

WANTS & NEEDS

Class level: 5th and 6th

Curricular area: SESEG

Strand: Environmental awareness and care

Strand Unit: Environmental awareness

May also be related to:

- SPHE
 - **Strands:** myself, myself and the wider world
 - **Strand Units:** Making decisions, Developing citizenship
- SESES
 - **Strands:** Materials
 - **Strand Units:** Properties and Characteristics of materials;
 - foster an appreciation of the ways in which people use the Earth's resources (*mining, processing raw materials for manufacturing*)
 - come to appreciate the need to conserve resources *recycling of materials, use of paper packaging in contrast to some plastic packaging*

Overview & Purpose

To encourage students to think about our high dependence on global resources and to reflect on universal basic needs

Materials:

- Old magazines and/or newspapers
- cardboard
- glue
- scissors

Objective:

To teach pupils to recognise and investigate aspects of human activities which may have positive or adverse effects on environments, in particular the pupils will be asked to question their basic needs and investigate opportunities to reduce waste and resource use

Activity:

Divide the class into groups of 5/6 pupils per group. Each group then has to create 10 to 15 cards illustrating consumer goods used on a regular basis.

Each group should discuss whether the goods illustrated on their cards are things we need for our survival and to be happy and healthy, i.e. 'needs'; or whether they are 'wants', i.e. thing we like or want to have but which are not necessary for our survival or general well-being; not actual 'needs'. The groups can then exchange cards and discuss them. At the end of the session you can have a discussion about all the cards that groups created and let groups explain why they think things are 'wants' or 'needs'

Adapted from Trocaire resource material "The Right Stuff"

Additional notes:

Examples of discussions that may evolve and questions that may arise from these discussions:

Apple; we need fruit to be healthy, but should we buy apples from other countries or should we buy locally produced apples, in season only?

Banana; bananas always need to be imported as they do not grow in Ireland and thus contribute to climate change, but are we depriving people in the developed world of a livelihood? Would it be an option to buy fair trade organically grown bananas, ensuring people in the developed world can make a living?

Flowers; bringing flowers into your home may make you happy, so could we say that if we buy locally grown daffodils that can grow outside and do not have to be grown in greenhouses, is O.K.?

Strawberries; it is healthy food but should we be eating strawberries in December when they cannot be grown in Ireland?

House; we all need shelter, but should we live in houses that are not insulated? Should we live in a mansion or should we live in a house that is just big enough?

Chicken; we all need the protein it provides, but should we eat chickens that have lived a miserable life or should we eat chickens that are free range? Should we eat chicken every day? Should we be eating chicken nuggets or chicken burgers?

Potatoes; they are part of a well balanced diet but should we buy potatoes from Holland or should we be buying locally grown potatoes? Alternatively, can we grow our own?

Water; we cannot live without water! However, do we think enough about how much water we consume? Can we reduce our water consumption?