CHILD LABOUR IN HAITI

Haiti is one of the poorest countries in the world and is situated in the Caribbean Ocean, next to Cuba. Poverty means that many parents cannot afford to look after their children. As a result, many poor parents give custody of their children to more well-off people, hoping that their children will be provided with food, clothing, shelter, education and health care in return for working as a domestic worker.

A CHILD WORKER'S STORY

"I have lived here for a long time, about four years. I wake up at 4am to collect water. Then I wash the dishes, clean the clothes and cook for the other children in the house. Sometimes at 8 or 9pm, I still haven't gone to bed. My employer treats me very, very badly. She yells at me a lot. Her children get to eat rice, but I just eat corn. I used to go to school but I don't now. I haven't been in touch with my family since I left. I would like to go and visit them. If I could, I would. If I lived with my mother, I'd have a better life. Anything I want or need, she would provide."

(Case study from Anti-Slavery International)

QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

Q1. What rights have been taken away from the child in the case study?	
Q2. List three different ways this could affect the child's future	
Q3. What do you think the child can do about his/her situation?	
Q4. Haiti has signed the Convention for the Rights of the Child. What do you think the UN can do to help the Haitian government make sure all children in Haiti enjoy their rights?	

Reflections

Have we met our learning objectives?

How have your ideas changed since the beginning of the lesson?

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Challenge task!

Can you think of an example of when rights clash? What do you think should happen in this situtation?

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