

ACTIVITY SHEETS: RELIGIOUS, MORAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES

These activities are designed to accompany the Jubilee Scotland "Drop the Debt" education resource.

If you do not have a copy of this resource, go to www.jubileescotland.org.uk, or [click here to order a free copy](#).

ACTIVITY 1: DEBT and RELIGION

Debt is an issue of interest to many religions:

The Jewish Torah, instructs that debts should be cleared every seven years, and that slaves should be freed every 50 years.

The Islamic Holy Book, the Qu'ran, states that debt with interest is a form of slavery: "And if (the debtor) is in difficulty, (then there should be postponement until (he is) at ease, but that you should give it as charity is better."

The Christian Bible states that "if you lend money to my people, to the poor among you, you shall not deal with them as a creditor; you shall not exact interest from them".

Why do you think that religions specifically condemn the idea of debt with interest?

ACTIVITY 2: EXPLORING ATTITUDES TO DEBT

In groups, discuss the following questions:

Do you think that debt is morally wrong, or do you see it as a natural part of life?

Do you think that debt is only about exchanges of money, or can you be indebted for other reasons?

If so, is there anyone/anything that YOU are indebted to?

Could this debt ever be repaid, and if so, how?

ACTIVITY 3: DEBT and INJUSTICE

1. Read through the history of the debt crisis (pages 5 and 6 of "Drop the Debt"). Do you think that the opinion of Africa Action below is justified? Why?

"African countries do not owe the U.S. and European countries—these countries owe Africa for the wealth and resources they have stolen from the continent over centuries."

www.africaaction.com

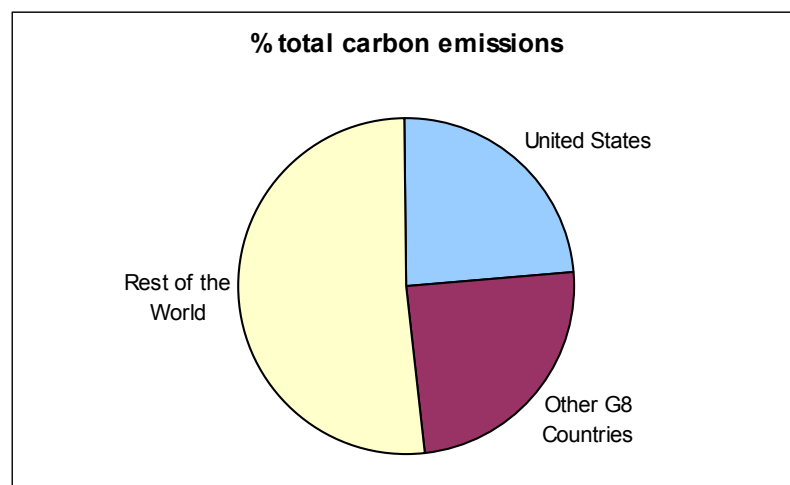
2. Discuss the concept of ecological debt (page 9 in "Drop the Debt") and examine the sources below. Do you agree that 'rich countries owe an ecological debt to poor countries'? Why?

(A)

The G8 comprises eight of the world's most powerful countries - Germany, France, US, UK, Japan, Russia, Italy and Canada. Together, these eight countries represent 65% of the world's economy. There are 193 countries in the world, and yet the G8, which makes major decisions that affect the whole globe, reflects the interests of only eight countries.

From Jubilee Scotland "Drop the Debt" booklet

(B)



Statistics from United States Department of Energy, International Energy Annual 2002