INVESTIGATIONS

GLOBAL WEALTH AND INCOME INEQUALITY by Lindy Sharkey

Income is the money earned. Wealth is total value of assets of an individual or household. Wealth and income inequality is a measure of how unevenly wealth and income are distributed or shared throughout a population; the difference between the rich and the poor in a given country or group. The activities and resources listed are designed to support an investigation into this global issue with learners at all levels.

ACTIVITIES

LEVEL 6

• Watch the TED video and in small groups, explore *The Dollar Street* (see link in resource list) to create a display showing similar items to show what it looks like to live off various monthly incomes in each country. As a class, discuss the similarities and differences between the countries and incomes.

LEVEL 7 AND 8

• Use the ABS to explore the percentage income and wealth inequality in Australia.

• You can determine the share of income taken by the top 1%, top 10% and bottom 50% of earners. You can also compare and contrast to other countries.

• Use the Household Income and Wealth report to summarise the findings of Australian household.

LEVEL 9 AND 10

• Investigate the distribution of earnings of employees in Australia by sex, industry and state.

• Learners can convert the averages to US dollars and map to *The Dollar Street*.

CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS AND RESOURCES

Level 6: Investigate everyday situations that use integers. Locate and represent these numbers on a number line (VCMNA210)

Level 7: Calculate mean, median, mode and range for sets of data. Interpret these statistics in the context of data (VCMSP270)

Level 8: Investigate the effect of individual data values including outliers, on the range, mean and median (VCMSP300)

Level 9: Compare data displays using mean, median and range to describe and interpret numerical data sets in terms of location (centre) and spread (VCMSP326)

Level 10: Determine quartiles and interquartile range and investigate the effect of individual data values, including outliers on the interquartile range (VCMSP349)

www.gapminder.org/dollar-street

TED: See how the rest of the world lives, organised by income. Search for Anna Rosling Ronnlund at www.ted.com.

World Inequality Database, https://wid.world.

Australian Bureau of Statistics: Household Income and Wealth and Employee Earnings and Hours, www.abs.gov.au/statistics.