

Incorporating SDGs + Taking Action into the Classroom

“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” ~Margaret Mead

Consider:

How can your students actively engage with the SDGs and join the global community striving to reach these goals?
How can you encourage and guide your students to make positive changes in their local and global communities?
What skills, knowledge, and attitudes will your students develop as a result of their take-action initiatives?

Note for elementary educators: Some of the resources in this hyperdoc are for older audiences. They can be modified, used for inspiration and guidance, and/or shared with colleagues.

Learning & Teaching about the SDGs

The Global Goals for sustainable development are “17 goals to transform our world.” In creating the list of goals, the U.N. is inspiring people - especially students - around the world to *take action* to solve the world’s most urgent problems.

Information about the SDGs

- [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#), United Nations
- [About the Sustainable Development Goals](#), United Nations
- [Sustainable Development Goals](#), SDG Knowledge Platform
- [Sustainable Development Goals](#), United Nations Development Programme
- [The 17 Goals](#), The Global Goals for Sustainable Development
- [U.S. National Statistics for the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- [SDGs in Action app](#)
- [The Planet and the 17 Goals](#) comic
- [SDGs Sketchnote Project](#) (also available as [Google slides](#))
- [GlobalGoalscast](#) - podcast focused on SDGs

Videos to Introduce the SDGs

- [‘We the People’ for The Global Goals](#) (3 minutes)
- [Global Voices - What’s so different about the Global Goals?](#) (3.5 minutes)

Taking Action - Locally & Globally - to Address the SDGs

Taking Action includes small action items, enormous action items, and everything in between. Remember that small steps are also an important part of effectively incorporating *Taking Action* into the classroom and school community.

Small Action Steps to Address the SDGs

- [7 Ways You Can Change the World](#), Huffington Post
- [The Lazy Person’s Guide to Saving the World](#), United Nations
- [170 Daily Actions to Transform Our World](#), The Perception Change Project, UN Geneva. [List of 170 Actions](#)
- [Mother Earth Project](#) - scroll down for a list of sustainability actions
- [UNICEF Kid Power Ups](#) - kids get active and make an impact
- [How to Save the World in Six Seconds](#) - #littlexlittle youth action campaign (1.5 minutes)
- [The Activist Diaries](#)

Your students can connect classroom learning & personal passions to existing global communities of action-oriented global citizens.

Action Projects You and Your Students Can Join

- [SDG Action Campaign](#), United Nations
- [Do Something](#) - Teaching Tolerance

- [No Point Going Half Way](#) (2.5 minutes)
- [The World's Largest Lesson](#) (3 minutes)
- [World's Largest Lesson - Just a Kid](#) (2 minutes)
- [The Road to the SDGs: A discussion with students](#) (6.5 minutes)
- [The Global Goals for Sustainable Development: Resources](#), for videos click on "Films & Pictures"
- [GlobalGoalsUN](#) channel on Vimeo
- [What are the universal human rights?](#) TEDEd video (5 minutes)
- [SDG Academy](#) - free educational resources from the world's leading experts on sustainable development - [SDG Academy Library](#)
- [100+ TED Talks categorized by SDG](#)

Articles and Videos about Teaching the SDGs

- [Nations United: Urgent Solutions for Urgent Times](#) (2020) United Nations
- [Earth Owner's Manual: 17 Things Young Adults Should be Studying](#), Getting Smart
- [How to Teach the U.N. Development Goals, and Why](#), British Council
- [Teaching Grade School Students How to Make Global Impact](#), Edutopia (3.5 minutes)
- [Helping Students Develop Empathy instead of Sympathy](#), Teaching Tolerance
- [4 Reasons to Teach the Sustainable Development Goals](#), Participate Learning
- [Social Good in the Classroom: What Impact Will You Make?](#) Participate Learning
- [7 Ways the SDGs are Important in a Classroom](#), Participate Learning

Lessons and Resources for Teaching the SDGs

- [World's Largest Lesson](#), lesson plans and materials for teaching the SDGs (from the UN, UNICEF, and UNESCO)
- [Global Schools Program](#) - resources for educators (lesson plans for each grade level) and resources for students
- [Projects Organized by UN Sustainable Development Goal](#), Asia Society's Center for Global Education
- [Sustainable Development Goals - Resources for educators](#), UNESCO
- [SDG Resources for Educators - Partnerships for the Goals](#), UNESCO
- [Education for Sustainable Development Goals: Learning Objectives](#), suggested topics and learning approaches, UNESCO

