve global poverty reduction and development and the arguments around the merits of these different approaches

GLP pupil outcomes: Enquiry and Discussion, Agency, Diversity, Empathy

Citizenship links: engaging in debate, changing things for the better, evaluating information and making informed judgements, take part in decision-making

LUCKSVILLE

Home to 7 million people. There is a diverse group of people who live in the city. There are some very rich areas, where lots of businesses are growing and big houses are being built. There are also some slum areas, where people are living in very cramped conditions and are trying to find jobs to survive. Surrounding the city, there's a huge amount of farm land.

Farmers in the surrounding area are struggling to sell the things they grow because there are lots of crops coming in from abroad which are being sold for a cheaper price. It has also been hard to grow enough crops to sell, as there has been a series of droughts which has left the soil very dry and dusty. When it does rain, the soil often washes away. People have been moving to the city to try and find more work in order to earn a living.

The number of people living in the slum areas has increased dramatically and people are finding it hard to earn enough money to live a healthy life. Inequality is growing, and many of the businesses don't want to employ people who are living in the slums. There is also an increasing amount of violence and clashes between different ethnic groups. Many of the people have expressed their frustration because they feel that the Mayor is not trying to solve these issues.

The Mayor of the city is thinking a lot about the future, and wondering how to develop the city and keep everyone happy. He needs your help to make some decisions.

A starter activity (5 mins)

The Mayor (teacher) welcomes the class to the city of Lucksville and tells them a little bit about the city.

The Mayor (teacher) explains that they need to make some improvements to Lucksville, and that he/she needs their help to decide what to do.

Main activity (40 mins)

This is a carousel activity (10 minutes for each idea). The class is divided in to four groups, and a chair person for each group is nominated to guide the discussion and debate. Each group has a 'talking stick' to help guide the discussion.

Each one of these is laminated on a table:

Idea 1: Build a shopping mall

We could build a shopping mall in the western part of Lucksville. This would be situated in the area where lots of the big businesses are developing in the city. It would mean clearing some of the slum settlements and it would also use some of the farmland on the outskirts of the city. By building a shopping mall, the city would attract a lot more tourists to visit and they would bring more money into the city. It would provide more jobs for a lot of people, and there would be a lot more places to go out for dinner and go shopping.

Idea 2: Support a micro-credit system to develop small slum businesses

We could ask the big businesses in Lucksville to sponsor a micro-credit system to develop small businesses in the slums. We could allow people in the slums to apply for a loan of up to 200 Lucksville pounds to help them to start their own businesses. Once they have made a living, they can pay the loan back. This might help some of the people in our slums improve their living standards.

Idea 3: Develop more environmentally friendly farming

We own some of the farmland around Lucksville. We will hand some over to some of the farmers who are living in the city and ask them to form a cooperative in order to produce food and improve the environment. We will support the farmers to reduce the use of pesticides, they can use their own traditional farming practices which are beneficial to the environment and we can provide courses for farmers to learn additional techniques. We will encourage tree-planting to provide shade and stop the soil from washing away. This will provide food, improve the environment for everyone in Lucksville and provide work for some of the farmers.*

*"A farm, business, or other organisation which is owned and run jointly by its members, who share the profits or benefits."



Idea 4: Build some mega-flats on the outskirts of the city

We could build lots of low-cost flats on the edge of the city, near the business district. We could let some of the slum-dwellers move into the flats, so that we could improve their living conditions. We would need to use a bit of farmland to do this, and some of the slum dwellers might need to move away from their families and friends. Building the flats might also create some new jobs, while they are being constructed.

For each idea, the group discusses:

What is the impact of this decision on...

- a farmer who has moved into Lucksville
- a rich business man from Lucksville
- a slum-dweller from Lucksville (non-farmer)?

Casting the vote (10 mins)

Each student is given three coloured stickers. They stick their stickers on the idea/table that they want to vote for. They can put all their stickers on one idea or divide them up. Three volunteers count the votes, and the winner is announced by the teacher/Mayor.

Full class discussion (led by teacher)

What did you vote for and why?

What did you find hard about the process? Why?

Can you think of an example of 'development' in a real life city?

Did you learn anything about yourself and your own life values during the task?

Homework/extension suggestions

The Mayor has been asked to go to a meeting with the national government. What ideas should he propose to reduce the number of people leaving the countryside to come and live in Lucksville?

What would be your idea of how to develop the city? Write your own proposal (no more than one paragraph).

Research urban development in Ghana, Kenya or India. Are there any similarities / differences with the issues faced by people in Lucksville?