

## **Positive Planet Grade 7/8 Lesson Plan I**

### **Goal:**

Introduce students to some of the causes of poverty in the developing world

### **Introduction:**

Poverty is the state for the majority of the world's people and nations. Why is this? Is it enough to blame poor people for their own predicament? Have they been lazy, made poor decisions, and been solely responsible for their plight? What about their government? Have they pursued policies that actually harm successful development? Such causes of poverty and inequality are no doubt real. But often less discussed are deeper and more global causes of poverty.

Behind the increasing interconnectedness promised by globalization, are global decisions, policies, and practices. These are often influenced, driven, or formulated by those with access to wealth and therefore power. These can be leaders of rich countries or other global actors such as multinational corporations. In the face of such enormous external influence, the governments of poor nations and their people are often powerless.

### **Materials**

- Maps
- CIA Country Profiles - Uganda and the United States
  - Uganda: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ug.html>
  - US: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/us.html>
- Poverty fact Sheet
- Brief History of Uganda

### **Warm up questions/Brainstorming**

- The Official definition of poverty in the US is an annual income of less than \$17,650. The World Bank uses a definition of poverty in the world as less than \$2 per day. Why the difference? What can we learn about the meaning of poverty from these two definitions?
- Can you think of some of the root causes of poverty? (Make a list on the black board)

### **Activity:**

Divide the class into 2 groups. Referring to the learning resources, Group I will make a flip chart list of the causes of poverty. Group II will make a flip chart list of poverty's effects.

After completing this task lead a discussion on how the causes and effects of poverty reinforce one another creating a vicious cycle. What are some possible ways that this cycle can be broken?