- [Students Rebuild](#) - current project is the [Hunger Challenge](#)
- [National Geographic Innovation Challenges](#) - current project is Ocean Plastic Innovation Challenge
- [Smithsonian Science for the Global Goals](#), community research guides focus on sustainable actions that are student-defined and implemented
- [My World 360: Empowering the Next Generation of SDG Journalists](#) from Digital Promise Global, supports youth worldwide to create 360° media as a way to share their perspectives and advance positive action toward the SDGs
- [Voices of Youth - Youth Advocacy Guide](#)
- [Global Goals Jam](#), an opportunity for students to "Design 2030" - happens in Sept., make plans for next year now!
- [The World Children's Program](#), for the rights of the child
- [Earth Charter Around the World](#), Earth Charter Initiative
- [Global Citizen](#), initiatives that address multiple issues
- [World Water Day](#), UN - March
- [Global Youth Service Day](#), Youth Service America - April
- [Earth Day Groceries Project](#) - April
- [Act Now Climate Action Campaign](#), United Nations
- [Zero Hour](#), climate change movement founded by 16 year old
- [Internet Users are Getting Their Hands Dirty with the #Trashtag Challenge](#)
- [Act Now](#)

Global Collaboration Projects that Address the SDGs

- [GoalsProject](#), starting again January 2021
- [Global Nomads Group's Student to World](#) program, 7-12 grade curriculum for "Ocean Health" and "Art in Action" (there's a fee, but there's also financial assistance available)
- [Global Goals on The Wonderment](#), a project of [Kidnected World](#) - local actions, can be done in collaboration with global partners
- [iEARN \(International Education and Research Network\) projects](#)
- [The Climate Action Project](#), four week project in October
- [Voices for the Global Goals](#) | How would you make the goals famous? (Flipgrid)

Your students can create and implement their own *Take Action* program to address local or global issue.

- [UNICEF and the Sustainable Development Goals](#) - resources include issue briefs on specific SDGs, [The World We Want](#) (child-friendly overview of the SDGs), [Mapping the SDGs and the Rights of the Child](#), and a [collection of videos](#)
- [Teach SDG: Connect to the SDGs through resources](#) - assets, projects, events, and teacher connections
- [The Sustainable Development goals: A guide for teachers](#) from Oxfam Education - includes Learn-Think-Act framework, case study examples, ideas for integrating in specific subject areas, and suggested methodologies for teaching the SDGs
- [Resources guides for various SDG topics](#), Oxfam Education
- [Sustainable Foundations: A Guide for Teaching the Sustainable Development Goals](#), lessons with big questions, resources, and case studies, Manitoba Council for International Cooperation
- [Kiva U](#) and [Kiva Global Impact Game](#) and [Kiva curriculum](#)
- [Resources to Support the SDGs](#), Global Learning Programme
- [Participate's community](#) of SDG resources and educators
- [West-Windsor Plains Middle School Global Challenge](#), project ideas, resources, and rubrics
- [SIMA Classroom](#), subscription service for “bringing the world to your classroom” - provides lesson plans, playlists, and virtual exchange opportunities
- [Gaia Education for Sustainable Development](#)
- [Go Goals!](#) Board game for children
- [Games for Sustainability](#) - teaching, learning and practicing sustainability through serious games
- [Infographics from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs](#)
- [SDGs in Spanish](#)
- [Equipping Young Leaders to Take on the 32 Most Important Issues of Our Time](#), Getting Smart
- [Projects Organized by UN Sustainable Development Goal](#), Asia Society's Center for Global Education
- [Case Studies from World Savvy](#) - several address SDG issues
- [The Human Development Index](#) - statistics on dimensions of human development

Individual Lesson Plans

Resources for You & Your Students to Design Your Own Action Project

- [Youth Guide to the Global Goals](#), project ideas for each goal from Youth Service America
- [SDG Project Planning Toolkit](#), Participate Learning
- [Do Something](#) - list of taking action ideas from Teaching Tolerance
- [Kids Go Global](#), issue resources, media resources and a platform for sharing work
- [Girl Scouts: Global Action 2020](#), activity guide for daisies, brownies, and juniors
- [TakingITGlobal](#), online community for young people ([and educators](#)) with tools and resources for taking action
- [Inspire Citizens: 17 Skills for 17 Goals](#) - tools and ideas for implementing community-based learning and student-centered solutions
- [Design for Change](#), four-step framework to achieve the I Can mindset
- [Make It Happen: Social Action Toolkit](#), Association of Citizenship Teaching in partnership with the National Citizen Service Trust
- [Your America: Democracy's Local Heroes](#) - frameworks, lessons and tools for taking action
- [Our World in Data](#), research and data to make progress against the world's largest problems
- [Encouraging Students to Take Action](#), Teaching Channel video (9.5 minutes)
- [Social Entrepreneurship](#) course
- [Rock Your World](#)
- [What are effective ways to take action in the digital age?](#)
- [American Association for the Advancement of Science](#) action toolkit
- MIT [SOLVE](#) - funding and programing for solving global challenges
- [SDG Planning Calendar](#)

