

Land grabs – learning opportunities

Introduction

Large scale land acquisitions ('land grabs') in developing countries have recently reached unprecedented levels and the trend shows no sign of slowing down. In the last decade private investors and sovereign wealth funds have acquired land in developing countries equivalent to four times the size of the UK. Two thirds of agricultural land deals by foreign investors are in Africa. One key driver of land grabs is the institutional incentives to invest in biofuels. These incentives in turn stem from broader concerns about energy sources.

Land grabs are therefore a new and controversial issue in development, occurring alongside better known processes such as deforestation and urbanisation. They provide opportunities for classroom learning as well as a platform for young people to add their voices to campaigning.

Classroom resources

Oxfam's *Food For Thought* resources include two online activity packs on land grabs. *Grow Island* is aimed at KS2 geography and the *Tanzania Mystery* is aimed at KS3 and KS4 geography. Both resources are [here](#).

The *think* and *act* activities in *Food for Thought* provide a framework for Citizenship students and others to plan and carry out appropriate action on the issue of land grabs. The *think* activities are [here](#) and the *act* activities are [here](#).

This resource also includes tiered suggestions for taking action [here](#).

Oxfam has produced two new short films about land grabs [here](#) and [here](#)

Curriculum making

Land grabs are a controversial and current issue with new case studies being reported on a frequent basis. Here are some resources for teachers wishing to access more information and keep up to date:

- Reading suggestions in *Food For Thought* on pg10 [here](#).
- Teacher's workshop notes by the Geographical Association and Oxfam (2011) [here](#).
- Guardian podcast on 28.1.2011 (length 24' 09") [here](#).
- Oxfam – Land and Power: the growing scandal surrounding the new wave of investments in land (2011) [here](#).
- Oxfam – Our Land, Our Lives: time out on the global land rush (2012) [here](#)
- Oxfam – Teaching Controversial Issues (2006) [here](#).

Please share any new resources you develop by emailing education@oxfam.org.uk