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Free lesson plan · Goal 1 · No Poverty

How to use the Goal 1 pack in class

Ages 6–10 · 11–13 · 14–17

Three ready-to-teach lesson plans on Goal 1, No Poverty, one for each age band. Each takes 45 to 60 minutes and uses simple classroom materials, listed in the plan.

1. Choose the plan for your class: ages 6–10, 11–13 or 14–17.
2. Read the story section first. It introduces Wangari Maathai and the village in The Tree Woman, the Goal 1 picture book.
3. Watch the short Goal 1 mission video together at eco-heroes.org/sdg/1/ (free, no account).
4. Teach the lesson steps in order. The times are a guide, not a rule.
5. Use the discussion question and the exit ticket to check what pupils understood.
6. Send the mission home: pupils try it with their family and share one finding next lesson.

Lesson steps

- Ages 6–10 · What does everyone need? · 45 minutes
- Ages 11–13 · Poverty is more than money · 60 minutes
- Ages 14–17 · What actually works against poverty? · 60 minutes

Handle with care

Some pupils may be living with little money right now. Talk about poverty as unfair chances, never about any child's own home, and never ask pupils to say which group they belong to.

Free online, no account needed

- Watch the Goal 1 mission video: **eco-heroes.org/sdg/1/**
- Play the Goal 1 game chapter: **eco-heroes.org/game/**
- Play the Goal 1 trivia: **eco-heroes.org/trivia/?sdg=1**
- Read the free reading guide: **eco-heroes.org/library/the-tree-woman/**
- Goal 1 teacher pack: **eco-heroes.org/teachers/goal-1-pack/**



Illustration by Noemí Villamuza, from The Tree Woman · © Noemí Villamuza

The story · *The Tree Woman*

Abril, a girl who slips into her secret hideaway, closes her eyes and lets her imagination run wild, builds this story around Wangari Maathai. A woman steps off a bus at the edge of a Kenyan village where the trees have gone: the ground is dry and bare, the ponds are empty holes, the women walk further every day for firewood and water, and the children are skin and bones. Wangari will not stand by. She walks to the forest of the oldest trees, asks the earth for permission and digs up seven sprouts to plant in her garden. First the old woman across the road joins her, then the village women, who sew tents from rags to germinate seeds while the men mock them. Wangari then knocks on the door of the sawmill owner and the local authorities. Can a handful of sprouts change a whole village? The book closes with the real Wangari Maathai and the Green Belt Movement she founded.

Written by Ricardo Alcántara · Illustrated by Noemí Villamuza

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