Wants Versus Needs
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Teacher Planning Information

Overview: This activity is designed to help students think about the difference between wants and needs, and then to consider how people living in a developing country might consider wants or needs differently.

Objectives: In completing this activity, students should be able to:
- Define what is a ‘want’
- Define what is a “need”
- Distinguish the difference between wants and needs
- Categorize information on a Venn diagram
- Compare and contrast pictures of wants/needs in North America to wants/needs in rural India

Oregon Common Core State Standards for Math:
K.MP.4. Model with Mathematics (Using a Venn diagram to represent the information).

Oregon Geography Content Standard:
K.7. Identify and compare and contrast pictures, maps and globes.

Oregon Economics/Financial Literacy Standard:
K.19. Distinguish between wants and needs.

Grades: Kindergarten

Time: 15 Minutes

Materials:
- Pictures printed out in color (included on pages 8-17). Only one set of pictures needed. Laminate if possible for longevity of use.
- Cut out all pictures.
- Label the back of the picture with the picture title from the top of each page. (Example Titles: Transportation, Jewelry, A Place to Live, etc).
• A large Venn diagram on Poster Board (example included on page 8 however it will need to be blown up onto a poster board size page. The students will be posting the pictures directly onto the Venn diagram. You can draw the Venn diagram with permanent marker by hand or increase the size of the one provided). Again, laminate if possible for longevity of use.
• Easel to hold the poster board Venn diagram (if you don’t have an easel, the Venn Diagram poster can just be laid on the table or posted on a nearby wall).
• Sticky tack (Must be sticky because each group will be posting and removing the pictures from the Venn diagram. Tape will get very messy).
How to do this activity

1. Work through the Background Information Page, answering and discussing the included questions.

2. Follow the directions on the Picture Sort Activity page. It will lead you through the hands-on activity.

3. Using the sticky tack provided at your table, take turns pasting your pictures onto the appropriate section of the big Venn diagram poster board.

4. Answer and discuss the extension questions.

5. If you still have time, work through more of the pictures.

6. Before leaving this station, please take your pictures off of the Venn diagram for the next group to categorize on their own.
Background Information Sheet

Individually, think about the following questions:
   a. In your opinion, what is a want?
   b. In your opinion, what is a need?

Definitions:
*Need*: something you *can’t* live without.
*Want*: something you would like but that you *could* live without.

As a group discuss the differences between wants and needs. Use the definitions above to aid your conversations.

*NOTE*: When discussing wants and needs with other people, it's important to keep in mind that everyone has different opinions on what they want or need. Be respectful of everyone's thoughts, there are no right or wrong answers.

*Helpful Hint*: When considering the difference between wants and needs, think about if you could survive with or without this item?
Picture Sort Activity

1. You will find on the table an assortment of various pictures.

2. Note that the pictures are color-coded. Pictures with black borders are from North America. Pictures with red borders pictures are from rural India or Bangladesh (India).

3. Start with the black-bordered set of pictures.

4. Every person should pick up one black-bordered picture and decide if they think the item in the picture is a want or a need. Use the following sentence frame for support:
   I think this is a ___________ because ____________.
   (want/need)                  (your reason)

5. Share your picture and your thoughts in groups of two.

6. Then share your picture with the entire table group.

7. Move on to the red-bordered pictures.

8. Every person should pick up one black-bordered picture and find the matching red-bordered picture. The pictures are not exact matches, but the contents of the pictures are similar. Example: The following pictures both have playground structures:
9. If you can’t find the match, the picture title (e.g., “Playground”) is written on the back of the picture to help you with the matching.

10. Every person should compare and contrast their set of pictures. Consider the following:
   a. What is similar about the pictures?
   b. What is different about the pictures?
   c. Could I live with the picture from the red set of pictures?
   d. What set of pictures do I prefer to live with?

11. As a group, for each picture, decide if the item is a want, a need, both, or neither, and paste onto the Big Venn Diagram with the sticky tack provided.
Venn Diagram Example

Not able to classify

- Wants
- Needs
- Both
Transportation
Education


(Image from: Gary S. Chapman http://blog.garyschapman.com/2012/08/06/india-once-an-orphan-now-a-teacher-2/)
A Place to Live

(Image from: American Campus Communities https://www.americancampus.com/student-apartments/or/corvallis/7th-street-station)

(Image from: flickriver http://www.flickr.com/photos/firozeshakir/14140605230/)
Candy/Treats


Healthy Meals


Running Water


Sports (for play or entertainment)

Image from: Annie Murphy Paul. (http://anniemurphypaul.com/2014/02/kids-are-playing-organized-sports-less-frequently/)

Friends

