

Almost no poor countries by 2035

25th January, 2014



The man who started Microsoft, Bill Gates, has predicted that by 2035, there will be almost no poor countries in the world.

Today, the World Bank says there are 35 poor countries. Most of the people who live in them are on low or no incomes. Gates said that nearly all these countries will be richer in the next 20 years. He wrote: "Every nation in South America, Asia, and Central America (with the possible exception of Haiti), and most in coastal Africa will have joined the ranks of today's middle-income nations." He added: "When I was born, most countries in the world were poor. In the next two decades desperately poor countries will become the exception rather than the rule."

Mr Gates said some countries will still be poor. These include North Korea, Haiti and nations in central Africa. He said the good news was that: "Nearly 90% will have a higher income than India does today." He believes countries will become richer by copying their more successful neighbours. Countries will also benefit from new medicines, better seeds for farmers, and the Internet. Gates said many countries that were very poor just a few decades ago are now doing well. He said China, India, Brazil and Botswana were poor thirty years ago but now have growing economies. He said there was still a lot of work to do and that, "more than one billion people live in extreme poverty, so it's not time to celebrate".

Sources: *Times of India* / *Fox Latino News*

Writing

Everyone in the world should have the same amount of money. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Microsoft / predicted / World Bank / income / richer / Asia / the next two decades / nations / good news / copying / successful / neighbours / medicine / growing / poverty

True / False

- The founder of Microsoft predicted countries would get richer. T / F
- The World Bank says there are 38 poor countries in the world today. T / F
- It says in the article Haiti might still be poor in 20 years from now. T / F
- Bill Gates said most countries were poor when he was born. T / F
- Mr Gates said North Korea would become a rich country in 20 years. T / F
- Countries will get richer by copying countries that have become rich. T / F
- The economy in Botswana is getting smaller. T / F
- Bill Gates said we should all be celebrating. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. predicted | a. earnings |
| 2. incomes | b. getting bigger |
| 3. nation | c. almost |
| 4. decade | d. forecasted |
| 5. desperately | e. party |
| 6. nearly | f. imitating |
| 7. copying | g. country |
| 8. growing | h. maximum |
| 9. extreme | i. ten years |
| 10. celebrate | j. seriously |

Discussion – Student A

- What did you think when you read the headline?
- What springs to mind when you hear the word 'poor'?
- Do you think Bill Gates' prediction will come true?
- Why are countries poor?
- Is your country rich or poor? Why do you say so?
- How will the world change if no country is poor?
- What can rich countries do to help poor countries?
- How has the Internet helped countries to become richer?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. The man who | a. income nations |
| 2. there will be almost no poor | b. economies |
| 3. on low or | c. poor countries |
| 4. joined the ranks of today's middle- | d. in extreme poverty |
| 5. desperately | e. to celebrate |
| 6. good | f. started Microsoft |
| 7. better seeds | g. no incomes |
| 8. growing | h. for farmers |
| 9. one billion people live | i. countries in the world |
| 10. it's not time | j. news |

Discussion – Student B

- Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- What is the biggest thing that keeps a country poor?
- What needs to happen in North Korea and Haiti for them to be richer?
- How important is education in making a country richer?
- Are the richest countries the best ones in which to live?
- Will there always be millions of people living in poverty?
- How would your society change if no one was poor?
- What questions would you like to ask Bill Gates?

Spelling

- eccidpder that by 2035, there will be...
- Every noiatn in South America,
- most in staaolc Africa
- middle-ocinme
- In the next two caeedsd
- become the epxoicnte rather than the rule
- antelcr Africa
- their more cuslsseufc neighbours
- benefit from new scndemiie
- have growing oainemosc
- one lioblin people
- it's not time to acblreect

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. d | 2. a | 3. g | 4. i | 5. j |
| 6. c | 7. f | 8. b | 9. h | 10. e |

Role Play

Role A – Humans reach Mars

You think humans reaching Mars is the best news. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things about there news that aren't so great. Also, tell the others which is the most impossible of these (and why): the last ever war ending, free Internet being everywhere or there being no more poor countries.

Role B – The last ever war ends

You think the last ever war ending is the best news. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things about there news that aren't so great. Also, tell the others which is the most impossible of these (and why): humans reaching Mars, free Internet being everywhere or there being no more poor countries.

Role C – Free Internet everywhere

You think free Internet being everywhere is the best news. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things about there news that aren't so great. Also, tell the others which is the most impossible of these (and why): the last ever war ending, humans reaching Mars or there being no more poor countries.

Role D – No more poor countries

You think there being no more poor countries is the best news. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things about there news that aren't so great. Also, tell the others which is the most impossible of these (and why): the last ever war ending, free Internet being everywhere or humans reaching Mars.

Speaking - News

Rank these (good?) news items and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- no more poor countries
- now we can live to be 200
- energy made from air
- free Internet everywhere
- humans reach Mars
- world becomes vegetarian
- the last ever war ends
- whole world speaks English

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | T | b | F | c | T | d | T | e | F | f | T | g | F | h | F |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.