

World Bank: Lesson Plan

Topic	
<p>The World Bank is an international financial institution that provides loans and grants for low-income countries pursuing capital projects that they are unable to otherwise fund. Although the intent of the World Bank is to reduce poverty, the institution is heavily criticized for many reasons, most notably its power imbalances.</p>	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Economics ● History ● International Relations 	40 - 45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/topic/world-bank-the-purse-strings-of-global-development/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
<p>Students will be able to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Explain the primary functions of the World Bank. ● List multiple criticisms of the World Bank. 	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
<p>Infant mortality, Indicators of development, The Sustainable Development Goals, A Share (Finance)</p>	
Materials Needed	
<p>Worksheet and Student Internet Access</p>	
Before you watch	
<p>Think-pair-share: How and where do students see poverty depicted? What organizations have they heard of that are working towards eliminating poverty? Do they think these organizations are successful?</p>	

While you watch

Complete the *While You Watch* section of the Worksheet.

After you watch/discussion questions

1. What kind of projects might qualify for a loan from the World Bank?
2. How could the lack of representation in the governing body of the World Bank affect low-income countries? Can you think of other examples where unequal representation in a body of power has affected people?
3. How might you be able to use data provided by the World Bank?

Activity Ideas

- **Stage a debate:** One team can argue in favor of the World Bank, while the other team takes the opposing side.
- **Use the Database!:** Have students separate into groups of three to four, visit the World Bank website, and follow the directions on the Worksheet. Afterwards share and compare findings as a class.

Sources/places to learn more

1. Chan, Chee. "The World Bank." *International Journal of Political Economy* 37.1 (2008): n. pag. Web.
https://bridge.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01BRC_INST/es0tl/proquest218338639
2. "Critical Voices on the World Bank and IMF." Bretton Woods Project. Web.
<https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2020/05/special-drawing-rights/>
3. Driscoll, David. "The IMF and the World Bank How Do They Differ?" *International Monetary Fund*. Web.
<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/exrp/differ/differ.htm>
4. Lee, Danielle. "World Bank Organization Structure." bizfluent, market research. Web.
<https://bizfluent.com/info-7747967-world-bank-organization-structure.html>
5. Perkins, John. *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*. 2004.
6. "The World Bank." *Global Policy Reform*. Web.
<https://www.globalpolicy.org/home.html>
7. "Youth and the World Bank Group." *The World Bank*. Web.
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/youth>