

Designing a Country: Prioritizing Human Rights

Overview

Students explore key human rights (and optionally the UN Sustainable Development Goals) by collaboratively designing the foundations of a fictional country. Through group decision-making, students prioritize essential rights and justify their choices.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify and understand selected human rights.
- Prioritize rights based on societal needs.
- Explain and defend their decisions using reasoning and examples.
- Collaborate effectively to form a shared vision for a fictional nation.

Materials

- List of key human rights (summary sheet or UDHR excerpt)
- Optional: Link or poster of the 17 SDGs
- Number cards (1–7)
- Paper or digital note space for groups

Procedure

1. Introduction (5 minutes)

Briefly review important human rights and/or the SDGs. Clarify that each fictional country must choose a limited number of rights to establish its national identity.

2. Group Assignment (2 minutes)

Divide students into small groups. Give each group a number card (1–7).

The number indicates how many human rights they may select for their fictional country.

3. Group Work (15–20 minutes)

Groups study the human rights list and choose the number of rights assigned.

They discuss and write down:

- a. Why these rights are essential

- b. What values they represent
 - c. What kind of society they aim to build
4. **Presentation (10–15 minutes)**
- Each group presents their chosen rights and explains:
- a. Why these rights were prioritized
 - b. How these rights shape their imagined country

5. **Reflection (5 minutes)**

Students respond individually:

Which right would you consider absolutely non-negotiable for any real country, and why?

Extension (Optional)

Groups create a short constitution preamble or a simple flag/symbol representing their chosen rights.