

Doughnut Economics drawing activity



Ages: 14+



Time: 1 hour

Purpose:

To learn about the concept of Doughnut Economics and how to stay within planetary boundaries.

Youth work outcomes:

Outcome 2: Young people are confident, resilient and optimistic for the future

Outcome 3: Young people create, describe and apply their learning and skills

Outcome 7: Young people broaden their perspectives through new experiences and thinking

Sustainable development goals:



Materials:

Doughnut template, pens

Context:

Watch this TED talk by Kate Raworth, the person who came up with the Doughnut Economics model:

https://www.ted.com/talks/kate_raworth_a_healthy_economy_should_be_designed_to_thrive_not_grow

Doughnut Economics is an economic model pioneered by Kate Raworth, which is based on the premise that all human activity should be bordered on one side with social foundations which ensure that nobody is left without basic needs, and on the other by an ecological ceiling, which ensures that human activities do not overshoot planetary boundaries. The space between these two sets of boundaries can be represented as a doughnut, and human activity that takes place within the doughnut (ie. not crossing either boundary) is deemed to be both ecologically sustainable and socially just.



Image source: The Economics Detective

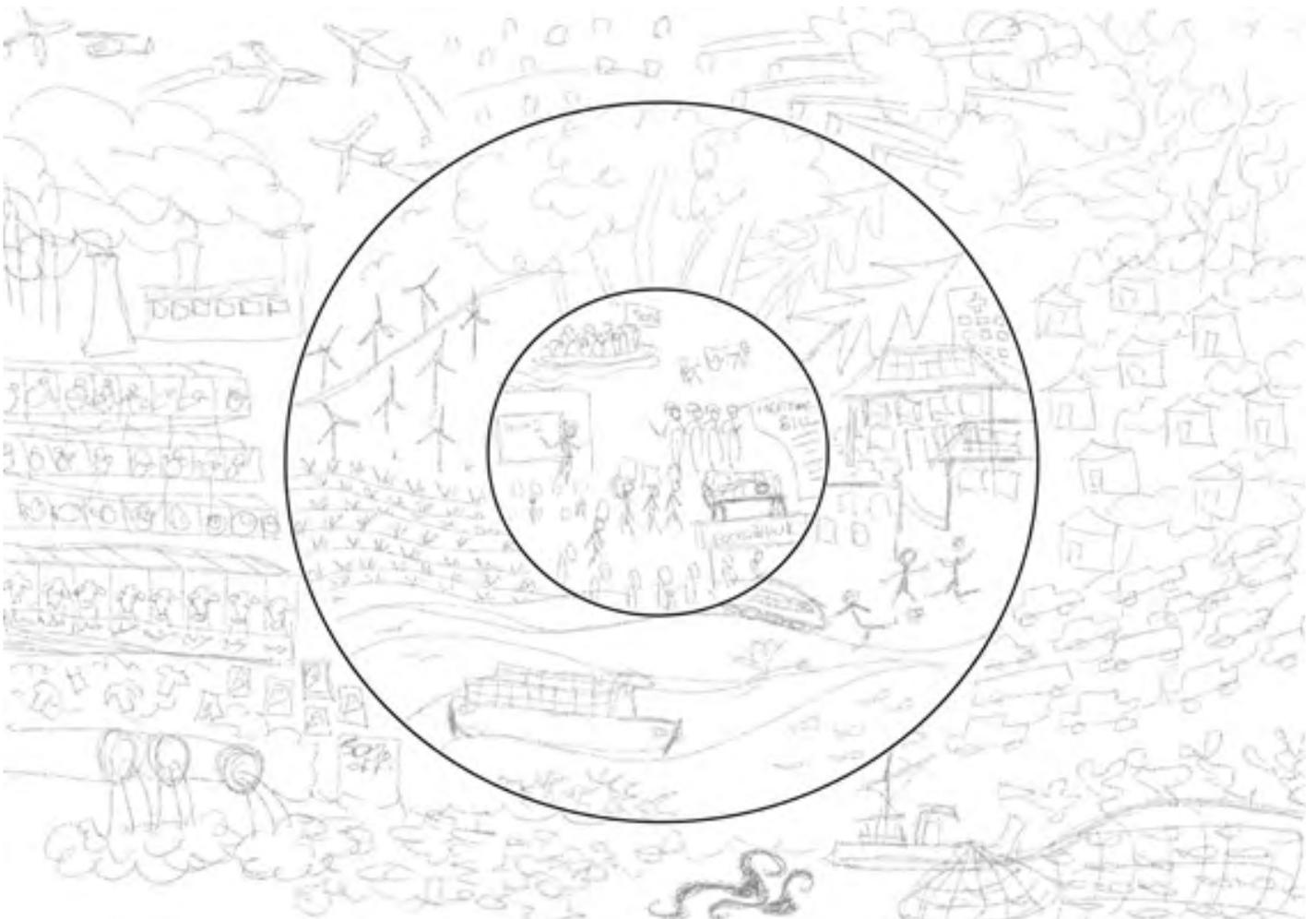
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Discussion questions:

- What basic human needs do you think should be represented on the inside of the doughnut?
- Why have you chosen these specific needs?
- Which social foundations do you think our society/government/system is falling short on at the moment? How could these be brought back into the doughnut space?
- Which ecological needs should be represented on the outside of the doughnut?
- Why?
- Where are we overshooting on these needs currently? How can we make sure our activity takes place within the doughnut?
- What do you think would be an effective way of measuring whether our activities are staying within the doughnut?

Drawing activity:

Print out templates of the doughnut shape. Ask the young people to draw or write which activities fit into the different sections – in the centre of the doughnut they could draw the consequences of falling short on social needs for example, and on the outside of the doughnut they could draw the consequences of overshooting the ecological ceiling. Then inside the doughnut they can draw the ideal world that stays within both social and planetary boundaries. What would this look like?



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Glossary:

- **Social foundations** = basic human needs such as food to eat, a place to live, personal safety, healthcare etc.
- **Ecological ceiling** = the point where if we extract any more from nature, we will cause irreversible damage to the Earth's ecosystems.
- **Planetary boundaries** = 9 interlinked boundaries in the Earth's systems have been identified by climate scientists, within which humanity can operate safely. As each boundary is overshoot, the others become less stable. We have already overshoot three of the nine boundaries.
- **Ecologically sustainable** = activities which don't damage the function of the Earth's ecosystems in the present and future.
- **Socially just** = activities which are fair for everyone, ensuring a decent standard of living and upholding human rights regardless of race, class, wealth, gender etc.

Resources:

- <https://sustainableandsocial.com/planetary-boundaries/>
- <https://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/>