

EXPLORING OUR PERCEPTIONS ~ SHAPE OF THE WORLD

This is a well known activity [sometimes called the Global Village], that is useful for exploring our perceptions of the wider world.

The activity is based on the idea that we imagine the world's population represented by 100 people. Individuals or groups are asked to estimate how many of the 100 people would be for example European, American or African. They could either do this by writing down figures or by colour coding the '100 people diagram'. [There are a wide range of population statistics that could be applied for example relating to continents, countries or development indicators].

This activity is a great starting point for discussion about how we see the world. For groups doing this activity for the first time it is possible that some of their estimates will be quite a long way out. In de-briefing the activity it is important to explore the factors that influence our perceptions, for example the role of the media and how we see the implications of this for teaching and learning.

2008 Statistics for 'Shape of the world' activity

If the world were a village of 100 people ...

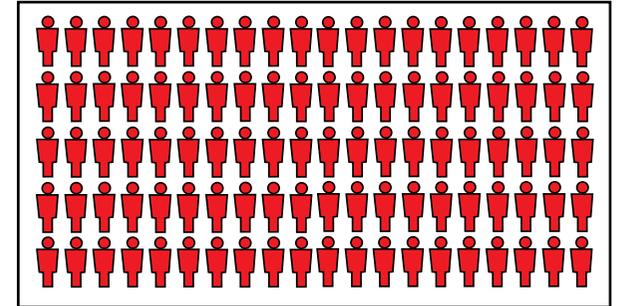
14 would be African
5 would be North American
9 would be Latin American or Caribbean
60 would be Asian
[20 would be Chinese and 17 would be Indian]
11 would be European
less than 1 would be from Oceania

28 would be under the age of 15
7 would be over the age of 65
49 would live in a city
14 would be under-nourished

Source: Population statistics from Population Reference Bureau www.prb.org 2008

To enable a visual approach to this activity our support material includes:

- ◆ A worked '100 people' diagram – illustrating 2008 statistics
- ◆ A blank '100 people' diagram for groups' use.



Links to other useful sites for population statistics:

[UN Population Fund](#) [UNFPA]

[US Census Bureau](#)

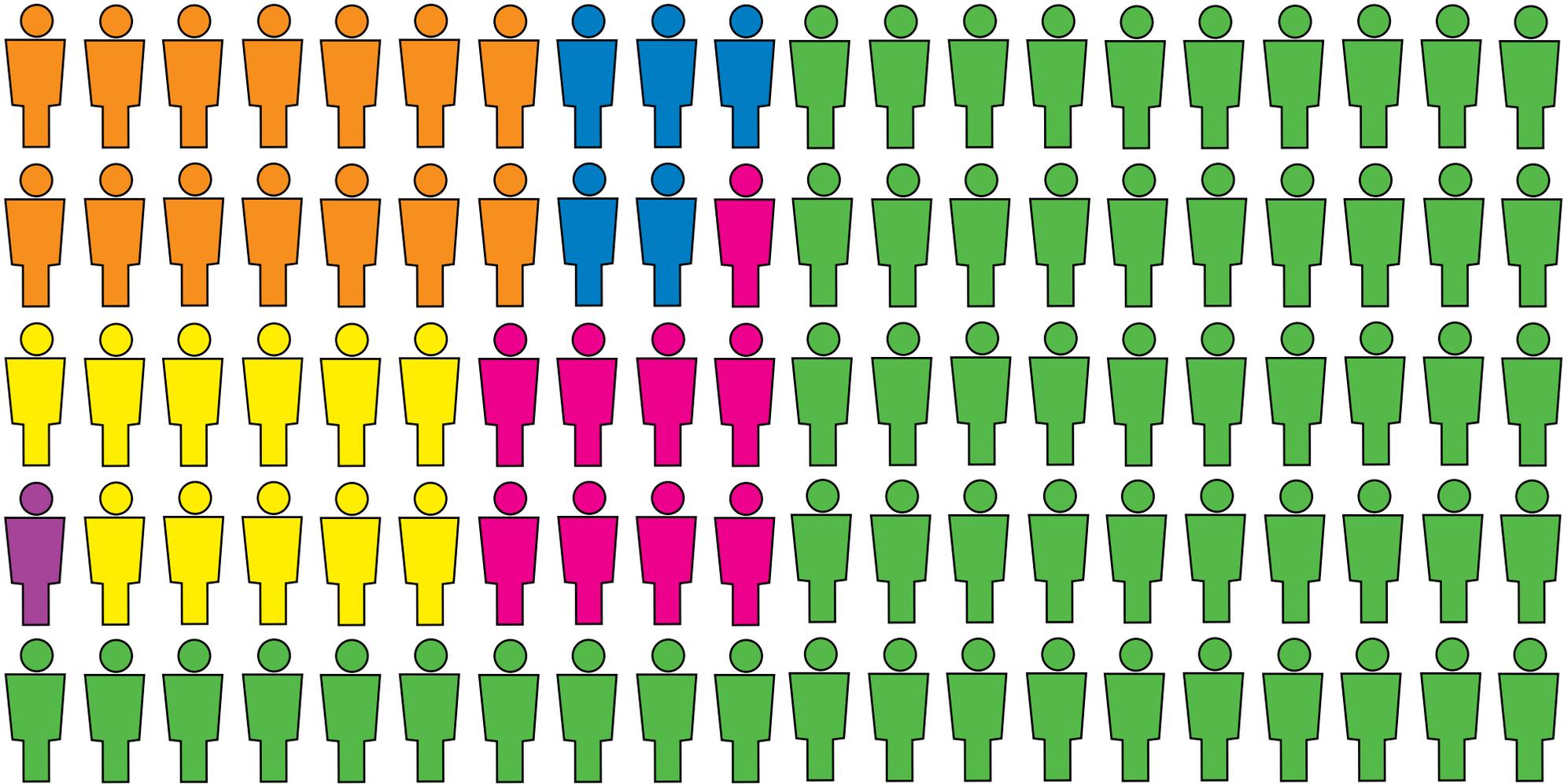
We are preparing a websites overview for investigating the UN 2015 development targets. This will include further information about each of the above sites and other sites useful for exploring issues such as Education, Environment, Health etc.

