

The lottery

Goal. Students discover that their picture of the world is out of date, and that where they stand in the world is further forward than they think.

AGES

12 and up

FITS

Any subject, tutor time, geography, ethics

TIME

45 minutes, one period

You need. Projector with the site open at A hundred of us. One worksheet per student. Nothing else.

The lesson

5 min

Guess

Before anything is on the screen, each student writes four guesses on the worksheet: how many of a hundred people live on less than \$3 a day, have no electricity, are offline, and how many children die before five.

15 min

Walk

Play A hundred of us on the projector. The class calls out who to pick. Reveal each round. Then Where do you stand: the class guesses where the average family in your town stands, then enter the country and a typical income.

10 min

Meet

Read the four people around you in the line aloud, from the back to the front. Ask: which of these four would you have guessed existed? Which surprised you?

10 min

Move

Each student completes the worksheet: their guesses against the real numbers, and one sentence on the biggest surprise.

5 min

What's working

Show the More about the same hundred chips. Point out that 80 have never flown, then that 1 in 11 children died before five in 1990 and 1 in 27 today. End there.

Questions for the room

1. Why do most people guess the world is poorer than it is? Where does our picture of the world come from?
2. If you stand at place 90 of 100, who are the 89 people behind you? Have you ever met one?
3. Does knowing your place change anything you owe to anyone?

Answers and sources

Real figures on the site (2025 to 2026 data): 10 of 100 live on less than \$3 a day (World Bank), 8 have no electricity (Tracking SDG 7, 2025), 26 are not online (ITU, 2025), 4 of 100 children die before five (UN IGME, 2024). Most classes guess all four too high, except being offline, which they guess too low. Every figure and its source is shown on the site at the stop.

The lottery

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

My four guesses

Of 100 people...

My guess

Real

live on less than \$3 a day

have no electricity at home

are not online

children die before five

The person who surprised me most

Where I think my family stands in the line of 100 (poorest at the back)

1

25

50

75

100

One thing I did not know before today

The lottery

A hundred of us, and where do you stand
Worksheet

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

My four guesses, and the real numbers with their sources

Of 100 people...	Guess	Real	Source
live on less than \$3 a day			
have no electricity			
are not online			
children die before five			

Why was my picture wrong? Write three sentences on where your picture of the world comes from.

Argue it: 'Knowing I stand at place 90 of 100 obliges me to do something.' Agree or disagree, in a paragraph.
