

NAME:

# Poverty – Causes and Effects

Read the 'Causes of Poverty' (page 6) and 'How Does Poverty Impact Different Groups?' (page 9) sections of the fact book and complete the following activities.

## ACTIVITY 1 – COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. Do you think a hard working person can overcome poverty on their own? If yes, explain how. If not, what would they need to be able to overcome poverty?
  
2. What are some of the obstacles a person might face when trying to lift themselves out of poverty?
  
3. Explain the difference between the social causation hypothesis and the social selection hypothesis.
  
4. What is the poverty cycle and why is it important to break it?

## ACTIVITY 2 – POVERTY TREE

On a full page, draw a diagram of a tree. The diagram must have the roots, trunk, branches and leaves of the tree. In the roots of the tree, you are going to write all of the causes of poverty. In the trunk, you will write the word 'poverty'. In the branches, you will write all of the effects or impacts of poverty, both on individuals and the community. In the leaves (or on the side of the diagram if you have no room) you will write down any possible solutions to the issue of poverty. When you have finished your tree, answer the question below.

Are any of the causes of poverty related to each other? Do any of them make any of the others worse?

# Teacher Guide – Poverty – Causes and Effects

## ACTIVITY 1 – COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS

1. Do you think a hard working person can overcome poverty on their own? If yes, explain how.

If not, what would they need to be able to overcome poverty?

Student responses to this question will vary. They should come to the conclusion that it would be difficult for someone to lift themselves out of poverty without assistance.

2. What are some of the obstacles a person might face when trying to lift themselves out of poverty?

Students may come up with a range of answers for this question. People may have poor education and thus find it difficult to get a well-paying job, which makes it difficult to have a nice home etc.

3. Explain the difference between the social causation hypothesis and the social selection hypothesis.

The social causation hypothesis states that people escape or remain in poverty due to the social and economic structures of the society they live in. The social selection theory places responsibility on the individual, stating that they remain in or escape poverty due to their own skills, motivation, and mental and physical health.

4. What is the poverty cycle and why is it important to break it?

The poverty cycle is when children who are born into poor families are more likely to then experience poverty in their adulthood. This cycle occurs because children born into poverty have a higher likelihood of delayed mental and physical development, leading to poor educational outcomes and low job prospects. It is important to break the cycle otherwise poverty is passed from generation to generation.

## ACTIVITY 2 – POVERTY TREE

After students have created their trees, you may like to create a class poverty tree on the board, using the best answers from each student.