

WHAT IS POVERTY?

POVERTY MEANS NOT HAVING:

- Regular food
- Drinking water
- A safe place to live
- Good health
- An education
- A job



DID YOU KNOW?

Over half of all the people in the world live in poverty

WHAT LIVING IN POVERTY MEANS

People who live in poverty cannot:

- See a doctor and get medicine when they are ill
- Eat food regularly
- Go to school
- Earn enough money
- Drink clean water
- Live somewhere that is safe, dry and warm



DID YOU KNOW?

In the UK, nearly five million people cannot afford to eat every day?

WHAT CAUSES POVERTY?

People may live in poverty because:

- They live in countries that are at war with other countries
- Of the colour of their skin
- The people who rule their countries don't help or care about the poor
- Of their religion



THINK AND TALK

The world's richest people got a lot richer during the coronavirus pandemic, while the poor got a lot poorer. Why do you think this may have happened?

People in charge of some countries are greedy and no matter how much money they have, they always want more. To get richer, they may:

- Force people to give them money each month. This is called a tax. Poor people who do not have the money to pay a tax may get told off and ordered to pay more money to say sorry. This is called a fine. Poor people who do not have the money to pay a fine may get sent to prison.
- Force people to sell their homes for a lot less money than what they are worth. This means they do not have enough money to buy a new house. The greedy people then sell the poor people's homes for a lot of money. It means the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Why can't poor people just get rich?

In many countries, some people cannot go to school or are not allowed to go to school. If they do not go to school, they cannot get a job. If they do not get a job, they cannot buy a house, food, and medicine.

Other people cannot get a job because of the colour of their skin, the language they speak, or the religion they practise. This is called inequality and it affects millions of people around the world.

THINK AND TALK

Do you think that inequality exists where you live?

The Poverty Chain

In some countries, including the UK, poor people are given money, can see a doctor for free, and can go to school. We are very, very lucky.

But in many other countries this does not happen. This creates what we call a poverty cycle:

- Poor people who do not live in a warm house or eat properly may get sick.
- After getting sick, they do not have the money to see a doctor.
- If they cannot get medicine, they may become too weak to work.
- If they cannot work, they cannot earn money.
- If they do not have money, they cannot buy a house or eat properly.

And so the poverty cycle continues.



Can we ever end poverty?

The people in charge of countries could end poverty by:

- Making education available to everyone
- Stopping greedy people from taking poor people's money and homes
- Creating jobs so that everyone who is able to can work
- Not fighting with other countries
- Making sure that everyone can get proper food and clean water, even if they are poor

THINK AND TALK

Do you think the people in charge of countries want to do this?



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