

# World Wealth Map

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Large World Maps (enough for each person, or for each small group)  
50 Chips (25 of one color, 25 of another) for each map

1. Give each person or small group a world map and 25 chips of the same color.
2. Tell them that the chips represent the world's population.
3. Ask each person or group to place the chips by continent where they think people live.
4. Discuss the different estimates and then tell them the accurate figures.
5. Have them rearrange their chips to reflect the facts.
6. Give each person or group another 25 chips of the other color.
7. Tell them that these chips represent all the wealth produced in world (monetary worth of all the goods and services produced every year-from health care to automobiles).
8. Tell them to put the chips on the continents to indicate their estimate of who gets this wealth. (Each chip represents 1/25 of the world's total amount of goods and services produced.
9. Discuss the different estimates and then tell them the accurate figures.
10. Debrief the activity with the questions below.
  - o How do you think the distribution of wealth became so unequal?
  - o What does the inequality of wealth mean in terms of the kinds of lives people lead?
  - o Who do you think decides how wealth is distributed?
  - o Do you think wealth should be distributed equally?
  - o How does the unequal distribution of wealth affect the power that groups of people hold?
  - o Within our community is wealth distributed fairly?
  - o What can be done about the unequal way wealth is distributed?

Continent	Population (in millions) 2008	% of world population	# of chips out of 25	Wealth (GDP in billions of dollars)	% of world GDP	# of chips out of 25
Africa	967	14.4 %	4	2,092	3.8%	1
Asia	4,052	60.4%	15	21,504	38.5%	10
Oceania	35	0.5%	0	737.2	1.3%	0
Europe	736	11%	3	14,244	25.7%	6
North America	338	5.1%	1	12,776	23.0%	6
Latin America	577	8.6%	2	4,299	7.7%	2
World Total	6,705	100%	25	55,500	100%	25

World Population data from 2008 World Population Data Sheet, Population Reference Bureau [www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)  
World GDP data from Geo Hive [www.geohive.com/earth/ec\\_gdp4.aspx](http://www.geohive.com/earth/ec_gdp4.aspx)

\*Adapted from "Poverty and World Wealth" <http://www.rethinkingschools.org/publication/rq/RGPoverty.shtml>