There is also a publication available which takes this idea further ...

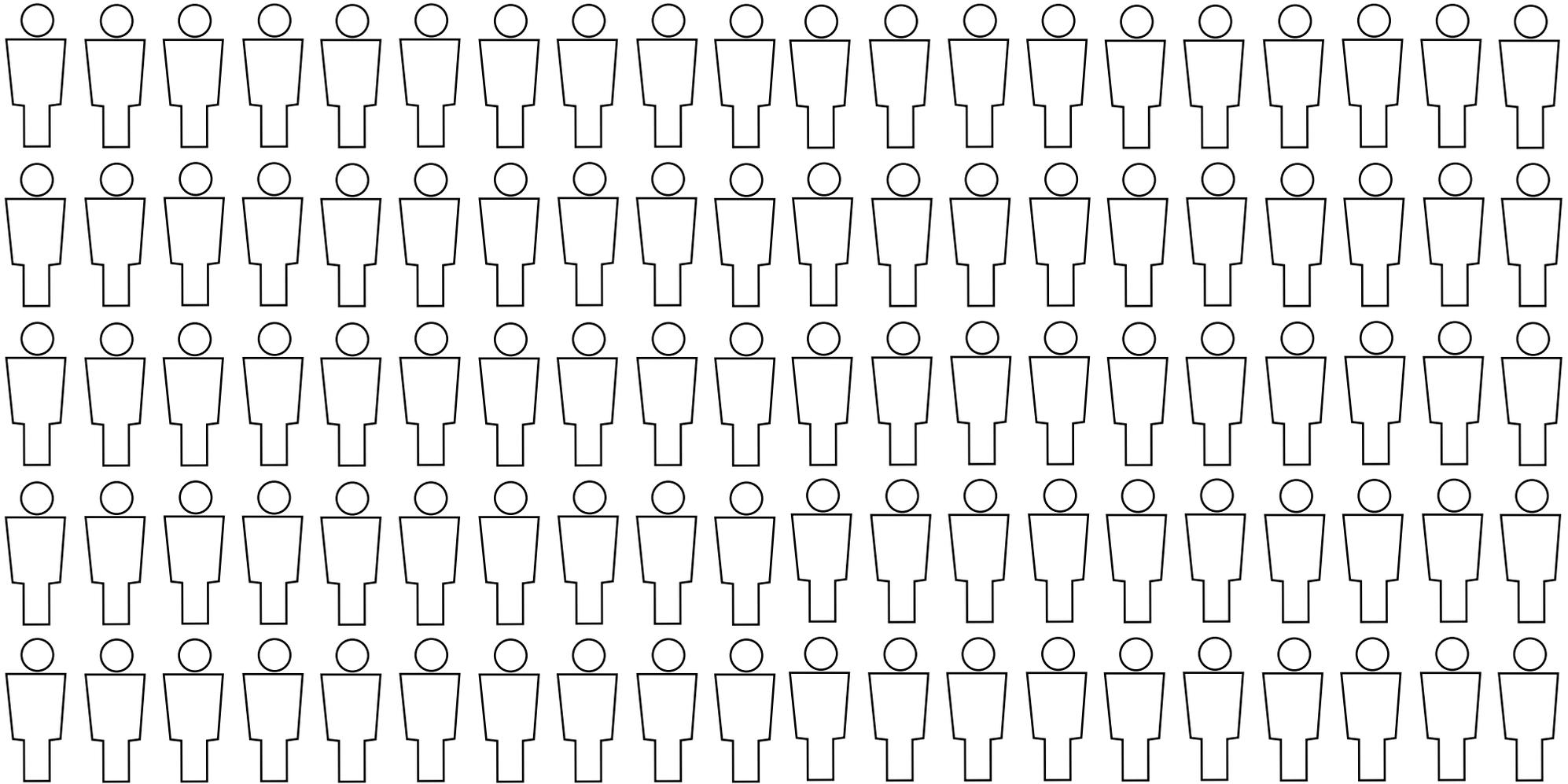
If the world were a village

This book visually presents the world as a village of just 100 people, where 22 speak a Chinese dialect and 17 cannot read or write. Enables readers to grasp facts about the world's population in a manageable way.

David J Smith, [A&C Black](#)



					
Africa	North America	Latin America and Caribbean	Asia	Europe	Oceania



Key: