

# MONEY LITE BITE ACTIVITY

## ‘Share the Wealth’

**Resources you will need / preparation:** 2 signs on either side of the room, one says ‘North’ the other says ‘South’ (referring to the wealthier countries of the Northern hemisphere and the poorer countries of the Southern hemisphere). Chairs – enough for one per person.

**Time it will take:** 30 – 60 minutes depending on discussion that follows

**Group size and age:** any size, any age

**Purpose:** To think about unequal distribution of wealth throughout the world. Good for visualising and experiencing inequality in a physical way.

### How it works:

- Tell the young people that they represent the entire human population on the planet, and that their chairs represent the entire wealth of the world.
- Ask the young people to arrange their chairs in a circle facing inwards.
- Divide the young people into two groups of unequal size – one with around 20% of the young people, the other with around 80% of the young people.
- Ask the group with 80% to take a chair each and go and sit together underneath the ‘South’ sign. Ask the group with 20% to take a chair each and go and sit together underneath the ‘North’ sign. They now represent the fact that 80% of the world’s population live in the poorer countries in the Southern hemisphere, and 20% of the world’s population live in the richer countries of the Northern hemisphere.
- Now tell the group that actually the wealth (the chairs) isn’t actually distributed as fairly as this. The North group should actually have 80% of the wealth (the chairs), and the South group should have only 20% of the wealth (the chairs).
- Calculate how many chairs the South group must take over to the North group. Now ask the ‘Southern’ and ‘Northern’ groups to sit down on the chairs available under their signs.
- The wealth (chairs) in the South must somehow support the whole Southern group of young people (population of the South) – with no-one touching the floor!
- While the Southern group are trying to balance on their limited chairs ask them how they feel. They may say ‘squashed’, ‘uncomfortable’ or ‘frustrated’.
- Encourage the Northern group to stretch out and get comfortable. Ask them how they feel. They may say lucky, comfortable, smug or guilty
- Once you feel the point has been made ask the young people to make them-selves comfortable again.
- Once everyone is sitting comfortably on a seat tell them the exercise is not over. Note what the people from the South did when you said to make them-selves comfortable – some will have taken a chair back to the South corner, others will have simply gone and sat down in the North where the chairs were.
- Ask the young people what these actions could represent in actual global movement? This could be migration of people from poorer to richer countries, or people working in wealthy countries and sending money home.

### Adaptations:

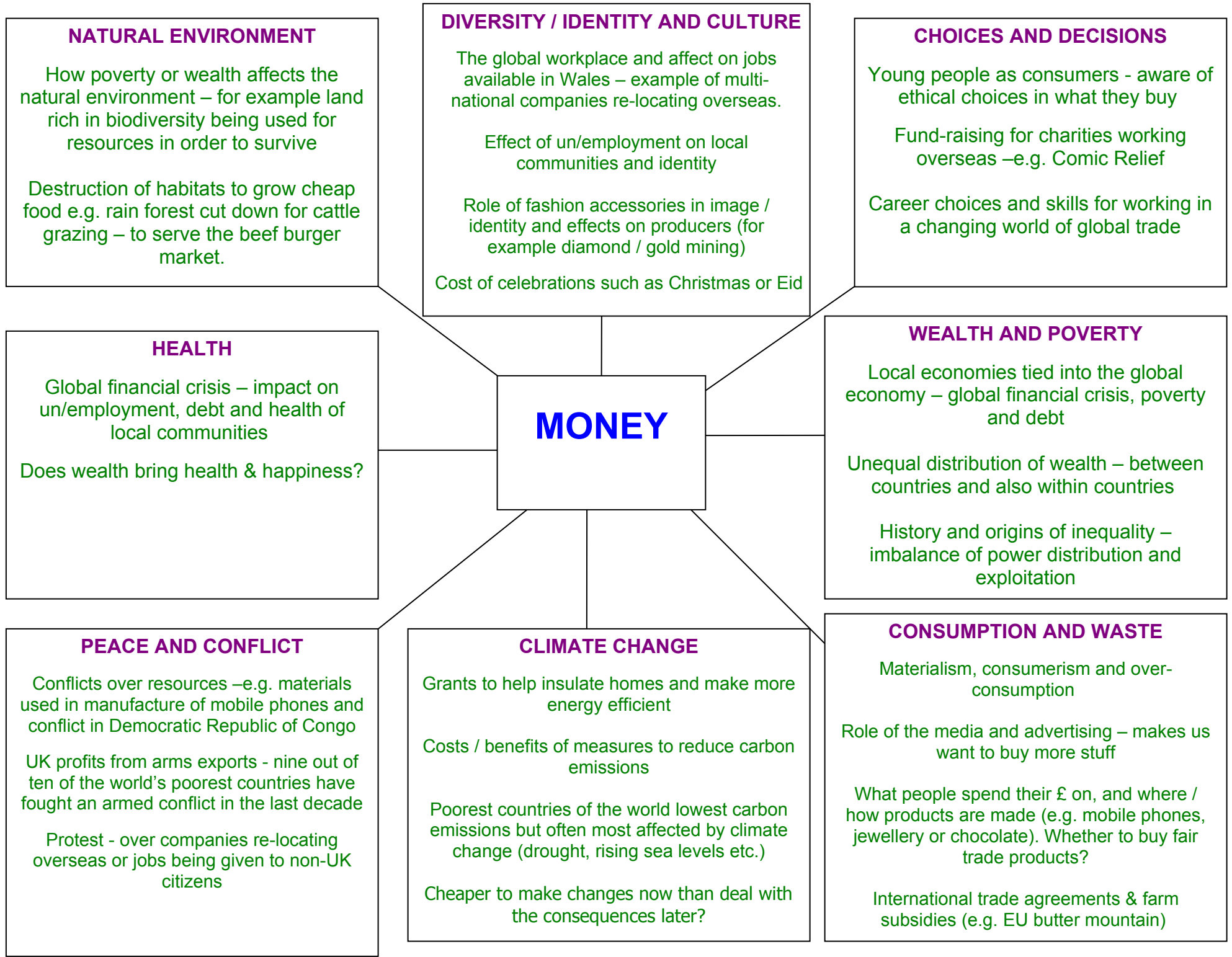
The ESDGC dimensions to money can also be explored through everyday items such as mobile phones (where components come from, how to re-use / re-cycle mobile phones, consumer culture – wanting the latest mobile phone, impact on communication in isolated rural communities where there are no land-lines), or jewellery (gold or diamonds - the film ‘Blood Diamond’ can start debates).

