

One world

Theme: sustainability, shared responsibility, hope in action

Focus country: Brazil

Additional materials/preparation:

- the *One World* presentation available from christianaid.org.uk/learn
- a log, some tin foil and a picture of a cow (displayed at the front of the assembly)

Assembly presentation

Show slide 1. Welcome the students and introduce the theme of One World Week, which is 'Hope in Action'. Explain that this is a special week in the calendar (18-25 October) when communities get together to think about how we can build a more peaceful and equal world. Can anyone describe what they think is meant by 'one world'?

Explain that by 'one world' we are talking about the planet we live on and share with all other people. Just as our next-door neighbours are neighbours because we share the same patch of street, we have what we could call 'global neighbours' across the globe, because we share this one world with them. We have something in common with people across the world and that means we need to work together with people everywhere to build the best world possible for everybody in it. Unfortunately some of our global neighbours live in places where – for lots of different reasons – life can be very challenging. You could make reference here to current news stories that highlight some of these challenges. Explain that today you are going to be exploring an inspiring story of one place where some challenges are being overcome to show hope in action.

Show slide 2. Brazil is a country in South America. In fact it's the biggest country in South America and makes up half the size of the whole continent! All of this land and all the precious things it contains - including trees (hold up log) and minerals (hold up tin foil) - mean that it's one of the world's top 10 richest countries. Despite being one of the richest

countries, it has a few challenges, including that it is one of the most unequal countries in the world. In Brazil there is a small group of super-rich people who are thriving and a huge amount of very poor people who are struggling to survive. In fact there are about 16 million people in poverty in Brazil – twice as many people as the entire population of London (or triple the population of Scotland/eight times the population of Northern Ireland)!

Show slide 3. One of the reasons that inequality is such a problem in Brazil is because of the way land is owned. Can you believe that only 3% of the population own more than two-thirds of the farming land?

Show slide 4. The Quilombola people live in a beautiful area of Brazil called the Amazon. They are descended from slaves who escaped the old plantations several hundred years ago and fled into the forest. The Amazon is famous for its rainforest and its amazing array of wildlife and plant life. All of this wildlife and plant life makes it a really special place. Even though it is so far away, it is important to us living here because there are so many trees in the Amazon that it plays a big part in providing the oxygen we breathe. It is sometimes called the 'lungs of the earth'.

Show slide 5. The Quilombola communities have been living on and caring for this land for a long time, and it is their home. They often live in wooden homes on the river bank and make a small amount of money from selling Brazil nuts and acai berries. But the Quilombola people, our global neighbours, have been facing a problem

because there are other groups of people who want to use the land to make themselves even richer. Until quite recently, the Quilombola people didn't officially own the land they lived on and people from big companies could trespass on their precious land and destroy the forest to make money from logging, cattle ranching and mining for aluminium [hold up the relevant props to iterate this point].

Show slide 6. Christian Aid works with an amazing organisation in Brazil called CPI that helps the Quilombola communities to protect the land they live on. A lot of Quilombola people have not been to school, and so although they have a wealth of knowledge about the forest and how to live in harmony with their surroundings, they did not have the legal information they needed when big businesses started to trespass on their land. And what's the best thing you can do when you don't know something? Learn! So CPI helped Quilombola communities find out everything they need to know about how to protect their land and make sure people know it is officially theirs. CPI has helped 24 communities in the Amazon protect themselves. That's 7,000 people who now have more security from loggers, miners and cattle ranchers – and a huge area of rainforest protected from these damaging industries.

Show slide 7. Dominginhos Printes is a leader of Abuí, a Quilombola community. He explains: 'There are so many reasons why it is important for the community to have the collective ownership of the forest lands. Perhaps most importantly it is to feel secure... if you have your own land, then you can feel secure. You cannot be moved on. But it's also important

because it enables us to protect the forest. It was because we held the collective title to our lands that we were able to say no and stop the timber company coming here and cutting down our trees. We know that once we have the land titles [the documents that show that they officially own the land], then the problems do continue – the loggers, the miners, the dam construction projects. But the land title enables us to have a stronger defence against these things.'

What's exciting is that CPI is not only helping the Quilombola communities to protect themselves and their land, but it is also helping protect our world and planet. By supporting the Quilombola people, CPI is preventing the beautiful forest of the Amazon being cut down, which is important for all of us!

Show slide 8. Do you know what else is inspiring about the Quilombola people? They used their own voice and their strength together as a community to solve the trouble with people coming on to their land. With help from CPI, they made themselves more knowledgeable, and in turn were able to protect their land. And by protecting the Amazon rainforest, they are protecting us! The theme of this year's One World Week is 'Hope in Action.' Let's take inspiration from the Quilombola and think about how we can learn more and use our knowledge to protect the things that are important to us. By working together we can change people's lives for the better and make this one world better for us and our neighbours here and around the world. Hooray!

Reflection

Ask the pupils to close their eyes and to think about one thing they think they are really good at. Ask them to open their eyes and to look around and to imagine how good they would be as a big team if they worked together and used all of the things everyone is brilliant at. We are stronger when we work together, and if we use this strength to do good things that help our neighbours here and around our one shared world, we have a bright future.

Action

- How could you share the story of the Quilombola people? Could you plant a tree at your school and tell parents the story of their fight for their land?
- Maybe you could do some fundraising for Christian Aid so organisations like CPI can keep doing the work they do in fighting for the rights of communities like the Quilombola people?