

Footprints in global comparison

The participants have familiarized themselves with the concept of the Ecological Footprint and determined their personal footprint. In the next step they will learn how different countries' consumption of resource varies and which issues of equity this raises. In this context, the terms Global North and Global South will be explained. Subsequently, the participants will classify the value of their individual Ecological Footprint globally. The given value of 1.7 gha refers to the biocapacity available worldwide for one planet earth.

Materials

- 1 prepared A3 sheet or 1 poster board
- 10 prepared A4 slips of paper with country names
- 10 prepared A4 slips of paper with the values of the per capita footprint of these countries and the number required earths
- A4-sheets in according number of participants
- possibly world map or laptop with world map

Preparation

- A large circle and a square are drawn side by side on the A3 sheet. Into the circle is written 1 earth and into the square 1.7 gha. For the inscriptions, as many different colours as possible are used.
- The following country names are written on A4 sheets of paper: Germany, Qatar, Spain, France, Rwanda, Eritrea, Bangladesh, India, Ethiopia, Sudan
- On further A4 slips of paper the corresponding per capita footprints and the required earths of these countries are written. The numbers can be taken from material M-7.3. On each A4 sheet of paper the required earths are circled again with a circle and the per capita footprint with a square.
- Each participant writes on an A4 sheet of paper the value of the personal footprint (surrounded by a square) and the number of earths needed (surrounded by a circle).

Implementation

Required time: 20 minutes minimum

Step 1:

- The A3 sheet or poster board is placed in the middle of the room. The A4 sheets of paper with the names of countries are distributed all around the room.
- The A4 sheets with the values for the per capita footprint and the required earths of these countries are on a stack. The moderator repeats and briefly explains the meaning of these numbers.
- The participants should now assign the numerical values to the countries. In doing so, they should jointly agree on a solution. The A4 pieces of paper are placed next to the names of countries.
- This is followed by the solution.

Step 2:

- Participants place the A4 sheet of paper with their personal Ecological Footprint figures and required earths to a country or between two countries with corresponding values. This gives them a direct comparison.

Step 3:

- On a world map the countries are shown and assigned according to the Global North or Global South.

- **Resolution:**

Global North: Germany, Qatar, Spain, France

Global South: Rwanda, Eritrea, Bangladesh, India, Ethiopia, Sudan

This is followed by reflection and discussion.

Possible questions as a basis for discussion:

- Why do the footprints and resource consumption of individual countries differ so much?
- What significance does it have for the living situation of people if they live in a country with a very low Ecological Footprint?

Source:

<https://www.globaleslernen.de/sites/default/files/files/education-material/thinkgloballyactlocally.pdf>

Climate and Justice.

Material for Development Education.