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Sewa

Welcome to Sodom - Teacher's notes and results

Autorka: Mgr. Margita Kojšová, Gymnázium F.V. Sasinka, Skalica, projekt ElektroodpadDopad5

document: elektroodpad.zivica.sk/Materiály pre školy

Aims of watching the documentary:

- to improve listening and writing/speaking skills in English
- to understand the global problem with e-waste
- to take more responsible and sustainable decisions in the future
- to develop critical thinking and creativity

Time needed for this topic – ca 3-4 lessons.

✓ **basic information about the film – for your information**

Not too long ago it used to be untouched swampland, today it is the largest electronic waste dump in the world. It is proven to be one of most toxic places on the planet: Agbogbloshie, Accra. About 6,000 women, men and children live and work here. They call it "Sodom". Every year about 250,000 tons of discarded computers, smartphones, air conditioning tanks and other devices from a far away digitalized and electric world end up here. Illegally. Their personal inner voices allow for a deep insight into life in this place.

Welcome To Sodom goes behind the scenes of Europe's largest e-waste dump in Africa. ***What lives do people lead among the waste of the first world?***

Hundreds of thousands of mobile phones, LCD TVs, notebooks and the likes become useless and "out" relatively soon and end up in Ghana where children and adolescents dismantle them in toxic smoke. A "clean" business for some, a poisonous routine for others.

1 Ghanaian cedi (GHS) = 0,14 €

1€ = 6,9747 GHS

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Task 1: Complete:

1. About women, men and children live and work here. **6 000**
2. The place used to be a **swampland**
3. The person collecting iron thinks that "This is a good place. I can earn some money." **Here nobody cares. Here I can work. (more options)**
4. The broker says that the boy brought kg of iron. **15**
5. The real weigh of the boy's iron was kg. **18**
6. The boy got GHS for the iron he collected in one week. **9 (1,26€)**
(The purpose of this sentence for students is to realise how much money the boy got for his whole-week work.)
7. The cost of the big bean soup is GHS. **5**
(compare it with the money the boy got for his whole-week work)
8. The typical job of men is plastics from metal to be able it further. **separating/dismantling, to sell**
9. The typical job of women is preparing food and water. **selling pure**
10. When Americo wants to buy some e-waste, the seller says that he has it from his who brought it from **brother, Europe**
11. Americo buys one piece of e-waste for GHS. **30 (4,2€)**

Give the rest of the film for the HW or watch it together during the next lesson.

After the film, let Ss finish the tasks.

Task 2: Write/Say what were you

- a) surprised / shocked by?
- b) pleased with?

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Our global responsibility and contribution.

Task 3: Listen to the part of the documentary and complete the text.

timeline: 18:10 – 23:10 min

They call me Americo. My mother named me after the country – America. It is the land of **opportunity** she always said when I was **little**. Opportunity for business. I am a **businessman**, I like the dollar. I'm **dealing** with scrap.

If you have anything that is **broken**, I buy it: **fridges**, computers, monitors, telephones, TVs.

I buy it, dismantle it and sell the aluminium, the **copper**, the zinc.

In **Europe** when things break, they **throw** it away. Once it is not valuable at all, they **send** it to us. But we, the Ghanians, we know how to **repair** it. We can fix everything. And we know how to find the **metals** inside. We are the best **recyclers**. For them it is just a **waste**. But I can still squeeze some money out of it. The more waste they bring, the **better** it is for my business. They **should** send more."

Doplňujúce otázky:

What did you find out about the boy collecting iron? – in fact he is a girl, but girls earn less money

What are the negatives of living in Agbogbloshie? – you can discuss topics such as living conditions, working conditions, pollution and health care, child labour, life of young adults/elderly people,

Why did Americo say "They should send more." ?- why?!?!?

Task 4: Our contribution

What happens with e-waste here in Slovakia? Search for some information and find out how we can contribute to solving the global problem with e-waste.

In Slovakia, there are some official recycling companies which help to recycle e-waste in a more humane, sustainable and ecological way, e.g. Envipak, Elekos, Asekol, Envidom, Sewa...

Sewa je spoločnosť, s ktorou v projekte Elektroodpad spolupracujeme. Odpad prídu prevziať, odvážia, dajú doklad a zodpovedajú za správnu recykláciu.

V závere aktivít možno vyvstanú otázky typu - **Ako sa odpad od nás dostane tam?** Odpoveď je takáto:

Reálne je to tak, že odpad ako taký sa nesmie vyvážať. Ale môže sa obchodovať s niektorými už vyseparovanými časťami, ako je striebro, zlato a pod., ktoré sa získajú recykláciou.

To, čo sa vozí do Afriky, sa tam vozí pod rúškom toho, že je to ešte FUNKČNÉ, teda nie odpad, ale dobré počítače atď. V skutočnosti ale nie sú funkčné a krajina sa zahlcuje odpadom. V tom filme boli

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Keď odovzdáme veci na reálnu recykláciu (napr. cez šk. zber, elektropredajne či zberný dvor), to, čo do spoločnosti príde vážia, vypisujú k tomu papiere a toľko, koľko príde, musí aj odísť či už vo forme vyseparovaných komodít alebo nespracovateľného odpadu...

We can (suggestions):

- *give the gadget we don't need anymore to somebody else who still can use it*
- *find other ways how the e-waste can be used*
- *give the e-waste for a proper and harmless recycling*
- *demand that the producers produce long-lasting goods, so we can repair them or have them repaired (je iniciatíva Repairably, ktorí sa snažia dostať do zákona parvo spotrebiteľa na opravu výrobkov – v apríli 2021 sa niečo do zákona dostalo, ale stále to je nič a spoločnosti nie sú zodpovedné za zahlcovanie spotrebiteľov krátkopoužitelným tovarom)*
- *show interest in how the sellers in our region deal with the e-waste*
- *appeal for designing fully and easily recyclable commodities (k tomuto je pekné video: <https://www.storyofstuff.org/movies/story-of-electronics/>)*
- *request for humane job opportunities and education for all the people around the world....*
- *buy new gadgets when we really need them not just because they are trendy*
- ...

Task 5: Critical thinking – Ask yourself

Why should I know about this?

Why should my relatives know about this?

Why should the society know about this? What if nobody cares?

Na odľahčenie problematiky: too smart? ☺

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwPtcqcz00>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzSzkAuKPe0>

Our motto:

We are part of the solution, NOT the problem.