

Makutano Junction

A Kenyan TV soap opera



Activity

Helping you develop the **Global Dimension** across the **curriculum**

4 Living with HIV/AIDS

Activity description

- This activity involves designing a public health message for your peers educating them about HIV/AIDS, using stories of two characters affected by HIV/AIDS in Makutano Junction.

Aims

- To learn about HIV/AIDS: what it means to people living with it, what it means to us, preventing transmission, global context

What you need?

- Supplementary resource sheets: 4.1 HIV/AIDS quiz; HIV/AIDS posters from for example Uganda, South Africa, Ghana; role cards for Red and Margaret
- Makutano Junction Series 3, Episode 8
- Possibly clips from UK Soaps dealing with HIV/AIDS for example EastEnders

- Explore how messages are transmitted, and how different messages are appropriate in different contexts
- To compare/explore the issues to do with HIV/AIDS in Kenya and in the UK

Curriculum links

- PSHE Wellbeing KS3/4
 - 1.2 Healthy lifestyles 1 & 2
 - 1.3 Risk 1 & 2
 - 1.5 Diversity 2
- Drama
- ICT if you develop the idea into producing radio/video messages

Further details of how this activity meets requirements of the new Secondary Curriculum appear on the Curriculum Links table. For subjects outside the statutory curriculum, check your own exam board for their requirements. For general information on the Global Dimension across the curriculum, see www.globaldimension.org.uk

GLOBAL DIMENSION

Underlying the concept of a global dimension to the curriculum are **eight key concepts**. The following five are covered by this activity:



Citizenship – gaining the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to become informed, active and responsible global citizens.



Social Justice – understanding the importance of social justice as an element in both sustainable development and the improved welfare of all people.



Diversity – understanding and respecting differences and relating these to our common humanity.



Interdependence – understanding how people, places and environments are all inextricably interrelated and that events have repercussions on a global scale.



Human Rights – knowing about human rights and understanding their breadth and universality.

The other three key concepts which can be explored using other Makutano Junction activities are :

Values and Perceptions

Sustainable Development

Conflict Resolution

Find out more: www.globaldimension.org.uk

Top Tips

- Encourage students to realise that HIV/AIDS is an issue in the UK as well as in Africa, with an estimated 73,000 people (0.2% of the population) living with HIV and recent annual increases in new infections
- Compulsory weekly HIV/AIDS lessons in Kenyan schools is helping to bring down the HIV infection rate in recent years

What you do

1 Watch Makutano Junction, Series 3, Episode 8 which looks at the issue of HIV/AIDS.

2 In small groups/ pairs discuss your reactions. Think about then discuss as a class:

- a) what did you find realistic; was there anything you think was unrealistic in terms of the characters/ storyline?
- b) what messages did it successfully get across?
- c) What did you learn about HIV/AIDS?

Optional - a period for own research on HIV/AIDS in UK and in Kenya – either going away and doing it, or in class via the internet.

3 In pairs, do the True/False quiz to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. Discuss any answers that surprise the class.

4 In your groups take either the character of Margaret or Red and look at the role card for your character.

Think about and write down:

- The decisions Red or Margaret made that affected their health
- Who influenced them both positively and negatively in those decisions?
- Is there anything they could have done differently in their situations – at any point?

They both got into trouble in different ways – Red by putting herself at risk by having unprotected sex; and Margaret by not following the prescribed anti-retroviral (ARV) medication. How could they have avoided that situation?

5 Design a poster/ display that might get this message across to one or both of them.

6 Display these to the whole class and discuss.

7 Think about how the issue of HIV/AIDS is relevant to your life. Brainstorm any education messages you know or remember about HIV/AIDS. Talk about any differences between how HIV/AIDS affects you and how it affects characters in MJ.

Variations

- Make a radio message/ TV advert instead. Try and get hold of the HIV/AIDS awareness advert from the 1980s in the UK – lilies falling onto a grave. How effective is that message? What about the way it was portrayed in East Enders (a long time ago now!) Is there any current UK/ Northern Soap tackling the issue?
- Role play the scene with Red at the pre HIV test counselling
- Hot seat Margaret about how she feels about living with HIV/AIDS

Follow-up/ Research questions

- Research the connections between HIV/AIDS and poverty. Why do more poor people die of AIDS, and why do more rich people with HIV live with it for longer?
- Who has access to anti-retroviral drugs and who doesn't? What role do pharmaceutical companies play in access to drugs? What role do national governments play?
- Are men and women equally affected by HIV/AIDS? Do they play the same or different roles both in the transmission of the disease, and the prevention of transmission?
- Who has made an impact on the global AIDS crisis? What is the role of individuals? How has Thabo Mbeki's position on HIV/AIDS affected the situation in South Africa? How has Lucky (South African HIV positive campaigner) influenced the situation. What impact did Nelson Mandela admitting that his son had died of an AIDS related illness have? How can you make a difference?
- What about children – how are children affected by HIV/AIDS in Kenya and in the UK?

Useful resources

For further film footage and activities, visit TogetherTV's website and view some of the short (1–3 minute) films of stories of people living with HIV/AIDS, www.togethertv.org/issues-hiv aids.html, or use the Get Reel DVD of films and activities available free from Christian Aid. Email request, with full address to info@together.org.

For further background information about AIDS see link below. Pages 2, 3 and 8 are particularly relevant to this resource.

http://www.togethertv.org/downloads/english/02_HIV_living_positive.pdf
HIV Living Positive

www.avert.org/aids-uk.htm

www.avert.org/aids-schools.htm



TAKE ACTION

- Get involved in raising awareness about the global implication of HIV/AIDS, perhaps around World Aids Day.
- Find out about and wear a red ribbon
- Find out about HIV/AIDS in your local area
- Volunteer with an organisation supporting people living with HIV/AIDS in your area