### What next:

There are other more detailed simulation games – where young people take on different roles (simulate) and experience inequalities in a role play scenario. Several are listed in the Support and Resources section of the full Toolkit.

### Useful Information:

Ethical consumer magazine [www.ethicalconsumer.org](http://www.ethicalconsumer.org). May/June2009 issue on ‘Broken banking’  
‘80:20 Development in an Unequal World’. Film – ‘Blood Diamond’. Youth Topics - ‘Consumerism’, ‘Debt’ & ‘Poverty’



### NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

How poverty or wealth affects the natural environment – for example land rich in biodiversity being used for resources in order to survive

Destruction of habitats to grow cheap food e.g. rain forest cut down for cattle grazing – to serve the beef burger market.

### DIVERSITY / IDENTITY AND CULTURE

The global workplace and affect on jobs available in Wales – example of multi-national companies re-locating overseas.

Effect of un/employment on local communities and identity

Role of fashion accessories in image / identity and effects on producers (for example diamond / gold mining)

Cost of celebrations such as Christmas or Eid

### CHOICES AND DECISIONS

Young people as consumers - aware of ethical choices in what they buy

Fund-raising for charities working overseas –e.g. Comic Relief

Career choices and skills for working in a changing world of global trade

### HEALTH

Global financial crisis – impact on un/employment, debt and health of local communities

Does wealth bring health & happiness?

## MONEY

### WEALTH AND POVERTY

Local economies tied into the global economy – global financial crisis, poverty and debt

Unequal distribution of wealth – between countries and also within countries

History and origins of inequality – imbalance of power distribution and exploitation

### PEACE AND CONFLICT

Conflicts over resources –e.g. materials used in manufacture of mobile phones and conflict in Democratic Republic of Congo

UK profits from arms exports - nine out of ten of the world's poorest countries have fought an armed conflict in the last decade

Protest - over companies re-locating overseas or jobs being given to non-UK citizens

### CLIMATE CHANGE

Grants to help insulate homes and make more energy efficient

Costs / benefits of measures to reduce carbon emissions

Poorest countries of the world lowest carbon emissions but often most affected by climate change (drought, rising sea levels etc.)

Cheaper to make changes now than deal with the consequences later?

### CONSUMPTION AND WASTE

Materialism, consumerism and over-consumption

Role of the media and advertising – makes us want to buy more stuff

What people spend their £ on, and where / how products are made (e.g. mobile phones, jewellery or chocolate). Whether to buy fair trade products?

International trade agreements & farm subsidies (e.g. EU butter mountain)