



LA SILLA ROJA
A journey toward justice



Friends of
Fe y Alegría
in the United States



This is the beginning of our journey with La Silla Roja.

This lesson plan seeks to help you present (or re-introduce) La Silla Roja campaign in the classroom. It encourages students to understand and reflect on the causes behind the lack of access to education, how this is linked to other fundamental human rights, and what they can do to raise awareness in their school communities.

ACTIVITY



Goals

- 1) **Learn** more about La Silla Roja (Red Chair) campaign and what it means as a symbol for the right to education.
- 2) **Inspire** students to reflect on the causes and consequences of the lack of the right to education.
- 3) **Act** by taking part in global awareness-raising campaign together with other Jesuit schools that promotes the right to education for all.



Time required

60 minutes



Instructions

First, we invite you to place a Red Chair in the center of the classroom. Ask the class if they know what the chair means. The **Red Chair** represents the **264 million children and youth** that are not able to exercise their right to education due to issues of inequality and discrimination. This activity seeks to re-claim this right for all, as a key to promoting equality and justice. If you have yet to paint a red chair for your classroom, [here](#) are some details of where to start.

To help support the dialogue around La Silla Roja, watch the video "[La Silla Roja: A Journey toward Justice](#)"



Hang the phrases in Appendix 1: "If the World were 100 people" around the classroom. You can also incorporate news headlines, infographics and maps that show realities of global injustice and inequality. Invite the students to walk quietly around the room, reading the information provided. See Appendix 2 for some ideas of where to start. Following the activity, invite students to share their feelings that emerged when reading this information.

And you, how do you participate in promoting the right to education?

As a concrete action to raise awareness in your classroom and school community, we propose creating a "garland" of red chairs. To do so, each person folds a piece of red paper and cuts along the edges following the figure in the Appendix 3: "La Silla Roja".

Combine the red chairs together with string or tape and hang them in a visible place around the classroom (or school if possible) with the slogan "**Education multiplies opportunities.**"

To finish the activity, students are invited to write on each of the chairs what education means to them or an opportunity facilitated through access to education, completing the following statement out loud: "Education multiplies opportunities. Education enables..." (For example, "Education multiplies opportunities. Education enables us to take better care of our health.")

APPENDIX 1

IF THE WORLD WERE 100 PEOPLE

Gender	50 would be female 50 would be male
Age	25 would be 0-14 66 would be 15-64 9 would be 65 and older
Geography	60 would be from Asia 16 would be from Africa 10 would be from Europe 9 would be from Latin America & the Caribbean 5 would be from North America
Religion	31 would be Christian 23 would be Muslim 15 would be Hindu 7 would be Buddhist 8 would believe in other religions 16 would not be religious or identify themselves as being aligned with a particular faith
First Language	12 would speak Chinese 6 would speak Spanish 5 would speak English 4 would speak Hindi 3 would speak Arabic 3 would speak Bengali 3 would speak Portuguese 2 would speak Russian 2 would speak Japanese 60 would speak other languages
Overall Literacy	86 would be able to read and write 14 would not
Literacy by Gender	90% of males would be able to read and write 10% of males would not be able to read and write 82% of females would be able to read and write 18% of females would not be able to read and write
Education	78% of eligible males would have a primary school education 76% of eligible females would have a primary school education 66% of eligible males would have a secondary school education 63% of eligible females would have a secondary school education 7 would have a college degree
Urban/Rural	54 would be urban dwellers 46 would be rural dwellers
Drinking Water	91 would have access to safe drinking water 9 would use unimproved water
Food	11 would be undernourished
Infectious Disease	1 would have HIV/AIDS 1 would have tuberculosis
Poverty	11 would live on less than \$1.90 USD per day
Electricity	82 would have electricity 18 would not
Technology	65 would be cell phone users 47 would be active internet users 95 would live in an area with a mobile- cellular network
Sanitation	68 would have improved sanitation 14 would have no toilets 18 would have unimproved sanitation

SAMPLE NEWS HEADLINES

THE EDUCATIONAL STRUGGLE FACED BY GIRLS AROUND THE WORLD

"Occasionally stories break through that give a graphic sense of the enormous educational struggle faced by children, particularly girls, in many parts of the world.

For example, the shooting in the head of Malala Yousafzai - an advocate for girls' education - in 2012(...)the abduction by Boko Haram of some 200 Nigerian schoolgirls(...)

Behind the headlines, the outlook, in terms of educational opportunities for children in some of the poorest parts of the world, appears to be worsening, in spite of international efforts to reverse the trend."

