



WHAT IS THE THIRD WORLD?

The Third World is a large group of more than 100 countries. Most of them are located in the tropical parts of the world. There are many differences between these countries. They include those where there is the most poverty, sickness, hunger and illiteracy. Asia and Africa are the poorest areas but some parts of South America are better off. The Third World countries have the world's highest birth rates.

1. The map shows the world divided into three groups of countries. The two most powerful groups are sometimes called the major power blocks. These are the Western bloc and the Eastern, or Communist, bloc. They contain the richest and most developed countries in the world. The third group is called the Third World.
2. The Western countries include the United States, Canada, Australia and the countries of West Europe. Many of these powerful industrial countries used to rule the Third World countries as colonies. Here the British flag flies in Ceylon in the days before it became Sri Lanka.
3. The Eastern or Communist Countries contain the Soviet Union and East Europe. This building is the headquarters, in Moscow, of Comecon, the organisation which ties them together for economic purposes.
4. The Third World countries are now mostly independent politically. Here in La Paz, Bolivia, in South America, people celebrate their independence which was gained from Spain in 1825. In Africa only three countries were independent before 1951.
5. A few Third World countries are only now receiving independence. Sometimes they have had to fight for it. Here in Angola the Portuguese settlers are fleeing during the war for independence in 1976.
6. Some of the rich and powerful countries still wish to control parts of the Third World. The United States and the Chinese Communists recently fought to control South East Asia. This soldier in Laos watches a traditional festival just prior to the Communists taking control.
7. Many people of the Third World, such as this Indian woman in a Hindu temple, have civilisations with roots far back in history. They have fine art and beautiful temples. Some live in elegant homes and wear beautiful clothes.
8. The Third World also contains the most poverty and the greatest overcrowding. Most people are farmers and live in villages. This one is in Bangladesh. In poor countries many children are needed so that at least one might survive to look after the parents.
9. Many Third World cities are poor and overcrowded. Their problems are made worse as people flock to them to seek better opportunities than there are in the villages. Millions live in shanty towns and slums with few facilities but the cities also have modern buildings and traffic jams. Here in Amritsar, India, part of a bazaar has been cleared in readiness for a new road.
10. Most of the world's hunger and untreated sickness is found in the Third World. This starving Indian child is fortunate to be having attention at a clinic. Most people cannot get medical aid. People who are sick and underfed have no energy to work to improve their conditions.
11. Fewer than two children out of five in the Third World complete a primary school education. These children in Nepal are getting a very old fashioned type of schooling. Lack of education and the wrong kind of education slow down development.
12. Water is the most basic need for life. Large areas of the Third World lack sufficient water for farming or clean water for drinking. Where water is available much of it is used wastefully or with great effort, as on this farm in West Africa.

13. Many people in the Third World have to walk for several hours just to get water or to carry goods to and from market. Many are not as fortunate as these farmers in Syria. They do not even have animals to do some of the work.
14. Most countries need not only better means of transport but also a better system of transport. Systems of roads, railways, waterways and airways are needed to develop different kinds of resources for farming, and industry. Here a waterway and road network are being surveyed along the Mekong River of South East Asia. They are needed to develop industry and hydro-electric power and to improve irrigated farming.
15. To develop resources new techniques may have to be learned. This may involve experts from other countries. These Bolivians are learning forestry. They are watching a demonstration by foresters from other countries as part of a programme organised by the United Nations.
16. Experts from the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations advised and helped these farmers in Ecuador. Now the land is ploughed instead of scratched, simple but better tools are used and there is a supply of good seed. A Co-operative market for the produce has been organised.
17. Most people are prepared to make a lot of effort if they can see a future in what they are doing and if they are well fed and healthy. Self-help groups are doing much to develop the Third World countries, for example in building new towns and roads or, as here in the Philippines, irrigating and improving farmland.
18. Third World countries must improve their industries if they are to improve their living standards. Some, such as here in the Middle East, have valuable oil and other mineral resources. These supply them with the money needed to develop other industries. However, many countries may have to rely on the wealthier nations to develop their industries for them and they do not benefit fully from the mineral resources they have. This means that, at present, many Third World countries have little chance of attracting much industry.

