

4.3 TAKING ACTION—THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

How do the Sustainable Development Goals work to achieve a better, more sustainable future for all people and the world by 2030?

C3 Framework Indicator	<p>D2.Civ.6.3-5. Describe ways in which people benefit from and are challenged by working together, including through government, workplaces, voluntary organizations, and families</p> <p>D4.6.3-5. Draw on disciplinary concepts to explain the challenges people have faced and opportunities they have created, in addressing local, regional, and global problems at various times and places.</p>	
Staging the Compelling Question	Students will learn about the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They will examine how Germany is working to address the goals and, on a personal level, explore ways they can each work toward a more sustainable world.	
Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3
What are the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?	What can we do as individuals to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?	What is Germany doing to meet the Sustainable Development Goals?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
Assign each student (or pair) a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and ask each student or pair to design a poster sharing what they have learned.	After viewing the video, <i>World's Largest Lesson</i> , the class will discuss how it is possible for one person to make a substantial change for the better.	Students will learn what Germany is doing to meet the SDGs.
Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources
<p>Source A: Handout 4.3.1</p> <p>Source B: <i>Communications Materials—United Nations Sustainable Development</i></p> <p>Source C: <i>Sustainable Development</i></p>	<p>Source A: Handout 4.3.2</p> <p>Source B: <i>World's Largest Lesson – Emma Watson Introduction</i></p>	<p>Source A: Handout 4.3.3</p> <p>Source B: <i>Die Glorreichen 17 - Ziele nachhaltiger Entwicklung</i></p>
Summative Performance Task	<p>Argument: Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from historical or contemporary sources, while acknowledging competing views.</p> <p>Extension: Explore what the United States is doing to meet the 17 SDGs.</p>	
Taking Informed Action	<p>Understand: We all play a role in creating a sustainable future.</p> <p>Assess: How are individuals and groups in your community working to meet the SDGs?</p> <p>Act: Reach out to determine how you and your classmates can help to meet the SDGs in your community.</p>	

❓ COMPELLING QUESTION

- How do the Sustainable Development Goals work to achieve a better, more sustainable future for all people and the world by 2030?

INQUIRY OVERVIEW

Students will learn about the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They will examine how Germany is working to address the goals and, on a personal level, explore the ways they can each work toward a more sustainable world.

TEACHER BACKGROUND

On 1 January 2016, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development—adopted by world leaders in September 2015 at an historic United Nations (UN) Summit—officially came into force. Over the next fifteen years, with these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries will mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

The SDGs build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new Goals are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and that address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.



- Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.
- For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies.
- Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. To this end, there must be promotion of sustainable, inclusive, and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.¹

Germany's 2016 National Sustainable Development Strategy is aligned with the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals and focuses more on global responsibility. The Cabinet adopted the new strategy on 11 January 2017.

¹ Sustainable Development Goals. (2019). Official website of the United Nations.org, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.

With the 2030 Agenda, the world acknowledged its interdependence. Worldwide sustainable development can only be achieved if every state takes steps that benefit not only its own nation, but the entire global community. It calls for measures to be taken worldwide at the national level that advance the global public good and structural frameworks for sustainable development. An extensive transformation will be needed in all aspects of life if the 2030 Agenda is to be implemented.

The 2016 edition of Germany's National Sustainable Development Strategy pays more attention to the impacts of our actions beyond national borders. This applies, for instance, to activities to fight poverty and hunger, as well as efforts to protect the global environment and climate, German entrepreneurial activities, respect for and realization of internationally accepted human rights standards (especially in global value and supply chains), worldwide efforts to combat illegal financial flows and money laundering, and activities to promote transparent and independent certification systems.²

 **TIME:** Two to three 45-minute classes

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (**Handout 4.3.1**)
- Lazy Person's Guide to Saving the World (**Handout 4.3.2**)
- The Magnificent 17 (**Handout 4.3.3**)
- Arizona State University. (2021, January 19). *Teacher Resources*. Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions. <https://sustainability-innovation.asu.edu/sustainabilitysolutions/programs/teachersacademy/teacher-resources/>.
- Die Bundesregierung. (2021). *Footer-Bereich*. Die Glorreichen 17 – Ziele nachhaltiger Entwicklung. <https://www.dieglorreichen17.de/g17-de>.
- Sustainable Development Goals. (n.d.). *U.S. National Statistics for the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved October 28, 2021, from <https://sdg.data.gov/>.
- The Global Goals. (2017, May 10). *World's Largest Lesson—Emma Watson Introduction | Global Goals*. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx0AVjtdq_Q. (5:16)
- United Nations. (n.d.). *Communications materials—United Nations Sustainable Development*. United Nations. Retrieved October 28, 2021, from <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>.
- United Nations. (n.d.). *THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development*. United Nations. Retrieved October 28, 2021, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.



