



TEACHER GUIDE

GAPMINDER®

The Gapminder Test

(using paper handouts)

In this exercise, students answer 13 fact questions. The answers to the questions introduce them to basic global facts that they rarely see in the media or in school books. These facts are vital to be able to understand global issues such as education, healthcare, finance and sustainable development.

Step 1 (5 min)

Each student does the Gapminder Test.



Step 2 (15 min)

Students compare their answers in small groups.



Step 3 (20 min)

The whole class is told the correct answers and discuss what surprised them and why.



Ages: Young to adult learners

Requirements: One copy per student of the Gapminder Test

Preparation time: 10 minutes

Exercise duration: Around 40 minutes

Subjects: Geography, education, equality, sustainability, economics, public health



About

The Gapminder Test

The test consists of 13 closed questions with three possible answers (12 difficult questions and a simple one). Even though the questions are about basic global facts, most people get the answers wrong. The questions serve as a good way of helping people recognize that their worldview probably isn't as accurate as they thought.

Goal of the exercise

Introduce the class to basic global facts that they rarely see in the media and education. These facts are vital to be able to understand global issues such as education, healthcare, finance and sustainable development.

Preparation

- Take the Gapminder test yourself first. You can find it on the front page of our website www.gapminder.org. Do it as many times as needed until you get all the answers right.
- Watch this video of Ola Rosling explaining how people in 14 countries did when they completed the test in 2017. www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1dvfH3s1Ak
- Read the background information section at the end of this Teacher Guide.
- Print copies of Handout 1 so each student has one.
- Print copies of Handout 2 if you would like the students to check their answers together.

Exercise

Step 1: Each student does the Gapminder Test

- A. Introduce the students to the Gapminder test.
- B. Give the Gapminder test (Handout 1) to every student and give them 5 minutes to answer the questions.

The Gapminder test

Gapminder is an independent foundation based in Sweden which asks people fact-based questions about the world and identifies gaps in knowledge. It fills those knowledge gaps by explaining the world in a way everybody can understand.

Gapminder did a big survey in 2017 using the test questions the students will answer. A total of 12,000 people in 14 rich countries took part. On average, people only got 2 questions out of 12 right (not including the easy question about the earth's temperature). Conclusion: Most people don't seem to know about important global issues.

Step 2: Students compare their answers in small groups.

A. Ask the students to sit in small groups and compare and discuss their answers.

Step 3: The whole class is told the correct answers and discuss what surprised them and why.

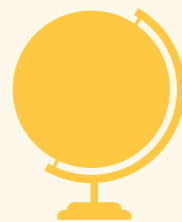
- B. Go through the correct answers question by question. Ask the students to correct their answers while you are explaining. Ask them to mark in the test where they have a correct answer. OR, ask the students to correct their answers together in small groups. In that case, give each group Handout 2. (It might be sensitive to correct the tests together, and you as a teacher know what is best for your class.).
- C. Ask the students to count how many correct answers they have, leaving out the question about the earth's temperature, which is an easy question most people know the answer to.
- D. Comfort the students by reminding them that most people don't know the answers to these questions. Most people have fewer than four correct answers. Out of 12,000 people in 14 countries only one single person answered 11 of the 12 the questions correctly! Not one person got them all right. The main point is that if the students were wrong about most questions, they should not feel bad. Most people get them wrong – even journalists, teachers and politicians!
- E. Ask the students if they were surprised by the answers. What global fact surprised them the most? Discuss with them why it might be so hard to stay up-to-date with what happens in the world.



How did people around the world do?

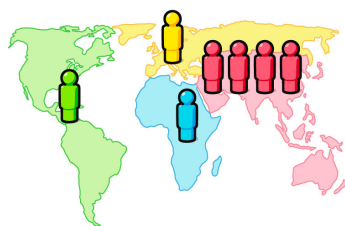
Show the video where Ola Rosling explains the results of the test when it was given to adults across the world in 2017.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1dvfH3s1Ak

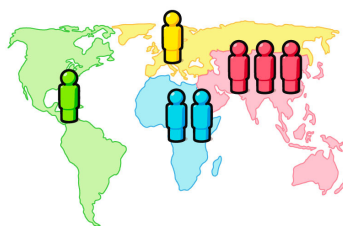


The Gapminder Test 2019

1. In the last 20 years the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, worldwide, has...?
 - A. Almost doubled
 - B. Remained more or less the same
 - C. Almost halved
2. How many of the world's 1-year-old children today have been vaccinated against some disease?
 - A. 80%
 - B. 50%
 - C. 20%
3. How did the number of deaths per year from natural disasters change over the last hundred years?
 - A. More than doubled
 - B. Remained more or less the same
 - C. Decreased to less than half
4. Where does the majority of the world population live?
 - A. Low-income countries
 - B. Middle-income countries
 - C. High-income countries
5. Worldwide, 30-year-old men have spent 10 years in school, on average. How many years have women of the same age spent in school?
 - A. 9 years
 - B. 6 years
 - C. 3 years
6. There are roughly seven billion people in the world today. Which map shows best where they live? (Each figure represents 1 billion people.)



A.



B.

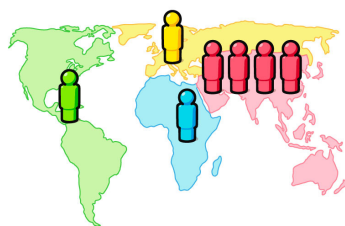


C.

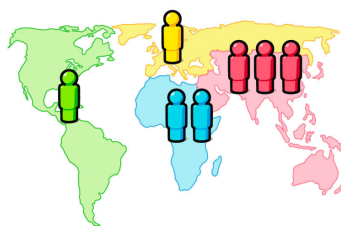
7. The United Nations predicts that by 2100 the world population will have increased by another 4 billion people. What is the main reason?
- A. There will be more children (below age 15)
 - B. There will be more adults (age 15 to 74)
 - C. There will be more very old people (above age 75)
8. In all low-income countries across the world today, how many girls finish primary school?
- A. 20%
 - B. 40 %
 - C. 60 %
9. There are two billion children in the world today, aged 0 to 15 years old. How many children will there be in the year 2100, according to the United Nations?
- A. 4 billion
 - B. 3 billion
 - C. 2 billion
10. Global climate experts believe that, over the next 100 years, the average temperature will ...
- A. Get warmer
 - B. Remain stable
 - C. Get colder
11. How many people in the world have some access to electricity?
- A. 20%
 - B. 50%
 - C. 80%
12. What is the life expectancy of the world population?
- A. 50 years
 - B. 60 years
 - C. 70 years
13. In 1996, tigers, giant pandas and black rhinos were listed as endangered. How many of these three species are more critically endangered today?
- A. None of them
 - B. One of them
 - C. Two of them

The Gapminder Test 2019 – ANSWERS

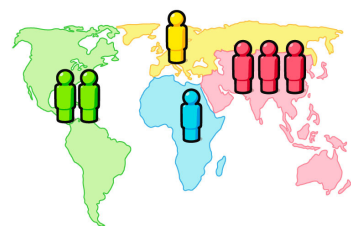
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B.



C.

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Background Information

How did Gapminder start testing people's knowledge?

Hans Rosling started testing his students at Karolinska Institutet, the medical university in Stockholm, Sweden, before they began his course in public health. He wanted to understand what they already knew. He was shocked at how wrong they were about many basic global facts.

He then started asking questions to audiences at his lectures and realized misconceptions about the world were widespread. In 2013, Hans and Gapminder started asking the same questions to a large number of people at lectures and capturing the results. We also started asking the general public through collaboration with polling companies such as Novus.

In 2017, we had our first Gapminder Misconception Study where we asked a set of 13 questions to representative samples of the population in 14 countries.

Where can you find the results from the first Gapminder Misconception Study?

We have a breakdown of all of the results for every question and by country in this document that you are welcome to explore and show to your students:

drive.google.com/file/d/1rp3Q9rVK2eo5jH7y8KKQVaDg4CFswlmz/view

What was the average score of the 12,000 people tested in the 2017 Gapminder Misconception Study?

The average score was 2.2. Only one person managed to get 11 of the questions right. Not even one person got all 12 questions correct.

How should people feel when they answer questions wrong?

It's not about people feeling ashamed or embarrassed. It's about people understanding they were ignorant about their own ignorance. Gapminder wants to trigger feelings of curiosity and humility.

Gapminder claims that people don't have a fact-based worldview. What kind of worldview do they have, and why?

We call the common worldview that makes people score worse than random on our fact-questions an overdramatic worldview. It's dramatic because it's generated from an overconsumption of dramatic news that distorts the world in a systematic way, so it seems more conflict-driven, negative and overcrowded, than it actually is.

Do you want to certify your class?

If you want your students to get a Gapminder certificate to prove they know facts most people don't, ask the students to do the test again online at www.gapminder.org and click on "Take the Gapminder Test" on the website's front page. After they have passed (13 correct answers) they are asked to fill in their name and e-mail and they will get the certificate sent to them.

What tips and strategies do you have for correcting people's overdramatic worldview?

In the book Factfulness written by Hans Rosling, Ola Rosling and Anna Rosling Rönnlund, they identified some instincts that can lead people to have an overdramatic worldview and some rules of thumb which can be used to counter them.

You can view the dramatic instincts here: www.gapminder.org/factfulness/instincts

You can print posters from our website that you can display to show students how to counter their dramatic instincts: www.gapminder.org/factfulness

Additional material

- The book Factfulness (Hans Rosling, Ola Rosling and Anna Rosling Rönnlund) explains the background to the answers in the test and helps identify why we are so wrong about the world and what we can do to counter it.
- You can explore the four Income Levels and how countries have developed over time using Gapminder's tools: www.gapminder.org/tools

We also have videos on our website which can help aid your understanding of the world:

- Videos of our talks, interviews and TV documentaries: www.gapminder.org/videos
- Hans Rosling's short video explainers: www.gapminder.org/answers



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