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Michele Fricke – A Trinidadian ESL teacher working in Germany.

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Education in the Developing World

QUICK FACTS 1

The “developing world” is made up of countries that have poorer populations. There are also poor people in developed or “rich” countries, but not as many as in the developing world.

The good news is that most developing countries have decreased the level of poverty among their citizens over the last twenty years. The bad news is that there is still a lot of poverty in our world and many children still die of hunger every day.

Overall the world’s poverty has increased over the last twenty years.

TRUE FALSE



Comparing Two Countries: Niger and Denmark



“A person born in Niger can expect to live 26 fewer years, to have 9 fewer years of education and to consume 53 times fewer goods than a person born in Denmark.” [HDR 43]

1. If Ibrahim who was born in Niger is expected to live 52 years, how long would he live if he was born in Denmark?

Ibrahim would live for _____ years if he was born in Denmark instead of Niger.

2. If Sofie who was born in Denmark finished grade 12 (or high school), what grade would she finish if she was born in Niger?

Sofie would finish grade _____ if she was born in Niger instead of Denmark.

Could Sofie get a good job in your country if she had an education in Niger?

YES NO I DON'T KNOW

Education in the Developing World

QUICK FACTS 2



Comparing Two Countries: Niger and Denmark (Continued)



“A person born in Niger can expect to live 26 fewer years, to have 9 fewer years of education and to consume 53 times fewer goods than a person born in Denmark.” [HDR 43]

3. If the Jensen family who live in Denmark buy 477 goods* per month, how many goods would they buy if they were born in Niger?

The Jensen family would buy _____ goods per month if they were born in Niger instead of Denmark.

[HINT: 1 good in Niger = 53 goods in Denmark. You can use a calculator if necessary .]

*Goods are things that a family buys for everyday life, things for their homes. Goods can include food, clothing, soap, appliances, dishes, books, magazines, toys, tools, etc.



Are you surprised by the difference in poverty between Denmark and Niger?

YES NO

What country do you live in at the moment? _____

Is your country more like Niger or more like Denmark?

NIGER DENMARK

INTERNET WORK

Where are Niger and Denmark? Look on a map to find out. You can also find out a bit more about each country. A good place to start is www.wikipedia.org

Education in the Developing World

QUICK FACTS 3



The Boy Without Shoes

...in Indonesia ... poor students were often singled out for ridicule when they could not pay for uniforms or school supplies, often leading to their exclusion. Asked why he dropped out of school, an 11-year-old boy responded: 'I often feel embarrassed. When I didn't wear shoes, the teacher pointed to my feet, and said, "This is not the way to come to school."' [HDR 39-40]

1. Why was the boy not wearing shoes? _____

2. Should he be embarrassed because he's poor? NO YES MAYBE

3. Is the boy without shoes still going to school? YES NO

4. What could be done to help this boy go back to school? _____

5. Is it the teacher's fault that this boy does not go to school or is it more because he is poor? Do you think that if he had a nice teacher he would still be in school or perhaps he would be embarrassed by other situations?

Education in the Developing World

QUICK FACTS 4



The World's Poor

At the end of 2010, the world's population will be about 7,000,000,000 (seven billion).

It is very surprising to discover how poor our world still is today; there are 1,440,000,000 (1.44 billion) people who live on less than \$1.25 per day. That is \$1.25 for food, shelter, clothing, and everything else they need!

Almost half of the world's population, about 2,600,000,000 (2.66 billion) is living on less than \$2.00 a day. Even \$2.00 a day is not enough for food and the other basics of life. [HDR]

Many children in very poor countries do not go to school. Why not?

You can choose more than one answer.

- They cannot pay for school uniforms, books, or other fees.
- They have to work to help feed their families.
- Their parents never went to school and do not know how important it is for their children to go to school.

Unfortunately, ALL of the choices above are reasons that poor children do not go to school. If poor children went to school, they could earn more money. When they grow up and start their own families, the next generation could have even more education. This would eventually break the poverty cycle.

Can you think of any solutions to help the world's poorest children have a chance to go to school?



Education in the Developing World

QUICK FACTS 5



Salome's Family

Salome, 30 years old, lives with her husband and six daughters in the Lunga Lungu slum in Nairobi. Her husband can work only when jobs are available in the surrounding industry park, which is not often.

She cannot work because she has to take care of their children, but she earns a little money from other households by delivering water. The family has no electricity, running water or adequate sanitation facilities.

Merah, 6 years old, should already be enrolled in school with her older sisters, but Salome and her husband cannot afford the registration fee of 300 Kenyan Shillings (about \$4).

Salome and her husband sometimes cannot provide meals for the family, so they rely on other community members. 'I am worried about not being able to feed my children,' she says. Salome's household is deprived in health, education and standard of living. [HDR 95]

1. What is Salome's biggest worry?

2. Is Merah in school? Why?

3. Why do you think that Salome's family is so poor? Choose as many as you wish

- They live in a poor country.
- There are no jobs for the father.
- There are too many children in the family.
- They cannot get out of poverty because they cannot go to school.
- Other reason _____.