

Poverty

Goal. Students see what poverty looks like in four very different places, and that the people living in it are working, saving and organising.

AGES

15 and up (younger with the 12 to 14 sheet)

FITS

Economics, geography, social studies

TIME

45 minutes, one period

You need. Projector with the site. After the main walk, choose Poverty from Fly another route, or use the link in the footer. Worksheet per student.

The lesson

5 min

Guess

Ask: what does a poor neighbourhood look like? Collect words on the board. Then fly the route and compare with what people there do all day.

15 min

Walk

Fly the route: Dharavi, Kibera, Ambovombe, Rocinha. At each stop read the number, one paragraph and What's working. With a short period, pick three stops.

10 min

Meet

Choose one person on the route. One student reads their story, another reads 'what they would tell you'. Ask what they would want this class to do.

10 min

Move

Worksheet. Then each student writes one move with a date, using the organisation named at a stop.

5 min

What's working

Reread only the What's working paragraphs. Ask: which of these could we copy here?

Questions for the room

1. Dharavi recycles much of Mumbai's plastic and turns over about a billion dollars a year. Is it a slum or an economy?
2. Kibera's new flats may go to people who cannot afford them. Who should decide who gets a home?
3. Cash transfers in Kenya and Brazil cut child deaths and poverty. Why does giving money directly still surprise people?

Answers and sources

Key figures: about 1 million people on 2.4 square kilometres in Dharavi. 185,777 people counted in Kibera in 2019, with estimates up to 250,000. 91% of southern Madagascar below the poverty line (World Bank). 16.4 million Brazilians live in favelas (2022 census); Bolsa Família cut deaths of children under five by a third (Lancet Public Health, 2025). Every figure and its source is shown on the site at the stop.

Poverty

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

The stops

Place	Problem	The number
Dharavi, Mumbai, India	Slum	
Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya	Housing	
Ambovombe, Androy, Madagascar	Hunger	
Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Favela	

Something people on this route do that I did not expect

The person I remember, and what they told us

One thing that is working

Poverty

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

The stops

Place	Problem	The number	What is working
Dharavi, Mumbai, India	Slum		
Kibera, Nairobi, Kenya	Housing		
Ambovombe, Androy, Madagascar	Hunger		
Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Favela		

For two stops, list what people there produce, sell or build. Then rewrite the word 'slum' in your own definition.

GiveDirectly found that a \$500 lump sum led to more businesses and no fewer hours worked. Explain that result to someone who thinks poor people would waste the money.
