



Great Aussie Rickshaw Ride Educational Resources

Introduction

The Great Aussie Rickshaw Ride is a distinctive event that is certain to raise some questions (...and some eyebrows) amongst your students. It will provide you with a great starting point to explore issues of global citizenship with your class. These support materials are designed to assist you to develop rich learning experiences for your students.

Millennium Development Goals

In the year 2000, 189 heads of government committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These eight goals were agreed upon because they are ambitious, achievable and vital targets to tackle poverty on the planet:

- 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2 Achieve universal primary education
- 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4 Reduce child mortality
- 5 Improve maternal health
- 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8 Develop a global partnership for development

Australia's commitment to the MDGs is to play our part to fulfil our promise to "free men, women, and children from the dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty..."¹. As we hurtle toward 2015, the date set to meet these targets, it is timely to examine the importance, success and failure of

a concerted global effort to tackle poverty.

"Where do I start?"

There are many ways to begin getting the MDGs under your student's noses and to help them better understand what we can all do to address global poverty.

The Net:

www.un.org/millenniumgoals

www.undp.org/mdg

www.cyberschoolbus.un.org/mdgs/index.asp

www.makepovertyhistory.com.au

Videos:

Symbiosis have produced some excellent short films that can be downloaded from the Great Aussie Rickshaw Ride website www.aussierickshaw.org

MDGs themselves:

The eight MDGs comprise a vitally important initiative for our planet. That does not mean, however, that it is a sacred document so it is worth using the MDGs in a class display, as a jigsaw or for a collage. It is important for students to have a variety of ways to understand the MDGs.

In addition to these starting points we offer some lessons for you to use with your class. They are designed to cater for a wide range of abilities and to engage student attention and interest. The lessons can be used as "stand alone" experiences or used in combination to form a unit of work. We do hope you find these materials useful for your class.

¹ United Nations Millennium Summit, 2000

