

Introduction to Sustainability and the SDGs



15-18

1 h
30 m

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Familiarize the students with the concept of Sustainability
- Introduce them to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Discuss the challenges the difficulties

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Whiteboard and markers
- Computer and projector
- Paper, photocopies of worksheets
- Internet access

LEARNING SCENARIO AND ACTIVITIES PROPOSED

1) Introduction (10 minutes)

Introduce the concept of Sustainability to the students. Explain what it is and why it is important. Ask them if they have ever heard of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Turn on the projector and go to the UN website.

2) Presentation (40 minutes)

Go through the 17 SDGs and have a class discussion. Divide the students into two groups, the optimists (+) and the pessimists (-). The optimists will only mention the positive progress of each goal, whereas the pessimists the negative. Give the groups time to do some research and make notes for each goal. Then they can present their findings. What is the outcome?

The students should narrow down the most pressing problems right now.

Then, they should have a class vote and decide on the three most urging ones. These are the three ones that they must prioritize in solving.

3) Practice: Social Media Activity (40 minutes)

Studies have shown that teenagers are more likely to adopt environmentally friendly behaviours they have seen on social media. So, the activity the student will engage in is the following; the students will use a class social media account to create social media campaigns to solve one of the problems the class voted for. (Note: it would be better to avoid using their personal social media accounts to respect their privacy). They can use the platform they want (Twitter, Instagram, TikTok etc.), create posters, reels, videos, hashtags or whatever they find appropriate.

4) Conclusion (10 minutes)

The teacher will finish the lesson by showing the students a short video which leaves a lasting impression on the students: [“Red Alert - How to meet the Sustainable Development Goals together | SDG Moment | United” from Nations Unies YouTube Channel](#).

The teacher will also highlight that promoting sustainability and raising awareness can be done effectively through social media and can be attractive to teenagers.

EXPECTED DIFFICULTIES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Students may get carried away by the use of social media in the class
- The teacher will make sure that he/she will be supervising them and that they will not stray away from the lesson

ASSESSMENT

- Quiz about sustainability: the teacher will give a final quiz on sustainability to the students to do in class. You can use this [“Sustainability Quiz” on Amazing Apprenticeships \(2022\)](#).
- Social media campaign

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- United Nations. (n.d.). "The 17 goals | sustainable development. United Nations." Retrieved May 7, 2023, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
- Pascall, A. (2022, October 31). "The Sustainability Quiz", Amazing Apprenticeships. <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/the-sustainability-quiz/>