

Global Citizenship: What is rich?

Intention: Campers will gain an awareness of rich and poor.

Activity: This quote for everyone to see:

"Only when the last tree has died and the last river been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realise that we cannot eat money."

The quote is attributed to the Native American Cree as a comment on the environment and materialism.

Discuss its meaning and implications with the campers.

Divide the flip chart in half vertically and write 'Rich' one side and 'Poor' the other.

Ask campers their ideas on these two terms. Initially they will probably focus on money and material wealth, but broaden the discussion to ensure that all aspects of the terms rich and poor are discussed: richness in terms of friends, happiness, culture or seeing a beautiful view, for instance. 'Poor' should include poverty of experiences or opportunities, such as never going out or doing anything exciting, and having a polluted environment.

Talk about how the campers, and many people throughout the world, are both rich and poor. For instance, in this country a family may have a car but one of them may also have asthma, whereas in Bhutan, Asia, a family may not have a car but they do have a beautiful, clean environment. Ask campers to record how they are each rich and poor as pictures for arts & crafts project.

Outcome: That campers begin to understand ways in which they are 'rich' and 'poor' and that there is value in things apart from money and materialism.