The pictures and notes in this set are not intended as a complete treatment of the subject. They provide a core of material to which the teacher can add further materials and questions. Additional sets in the series will provide a useful library of pictures to illustrate the general themes of development studies in the Third World. There is a large amount of case study material available, such as that published by Oxfam and the Voluntary Committee for Overseas Aid and Development. Well illustrated studies of these general themes may be found in "The Third World" by Roger Clare (Macdonald Educational, World Topics, Colour Units, ISBN 0 356 04490 4) and other books in the same series.

The author and publishers gratefully acknowledge the help given by the following in supplying information and photographs: Voluntary Service Overseas, United Nations Organisation (E.G.Huffman), International Red Cross Society, Keynote Pictures.

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Published by: **THE RICKITT ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SLIDES**
143 Chatham Road, London SW11 6SR

WHAT IS THE THIRD WORLD? : QUESTIONS

(Numbered to correspond with the related slides)

1.
 - a. Compare the map with an atlas map of the world. Which are the most important countries in each of the power blocs?
 - b. What proportion of the Third World countries are in the Tropics?
 - c. Compare this map with maps showing hunger, sickness, poverty and illiteracy. What do you notice?

2.
 - a. Which of the developed, industrial, countries were themselves at one time colonies of the European countries?
 - b. From a map in a history atlas, find out how far the British Empire once extended. Identify Ceylon.

3.
 - a. Suggest why the Comecon building (left) has been designed in the shape of an open book.
 - b. Which similar organisations unite the countries of Western Europe?

4.
 - a. Find out (1) Which African countries were the first to obtain independence. (2) When India became independent.
 - b. Identify Bolivia on a map of South America. Find out about Simon Bolivar.

5.
 - a. Find examples of present day European colonies in the Tropics.
 - b. Identify Angola on a map of Africa.
 - c. What are the problems likely to be faced by these returning settlers?

6.
 - a. Identify Laos, Cambodia (Khmer Republic) and Vietnam on a map of Asia. Which large country lies to their north?
 - b. Find out about the recent history of this part of the world.

7. a. Find examples of the art and architecture of the following religions and civilisations: Hindu, Buddhist, Islam, Inca.
8. a. What can you tell about life in this village?
b. Find out more about village life in Bangladesh.
9. a. What contrasts are to be found in Third World cities?
b. Find examples to illustrate these contrasts.
10. a. Find other examples of hunger and sickness in the Third World. Some may shock you but remember many people suffer from sicknesses in your country too.
b. Look at the diagram showing the vicious circle these people are in. How might this circle be broken?
11. a. What kind of education do you get? Is it suitable?
b. Find out more about the benefits education can bring to poor countries.
12. a. Find out (1) Why water causes about half the deaths and 80 per cent of the sickness in the world. Where is the worst water to be found? (2) Why efficient use must be made of water.
- 13 & 14. a. Why is efficient transport essential for a developing country?
b. What problems is a poor country likely to face in improving its transport?

15. a. Why are practical demonstrations the best way of getting people to adopt new methods?
b. Why do developing countries need outside help of this kind?

16. a. Identify Ecuador on a map of South America.
b. How has the FAO helped this farmer?
c. Find other examples of FAO schemes in the Third World.

17. a. Identify the Philippines on a map of Asia.
b. What motivates self help groups?
c. Why might government or other help be needed?
d. Find other examples of self help groups (1) In your home country (2) In the Third World.

18. a. Find examples of Third World countries which are developing wealth from minerals or other resources.
b. What might be the order of priority for spending this wealth when most of the country is still undeveloped?
c. Find out why Third World countries do not like the industrial countries developing their wealth for them.

General:

1. a. Which of the slides in this pack fit into the circles of poverty?
b. Which show what can be done to break these circles?
c. Find other pictures, and examples, to illustrate what is being done.
2. a. Why might it be a good thing for people in many parts of the Third World to plan small families?
b. How might better living conditions bring about smaller families?

