

Education and Conflict

Lesson Title: Education and Conflict	Grade: 6-7	Subject: Social Studies	Time: 2 hours	Unit: Power and Authority; Dynamic Relationships; Interactions and Interdependence of Nations; Resources and Wealth; Power and Authority	Topic: Access to education	Cross-Curricular Components:
URL: http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/change_the_world_in_eight_steps/files/goal_2.pdf						
Lesson Description: → To help students to understand how conflict stops others from going to school.		Curriculum Outcomes: → Outcome: PA6.1 → Examine the relationship between an individual's power and authority and the power and authority of others. → Outcome: RW6.1 → Examine and analyze factors that contribute to quality of life, including material and non-material factors. → Outcome: IN7.1 → Investigate examples of conflict, cooperation, and interdependence between Canada and circumpolar and Pacific Rim countries. → Outcome: DR7.1 → Analyze and use various types of maps (that provide differing perspectives and information for differing purposes) in order to situate current issues in Canada, and in a selection of Pacific Rim and northern circumpolar countries. → Outcome: PA7.1 → Compare the sources of power for individuals, nations, and regions in a selection of Pacific Rim and circumpolar countries.				
Materials: - A copy of James' story to refer to - Materials to make a display - Old newspapers for students to cut - Computers and internet for article searches website (http://news.bbc.co.uk)		Assessment: - Evaluate display.				

Procedure:

1. Explain that in many countries children miss out on their education because of conflict. Give some examples such as Israel and Palestine, Sierra Leone (where many children became child soldiers) and the conflict in Darfur.*
2. Read James' story to the class.
3. Ask students to look through newspapers and identify situations around the world where young people are being prevented from receiving an education because of war and conflict.
4. Students can use these articles to produce a display. They could mark up the countries affected on a map of the world.

James' story

'It first happened in 1991,' says James. 'That's when the rebels came to our village in Lofa County in Liberia. They beat my father and put him in jail. Then they asked me if I would join them ... I said yes, because I wanted to protect my father because I was sure they were going to kill him. I was six years old. Then they sent us to fight at the front lines. I did that for the next five years ... There is nothing more bad than war.' James stopped being a soldier after five years of fighting in the bush. He is now 18 years old. He has been going to school since he left the front lines. 'I've been asked to fight again, but I've refused. My education is too important to me and I still have a lot to learn in life. If I am educated, I will have a better future, much better than my past.'

Interview conducted on 20 May 2003, Monrovia, Liberia