

Learning about Child Labour:

Dante's Story

Activity sheets for children

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Note for Adults

How to use this resource:

This is a free resource for you to print and distribute to families, schools and organisations who wish to educate children on child labour. It is aimed primarily at engaging 8–12-year-olds who have little to no experience or understanding of child labour but can be used more widely.

This learning resource tells the story of one boy 'Dante' working in artisanal mining, highlighting the hazardous lives that many children like him endure. The story told is a composite of several children's accounts given to researchers in Democratic Republic of Congo in 2020, with the aim of amplifying the voices of children in labour and their perspectives on working in the mines.

The activities are designed to be fun, including a puzzle, letter writing activity and even a robot design challenge where entrants can win a prize!

The resource is designed to present the issues age-appropriately, honestly and sensitively. However, some aspects may be upsetting to some children. Parents, carers and teachers are encouraged to discern the appropriateness of the resource for each child before sharing and to discuss and complete the activities alongside them, inviting questions and reflections on their learning.



Partnership Against
Child Exploitation



Dante's Story

Dante is 13 and works in a mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Central Africa. He gave up going to school in 4th grade at the age of 9 because his family needed money. He is the eldest of 7 children and his father is out of work.

Dante was told he had to go to the mines to earn money to help feed his younger brother and sisters. Dante's first job in the mines was as a Creuseur, going into an underground tunnel to dig rocks out of tiny crevices that are small enough for children to get to.

One day the tunnel collapsed and his friend Olivier was seriously injured. Dante escaped with minor injuries but refuses to go back into the mine.

He now prefers to work in the open air as a Trieur, helping sort the rocks dug out of the ground. He looks for coltan, a mineral that is used in smartphones and laptop computers to be sold all over the world. Dante has no idea what the coltan is used for.

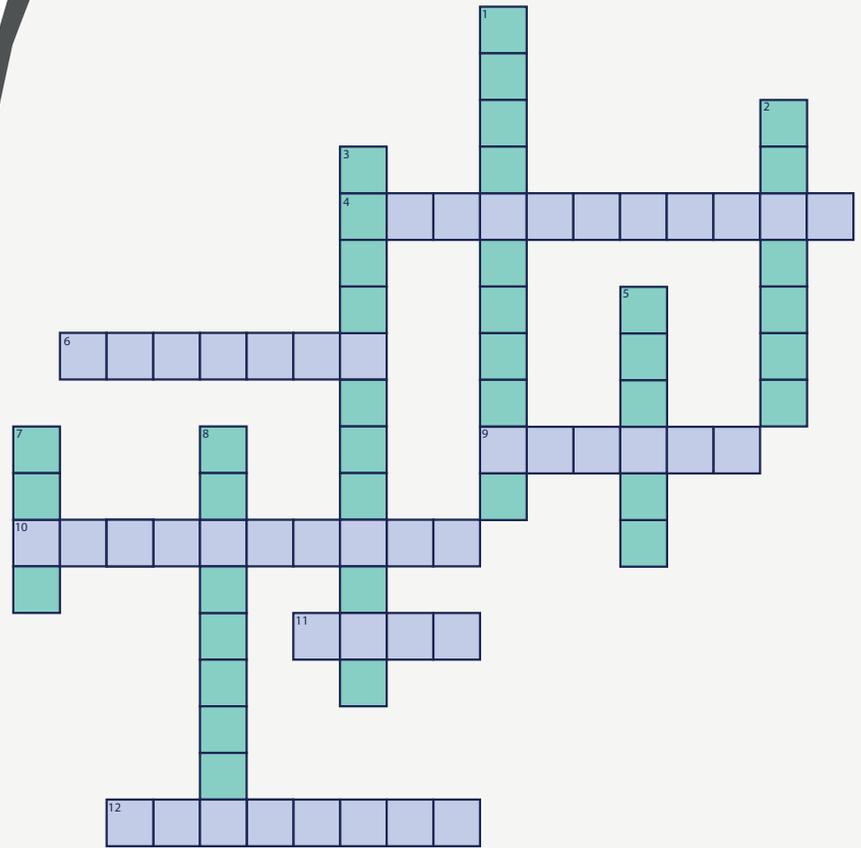


Disclaimer: Names and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals.

Crossword

Complete the crossword puzzle below, using Dante's story to help you find the answers

He hopes to become a doctor and help his sister who has tuberculosis. Or maybe become a negotiant—someone in the local marketplace who has a motorbike and buys the coltan and sells it in the big city for good money.



DOWN

1. Where negociants work
2. The region of Africa Dante lives in
3. The disease his sister is suffering from
5. What Dante hopes to be when he grows up
7. The cause of Dante's sore eyes
8. The vehicle Dante hopes to own when he grows up

ACROSS

4. The type of tunnel Dante is injured in
6. The name of Dante's friend
9. The mineral Dante is mining out of the ground
10. A type of electronic device that coltan is used for
11. Dante's age when he left school
12. The name of Dante's first job in the mine

Maybe then his hands won't get so torn and cut by the washing and sorting and his eyes won't be so sore from all the dust of the mines.



