



DOLLAR STREET GROUP ACTIVITY

<https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street>

NOTE: This activity is designed as a teacher-directed group activity for younger students but could be adjusted as an individual activity for older students.

1. Before you share the website with your students, check it out yourself. Go to <https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street/about> to read what the purpose is and then click QUICK GUIDE at the top right to learn how to use it.
2. Describe to your students what the purpose of this website is and how it works. Practice using it by clicking on the dropdown menu at the top left to choose a specific topic to compare families across the world. Ask students to choose one of the topics. Ask them whether they notice any patterns. For example, is there a relationship between income and what a family's kitchen looks like? You can also compare families within a country. For example, is there a relationship between income and family size amongst families in India? What about in Brazil?
3. DISCUSS: Which of the topics would you say is a 'need'? Which ones are 'wants'? Why? How would you define a 'need' vs. a 'want'?
4. Complete the following comparison exercise. You may want to write your answers on the board.
 - A) Find one example of a family in each of the following income ranges:
 - \$20-\$100
 - \$500-\$1,500
 - \$5,000-\$10,000
 - \$10,000+
 - B) Use the photos and written descriptions of the families you chose to determine whether there is a relationship between income and the following:
 - Health
 - Family size
 - Occupation
 - Transportation
 - Electronics/technology
 - Housing/living conditions
 - C) DISCUSS:
 - How do the lives and living conditions of those within the same income level compare across the world? For example, how do the lives of those living on \$1,000/month compare in India, France, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, and the United States?
 - Is there a relationship between income and a family's goals/dreams? (these are usually described in the written descriptions)

5. FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION:

- Do you think what someone considers to be a 'need' vs. a 'want' changes depending on their income level? Do you think someone's definition might depend on where they live?
- Do you think education is a need or want?
- How did comparing the lives of these families make you feel?
- This website focusses heavily on material poverty. Is that the only kind of poverty? (See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V-VWc1v77fk> for a summary of a more holistic view of poverty, the topic of the book, 'When Helping Hurts' by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert).