

Activity ideas 27: Activity 1: The odds

The aim of this activity is to show students the huge difference in safety for woman giving birth around the world.

Hand out five small pieces of paper to each student. Ask them to draw the outline of a woman on each of the pieces of paper. Then they mark one piece of paper as being worth 1 woman, one as being worth 100 women, one as being worth 1,000 women, one as being worth 5,000 women and the final one as being worth 10,000 women. Divide the class into two or three large teams (each team needs at least 8 players).

Show an image of the world map on your smartboard. You are going to read out each statement below. In their teams students have to combine their drawings to recreate the 'odds'. So for example if the odds are '1 in every 2,100 women' than students need to combine two 1,000 women drawings with one 100 women drawing. They then run to the map and point to the correct country. If both are correct, they get one point. The team with the most points at the end wins.

- In India 1 in every 190 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death.
- In the UK 1 in every 6,900 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death.
- In Latvia 1 in every 4,600 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death.
- In South Africa 1 in every 300 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death.
- In Norway 1 in every 14,900 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death.
- In China 1 in every 1,800 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death.
- In the USA 1 in every 1,800 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death.
- In Kenya 1 in every 53 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death.
- In Papua New Guinea 1 in every 120 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death.
- In Brazil 1 in every 780 women has a lifetime risk of maternal death¹.

After the game discuss where the worst and the best statistics are found. Which continents have the worst maternal mortality rate? Why do students think this is?

¹ Statistics taken from Save the Children's 'State of the world's mothers 2015' report which can be accessed here: http://www.savethechildren.org/atf/cf/%7B9def2ebe-10ae-432c-9bd0-df91d2eba74a%7D/SOWM_2015.PDF.

Activity 2: Mums around the world

In this activity students will compare the life of a mother in the UK with that of a mother in another country.

Students can complete this activity alone or in pairs. They will create two poster collages: one depicting the life of a mother in the UK and one depicting the life of a mother in a different country. They can choose one of the countries in the Growing up around the world series or, if they prefer, a different one. They can use images from magazines or the internet to complete their collages, or add in their own photos. Encourage them to think about the differences and similarities between the lives of the two women.

A different version of this activity could be to focus on the fact that in millions of girls around the world are married off at a young age – some as young as 12. Students could also create two posters with one poster showing the life of an average 12 year old in the UK and showing the life of a mother (either in the UK or a young mother in a different country). How different would their lives be?

Activity 3: One child policy

In this activity students will look at China's 'one-child policy' in more detail.

In 1979 China introduced the one-child policy, which is officially called the family planning policy. It was a measure aimed at trying to control the surging population. The ruling Communist Party of China actually announced the end of the decades-long policy in November 2015. Families are now allowed to have two children.

Have students research more information about the one-child policy. Did it work? How was it implemented? What was the impact (watch Kay Kay's clip for example).