

# POVERTY COMPREHENSION

**OVER HALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD LIVE IN POVERTY.**

Living in poverty means that they are extremely poor and do not have the money to eat regularly, to live somewhere dry and safe, or to drink fresh water. People who live in poverty may not have a job and may not be able to see a doctor or get medicine when they are ill. Children who live in poverty are normally unable to go to school.

There is poverty in every country in the world, including in the UK, but most extreme poverty is found in parts of two continents: Africa and Asia.

Poverty happens for a lot of reasons. Sometimes it happens because the people in charge of some countries are unkind and do not care about poor people. Sometimes it happens because a country starts a fight with another country, and the two countries go to war. This destroys homes and jobs, and leaves lots of people without a home.

Poverty also happens because people who have a different colour skin or who speak in another language are treated unfairly and prevented from going to school, getting a job, or earning money. This is called inequality.

In the UK, everyone can see a doctor if they get ill, everyone is given some money, and everyone can go to school, even if they are poor. But in many other countries, this does not happen. This creates what we call a poverty cycle. A poverty cycle normally starts when poor people get sick and cannot see a doctor. This means that they may become too ill to work or to find a job. Without a job they cannot earn money, and without money they cannot afford to eat properly. This leads to them getting sick and the cycle continues.

Ending poverty isn't easy but it is possible if the people in charge of countries allowed everyone to go to school, made sure that everyone could get a job, stopped fighting with other countries, and made sure that everyone could eat and drink properly.



# QUESTIONS

1. How many people in the world live in poverty?

2. What does it mean to live in poverty?

3. Is it true that people who live in poverty may not be able to see a doctor and get medicine when they are ill?

4. Are children who live in poverty normally able to go to school?

5. Is poverty found in the UK?

6. In what two countries is extreme poverty usually found?

7. Name two reasons why poverty happens.

8. What is meant by the term 'inequality'?

9. What normally starts the poverty cycle?

10. Name three things that people in charge of countries could do to end poverty.



# ANSWERS

- 1. How many people in the world live in poverty?** Over half of all the people in the world.
- 2. What does it mean to live in poverty?** It means to be extremely poor and without the money to eat regularly, to live somewhere dry and safe, or to drink fresh water.
- 3. Is it true that people who live in poverty may not be able to see a doctor and get medicine when they are ill?** Yes
- 4. Are children who live in poverty normally able to go to school?** No.
- 5. Is poverty found in the UK?** Yes.
- 6. In what two continents is extreme poverty usually found?** Africa and Asia.
- 7. Name two reasons why poverty happens.**
  - Because those in charge are unkind and do not care about poor people.
  - Because of war, which destroys homes and jobs, and leaves lots of people without a home.
- 8. What is meant by the term 'inequality'?**

Inequality means that some people are treated unfairly because of the colour of their skin or because they speak in different language.
- 9. What normally starts the poverty cycle?** When poor people get sick and cannot see a doctor.
- 10. Name three things that people in charge of countries could do to end poverty.**
  - Allowing everyone to go to school
  - Making sure that everyone can get a job
  - End wars
  - Making sure that everyone can eat and drink properly



COMPASSIVISTE  
FOUNDATION

Compassiviste Foundation believe in a world free of poverty, military conflict, political unrest, environmental disasters and climate change. We exist entirely through the individual efforts of our volunteers and our generous sponsors and supporters. To donate and support please visit [www.compassivistefoundation.org](http://www.compassivistefoundation.org)