Inspiring Examples of Taking Action

- [The Climate Optimist](#)
- [A Small Act documentary trailer](#), story of Hilde Back Education Fund Group (video, 3.5 minutes)
- [OpenIDEO](#), social innovation powered by design thinking
- [Ashoka Fellows](#) - innovators for the public
- [MacArthur Fellows](#) - creative people from all disciplines making the world a better place
- [A Guerilla Gardener in South Central LA | Ron Finley](#) (video, 11 minutes)
- [Students Take Action in the Community](#), Edutopia article about NYC service initiative

- [Guide for Discussions on the SDGs](#), free download from Parlay - if you use the Parlay platform, [they also have these as roundtables](#)
- [Hunger Project](#) - PBL Unit
- [Why is it important to educate girls?](#) PBS NewsHour Extra, grades 7-12 lesson plan
- [Climate change as a scientific theory](#), PBS NewsHour Extra, grades 9-12 lesson plan
- [World Food Day. Teaching the Power of School Meals](#), PBS NewsHour Extra, grades 7-10 lesson plan
- [What the United Nations means today](#), PBS NewsHour Extra, grades 9-12 lesson plan
- [Earth School from TEDEd](#)
- [Kahoot games from United Nations](#)

Texts

- [Frieda Makes a Difference](#) (picture book about SDG's and taking action)
- [SDG Reading List](#), Participate Learning
- [Recommended Books for Teaching the UN SDGs](#), San Diego State University
- [Best Inquiry Picture Books: Sustainable Development Goals Round Up](#)
- [SDG Book Club](#)
- [This UN book club is teaching children about the SDGs](#)
- [Comics Uniting Nations](#), comics and videos that make the SDGs accessible to the citizens of the world - (they have previously hosted comic contests for students, too!)
- [Children's Primers Court the Littlest Radicals](#), children's books that promote activism, *NYTimes*
- ["What I Have Learned So Far."](#) poem by Mary Oliver
- [City Green](#) by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan, picture book about environment and community
- [Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table](#) by Jacqueline Briggs Martin
- [One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia](#) picture book by Miranda Paul - [One Plastic Bag teaching resources](#)
- [Kids United](#) - "On Ecrit Sur Les Murs." music video
- [#WhatIReallyWant](#) music video - what I really, really want is gender equality
- [World Poetry Day: Poetry for Social Change](#), *Huffington Post*
- [Why Difference Making is the New Superpower](#)

- [I Love Teaching so Much . . . I Quit | Tawana Weicker | TEDxTryon](#) (17 minutes)
- [What It Takes to Move the World: 5 Traits of Moral Leaders](#), Acumen Ideas
- [The '3.5% rule': How a small minority can change the world](#), BBC FutureNow article
- [Changing the Narrative](#), Acumen Ideas
- [Thinking Outside the Girls](#), Acumen Ideas
- Cheryl Grau (FTGC 2019-2020)'s [resource collection](#) of take action projects

Inspiring Examples of Taking Action - Young People

- [32 Young Activists Who Are Changing the World](#)
- [12 kids who are changing their communities and our world](#)
- [These 10 young activists](#)
- [These 9 Badass Youth Activists are Changing the World](#), Global Citizen
- [15-year-old Kelvin Doe Wows M.I.T.](#) video from THNKR (10 minutes)
- [Greta Thunberg's TED Talk](#) (9 minutes) and her [Twitter handle](#).
- [Rang-tan: the story of dirty palm oil](#) and [children's responses](#), Greenpeace International
- [Journalism as action](#)
- TEDx video [Youth Changemakers: Present Not Future Leaders](#) Pooja Chandrashekar

Inspiring Examples of Taking Action - Art Projects

- [How art creates social change in 5 TED Talks](#)
- [15 public art projects that boldly advocate for social justice](#)
- [My Wish: Use art to turn the world inside out](#), TED Talk by street artist JR (24 minutes) - [One year of turning the world inside out](#) (6 minutes)

Taking Action Contests

- [Students Rebuild](#) (changemaking PSA contest)

Stay up-to-date on teaching the SDGs!

Social Media: @GlobalGoalsUN, @TeachSDGs

Hashtags: #GlobalGoals, #TeachSDGs, #GoalsProject

[Global Goals Week](#), September