Dante's Crossword Answers:

ACROSS: 4. underground, 6. Oliver, 9. coltan, 10. smartphone, 11. nine, 12. creuseur
DOWN: 1. marketplace, 2. central, 3. tuberculosis, 5. doctor, 7. dust, 8. motorbike

Millions of children need the opportunity to enjoy a better world and future.
TO ACHIEVE THAT, WE NEED YOUR HELP! We've created these activity sheets to help you understand child labour better and help do something about it.

Because no one knows what it's like to be a kid better than a kid!

What is Child Labour?

Child labour is when children have to do work that is harmful to their bodies, minds or beliefs and can mean that they don't get to go to school or enjoy playing with their friends. It's not the same as having to do chores for a little while every day or having a part time job when you are a teenager.

There are many types of child labour; for some kids it means being forced into marriage and having to take on adult housework and responsibilities; for others it means working on a farm or digging metals and minerals out of the ground.

Many child labourers hardly get paid anything for the work they do. Most work in conditions that are dangerous and bad for their health, which can affect them for the rest of their life. Child labour keeps children from enjoying being kids and from achieving their full potential.

Why does Child Labour happen?

There are many reasons why children are victims of child labour and the solutions are not always simple.

Many people use children as workers because they can pay them less or deceive them more easily than adults. Sometimes it is because their families are too poor to send them to school and rely on the money their children earn. Sometimes it is because they are caught up in a war or a natural disaster.

And sometimes, it's because there are no nearby schools for them to go to.

Did you know?

160 million children

between the ages of 5-17 are in labour today. That's the same as about half the number of people who live in the USA.

79 million of them

work in dangerous conditions. That's nearly the same as the number of people who live in Germany.

8 out of 10 children

in child labour are said to be boys, but we don't know for sure. There may be more girls that we don't know about yet.

Take Action!

This is the part where you get to do something to help make things better for children working in conditions like Dante .

The coltan that Dante was digging out of the ground is used to make electronics. Do you have a favourite electronics brand? Maybe they make video consoles, phones or tablets that you use in your home?

You could write them a letter to tell them about how you feel about child labour and to ask them what they are doing to tackle this issue

You can usually find their email or postal address on their website, or better still , ask an adult to take a photo or scan and help you post it or tag it to the company social media pages on Twitter or Facebook.

Top Tips for letter writing:

BE POLITE & BE POSITIVE

You are talking about a serious problem but people are more likely to listen and respond if you expect the best of them

BE CLEAR

Point out what you want them to do to help make children's lives better

BE PERSONAL

Tell them about yourself and why this matters to YOU!

BE CREATIVE

Make your letter as bright and eye-catching as possible (most of these companies only get boring mail and will SERIOUSLY WAKE UP if they see a colourful message from a kid)

Sample Letter

Dear Sparkitech,

My name is Harper and I am 10 years old. I live in Birmingham and have two dogs . I love Manga art.

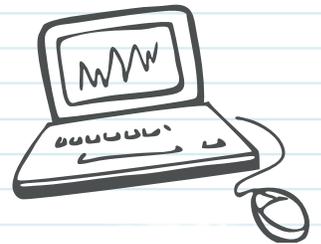
First of all, I want you to know I am a big fan of your tablets. Secondly, I have been learning about child labour in mines. I am very concerned about the children who are used to dig coltan out of the ground for tablets and smartphones.

Can you please let me know what you are doing to make sure that your company isn't using children labour in any of it's products?
Can you please make sure that:

1. Children aren't working in mines to help make your electronics
2. If you find children are working in mines, you help make a way for them to be able to get an education and stay healthy and safe
3. Where adults are working in mines, they are paid enough to make sure their kids don't have to work too.

Thank you for reading my letter.
I am looking forward to a response soon.

Harper Moon



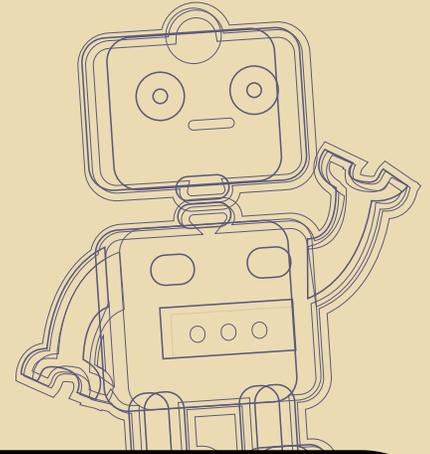
Kids' voices can change the world ...

In 1995, a 12 year old Craig from Canada read about a boy his age in Bangladesh called Iqbal Masih who had been killed after speaking out against child labour. Craig travelled to Bangladesh to meet other children affected and persuaded the Prime Minister of Canada to take action. He went on to create a charity that has helped millions of children all over the world.

DESIGN CHALLENGE! Win a prize!!!

Lots of children are sent into the small tight crevices underground to dig out precious metals and minerals from rocks. This is very dangerous to their health and safety. Design a robot that can go into the mines and dig out the rocks so that children don't have to go down and risk themselves.

Send your robot designs to info@50eight.com. There will be a prize for the best idea!



Top tips:

- Your robot needs to be made of materials that are both strong and flexible.
- Don't forget to label your robot with all the features it has!

Kids' Ideas Matter!

In 2014, 7 year old Charlotte wrote to Lego to complain that the Lego Friends sets they designed for girls were uninspiring as they only featured female characters shopping or sitting at home. Lego responded by creating a whole new range of female scientists, explorers and business women.