INTRODUCTORY QUESTION

View the PowerPoint Think Sustainability. As a class, discuss the posed questions.

- Arizona State University. (2021, January 19). *Teacher Resources*. Rob and Melani Walton Sustainability Solutions. <https://sustainability-innovation.asu.edu/sustainabilitysolutions/programs/teachersacademy/teacher-resources/>.

Note: The PowerPoint link is located under Activities—Bell Ringers. Click on the link Slides: Think Sustainability. For students to consider as they think about sustainability, the ten slides in this PowerPoint pose questions such as: Where does the energy you use come from? How does water become polluted? How does air quality affect your health?

² Report of the German Federal Government to the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2016. (2016, July 12). Official website of the German Federal Government, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10686HLPF-Bericht_final_EN.pdf.

❓ SUPPORTING QUESTION 1

What are the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

► Formative Performance Task

Prior to the completion of this task, post icons* of the 17 goals around the classroom.

Assign each student a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) as found on the United Nations website. Since there are only 17 goals, you may need to pair students.

By clicking on the goal icon, students can access information about the goal. Students should complete **Handout 4.3.1** for the assigned SDG and design a poster sharing what they have learned.

Post the completed posters with the respective icon. Divide the class into two groups for a gallery walk. Half the students stand next to their respective posters as the other half walk around. Encourage students to ask questions as they complete the gallery walk. The presenters should be prepared to answer questions.

► Resources

- United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (**Handout 4.3.1**)
- United Nations. (n.d.). *Communications Materials—United Nations Sustainable Development*. United Nations. Retrieved October 28, 2021, from <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>.
- United Nations. (n.d.). *The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development*. United Nations. Retrieved October 28, 2021, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

*Downloadable icons are available at <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/>. Click on download 17 icons (print) in the center of the page.

❓ SUPPORTING QUESTION 2

What can we do as individuals to help meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

► Formative Performance Task

As a class view the video, World's Largest Lesson. Discuss how it is possible for one person to make a substantial change for the better.

Distribute **Handout 4.3.2**, the Lazy Person's Guide to Saving the World. Students should each select a task from the list and design a poster encouraging individuals in their school to work toward sustainability.

► Resources

- Lazy Person's Guide to Saving the World (**Handout 4.3.2**)
- The Global Goals. (2017, May 10). *World's Largest Lesson—Emma Watson Introduction | Global Goals*. YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qx0AVjtdq_Q. (5:16)

❓ SUPPORTING QUESTION 3

What is Germany doing to meet the Sustainable Development Goals?

► Formative Performance Task

Note: The website, *Die Glorreichen 17—The Magnificent 17*, is in German. Students will need to use a browser that will translate the site to English.

Using the same number SDG as they used for **Formative Performance Task 1**, students will learn what Germany is doing to meet the SDGs. On the website, students should first click on the numbered box, and then on the link found at the bottom of the pop-up box to complete **Handout 4.3.3**.

Ask students to share what they have learned.

► Resources

- The Magnificent 17 (**Handout 4.3.3**)
- Die Bundesregierung. (2021). *Footer-Bereich*. Die Glorreichen 17—Ziele nachhaltiger Entwicklung. <https://www.dieglorreichen17.de/g17-de>.

✓ SUMMATIVE PERFORMANCE TASK

How do Sustainable Development Goals work to achieve a better, more sustainable future for all people and the world by 2030?

Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from contemporary sources, while acknowledging competing views.

⊕ EXTENSION (OPTIONAL) TASK

Explore what the United States is doing to meet the 17 SDGs on the Sustainable Development Goals website. Examine each of the 17 SDGs and then focus on the SDG you investigated in **Formative Performance Tasks 1 and 3**. Does anything surprise you? Concern you?

► Resource

- Sustainable Development Goals. (n.d.). *U.S. National Statistics for the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved October 28, 2021, from <https://sdg.data.gov/>.

★ TAKING INFORMED ACTION

Understand: We all play a role in creating a sustainable future.

Assess: How are individuals and groups in your community working to meet the SDGs?

Act: Reach out to determine how you and your classmates can help to meet the SDGs in your community.

CONCEPTS LIST

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Sustainability
- United Nations