

An armchair introduction to A-Level geography: Week 5

This week is about examining levels of wealth and development around the world, and about challenging stereotypes about where poverty and wealth exists. We hope it also encourages you to question what having access to certain things (eg hand washing, cooking facilities) means for your life chances and opportunities...

'Dollar Street' is a fantastic online photo-resource, featuring images from over 240 families living in 50 countries around the world. The site arranges them all on a street called Dollar Street, in order of their monthly income.

Look at the website; <https://www.gapminder.org/dollar-street/>

Click on the website above and follow the quick tour; It briefly shows you how easy it is to compare different aspects of everyday life around the world, at different income brackets. This is a great resource for exploring similarities and differences. As well as the fairly mundane themes such as homes, food, cooking and water, there are many more specific items to compare, such as: 'lock on front doors', 'toothbrushes' and 'things I dream of having'.

Watch the Ted X Talk by Anna Rosling Ronnlund,

https://www.ted.com/talks/anna_rosling_ronnlund_see_how_the_rest_of_the_world_lives_organized_by_income?language=en . Here she explains the thinking behind the site and how it can help us to challenge pre-conceptions and to understand what life in certain income brackets means for families around the world.

Once you have navigated the website and listened to the TED Talk, consider the following questions;

1. Look at the homes in the highest income bracket (the right hand end of the street!) – Were there any in locations that surprised you? Why were they there? Why did it surprise you?
2. Look at the homes in the lowest income brackets (the left hand end of the street) – What common features do they share, regardless of global location?
3. How does looking at households with similar incomes, but in different global locations help us to challenge pre-conceptions of life in different parts of the world?
4. What do you think are the main barriers to development around the world?

Want to know more...? Of course you do!

Gapminder is a website devised by Hans Rosling, which uses data to myth-bust pre-conceptions regarding population growth, wealth and development – it uses fantastic graphics to show global changes over recent centuries and to suggest how future changes will alter the power structures and wealth across the world. All of the website is fascinating; <https://www.gapminder.org/>

Also check out the short video clip, '200 years that changed the world' -

<https://www.gapminder.org/videos/200-years-that-changed-the-world/>

Or read the book;

Factfulness - (Hans Rosling) , there's a review here by Bill Gates;

<https://www.gatesnotes.com/Books/Factfulness>