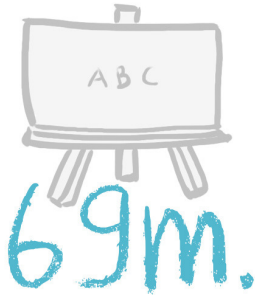
www.bbc.com/news/education-33424525

ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

"Access to quality education is essential for development. Not only does education provide children, youth and adults with the knowledge and skills to be active citizens and to fulfil themselves as individuals, literacy in particular contributes directly to poverty reduction. It has been estimated that global poverty could drop by 12 % if all children in low income countries could read."

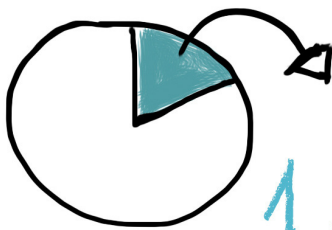
www.europa.eu/eyd2015/en/eu-european-parliament/posts/access-quality-education-essential-development

GLOBAL EDUCATION CHALLENGES



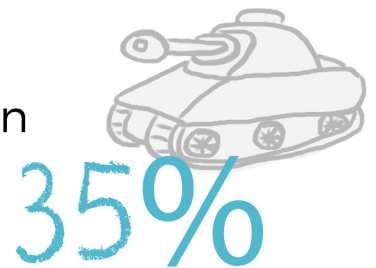
new teachers are needed worldwide to reach the 2030 education goals.

is needed in aid, a six-fold increase, to fill the annual education finance gap.



of youth -and just 1% of the poorest girls-complete secondary education in low-income countries.

of out-of-school children live in conflict-affected areas.

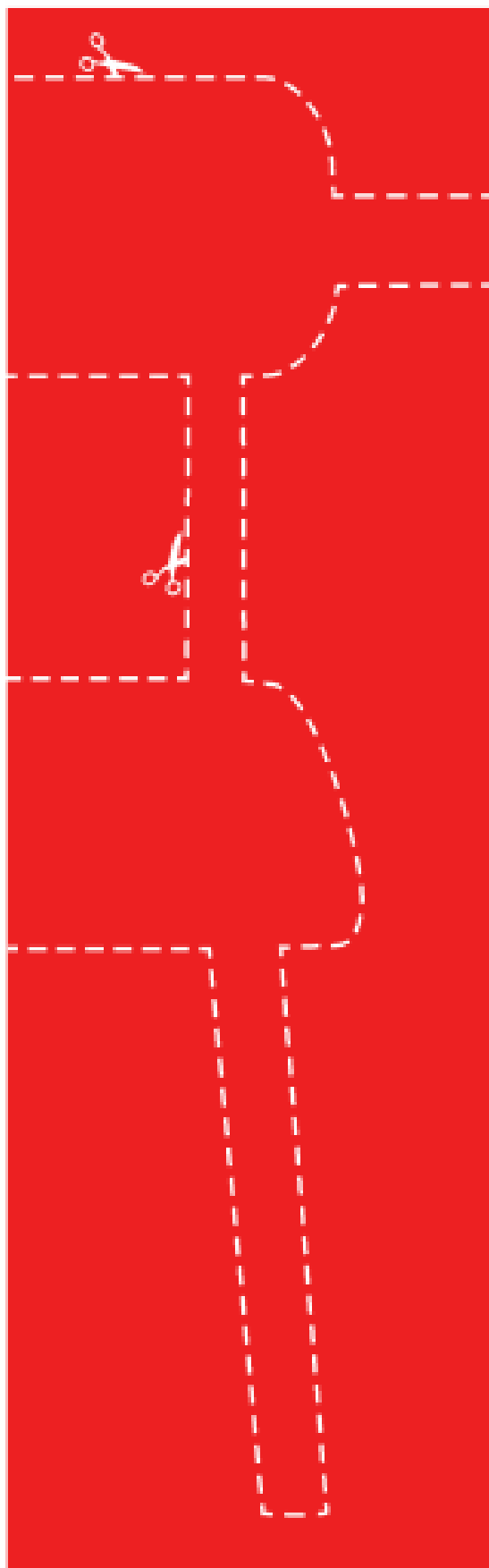


children and youth are out of school.

adults (15% of adults) lack any literacy skills; two-thirds of whom are women.



LA SILLA ROJA SHAPE



"Mini Me"



Take some time at the end of the activity to fill out the "Mini me" handout found in the introduction. Write down what you have learned, feelings that you experienced, and an individual or group action that you will commit to once the activity has been completed.



Resources

- Global Red Chair Project (www.educatemagis.org/redchair/)
- La Silla Roja Toolkit: Action Ideas (www.feyalegria.us/our-work/la-silla-roja/)

Thank you for taking the time to use this resource with your students. You are contributing to shaping holistic and committed citizens of tomorrow's global world. For more information, please visit www.feyalegria.us/our-work/global-education/

