

Positive Planet Grade 4/5 Lesson Plan II

Goals of the Compare and Contrast Lesson on Uganda

- Students increase their knowledge and understanding of some of the problems facing a developing world country like Uganda.
- Students begin to have an understanding of the stark contrast of the life and opportunities between Uganda and the U.S.

Materials

- Fact sheets about life in Uganda and the U.S.
- Uganda photos
- Encyclopedia
- Internet

Introduction

Uganda is a relatively small country, about the size of the state of Oregon located in East Africa. It is a country in what is commonly called the developing world. While Uganda is developing in terms of its economy, and the health and education of its citizens, it still faces many substantial problems. This lesson is designed to help your students discover for themselves some of the differences between life in a country like Uganda and life here in the U.S. and to think about some reasons for those differences.

Students can work in groups of 3-5. They should be encouraged to refer to their maps as well as the fact sheets. Have them review the facts and questions for one of the three topics and briefly report back to the class. You can use all or some of the questions provided, add or change them, as you feel appropriate.

Possible warm-up questions

- Uganda is called a developing country. What do you think that means? What is it that needs developing?
- Most of what we call the developing world is in the Southern Hemisphere. Can you think of any reasons why this is so?

Fact Sheet About Life In Uganda and the United States

Economy/Jobs

Uganda:

- About 80% of the people of Uganda live by subsistence agriculture. This means they grow the food that they need to survive and make little or no money.
- Uganda is a land-locked country with no direct access to the ocean
- The average income in Uganda is about \$276 per year or less than \$1 per day
- Teachers at Matala Hill primary School make about \$25 a month
- Most of the people in Uganda live in rural regions of the country or in small villages or towns
- The homes of are made of materials that can be found in the local areas such as mud with grass roofs. For Ugandans who have more money their homes may have metal roofs or may even be made of brick.
- Most people in Uganda do not have electricity or running water.
- The major product that is exported (sold) to other countries is coffee.
- In a country of over 27,000,000 people only about 800,000 phones almost all of which are cell phones. There are only 125,000 Internet users.

United States:

- 0.7% Of the population work as farmers, 23% work making products of some kind or in transportation, 35% are professionals, 25% work in offices
- The average income in Uganda is about \$42,000 per year
- The average salary for teachers in New York City is \$52,000 per year
- Most of the people in the United States live in large cities or in nearby suburbs
- While it is estimated that out of the over 280 million people living in the U.S., 3 million are homeless, most people in this country live in homes with heat, safe running water and electricity.
- The U.S. is the largest industrial country in the world and is also the richest. We export food grown in our farms as well as products made here in our factories such as cars, computers and steel.
- In the U.S. there are 181 million phones in people's homes, 158 million cell phones and 151 million Internet users.

Questions

- What do you think might be some of the problems of an economy where so many people are living from what they grow on the land?
- How does the number of people who grow their own food compare with the situation in the United States?
- How would your life be different if your parents made less than \$1 per day?

- What is the difference between homes in Uganda and those in the United States?
- If there is no safe running water in their houses, how do the people of Uganda get their water to drink? Can you think of problems with this situation?
- Coffee is the main product for export in Uganda? What is the problem when Uganda's economy depends on one product? How does this compare with the United States?
- Why do you think so few people have phones or can use the internet in Uganda as compared to the United States? What problems can this create?

Life in Uganda

- There are more than 20 different tribes in Uganda each with their own language or dialect
- Children first learn to speak their tribal language and then learn English in school.
- The average number of babies that women have in Uganda is close to 7 per mother
- For every 1000 babies born in Uganda 68 babies will die before the age of 1 year
- 1 out of 3 people in Uganda do not know how to read or write
- Schooling is free in Uganda through grade 7 after that it costs money.

Life in the United States

- There are many different races and ethnic groups in the U.S. 82% of the people speak English and 11% speak Spanish.
- Most children speak English at an early age.
- The average number of babies that women have in the U.S. is 2 per mother.
- For every 1000 babies born in the U.S. about 6 will die before the age of 1 year.
- 97% of the U.S. population can read and write.
- Schooling is free in the U.S. through the 12th grade (high school).

Questions

- What are some of the problems that can happen when a country has so many tribes or ethnic groups each speaking their own language? How have we tried to solve those problems in the United States?
- Can you think of some reasons why the income in Uganda is so much less than it is here in the United States?
- Women in Uganda have many more babies than women in the United States. Can you think of some reasons for that? Hint: How many babies die in the first year of life compared to the United States? When you are very poor who takes care of you when you are old?

- If primary school is free in Uganda, why are there still so many people who do not know how to read or write?

Food in Uganda

- In Uganda, the staple food (the main food that most people eat is called Matoke.(Pronounced Mah-toe-kay)
- Matoke is a relative of the banana that grows everywhere in Uganda and is very cheap. It is cooked in banana leaves and tastes a little like mashed potatoes.
- Matoke is very filling so it satisfies your hunger but it has very little nutritional value.
- Other staple foods in Uganda are Cassava, potatoes, rice and beans
- Most people living in Uganda do not eat meat, fish or dairy very often so they do not get enough protein.
- The two fish that are commonly caught from Lake Victoria are Nile Perch and Tilapia

Food in the United States:

- The average American diet is 30% fat and very high in sugar and protein as well.
- Obesity (being very overweight) is a major health problem in the U.S.
- There are a wide variety of foods of many types available to most Americans.
- The many different climates in the United States permit many different types of food to be grown and raised.
- 4.4 million people suffer from hunger in the U.S.

Questions

- In a tropical country where plants grow easily why do you think that the typical Ugandan diet is so limited?
- Why do you think that matoke is the staple food of Uganda?
- Why do you think that people do not eat meat or fish or dairy even though they need more protein?
- If children do not eat a balanced diet how do you think it might affect their health? How about their education?
- Why do you think most people have a better diet in the U.S than in Uganda?