

PEOPLE OF THE WORLD

THERE is *one* race of people: the human race. In Latin, we are all known as *Homo sapiens* – ‘wise person’. The differences between people, such as dark or light skin, hair and eyes, are small.

The smaller map (below) shows the rich and the poor countries of the world. In any one country there are rich and poor people, but the difference between countries is even greater.

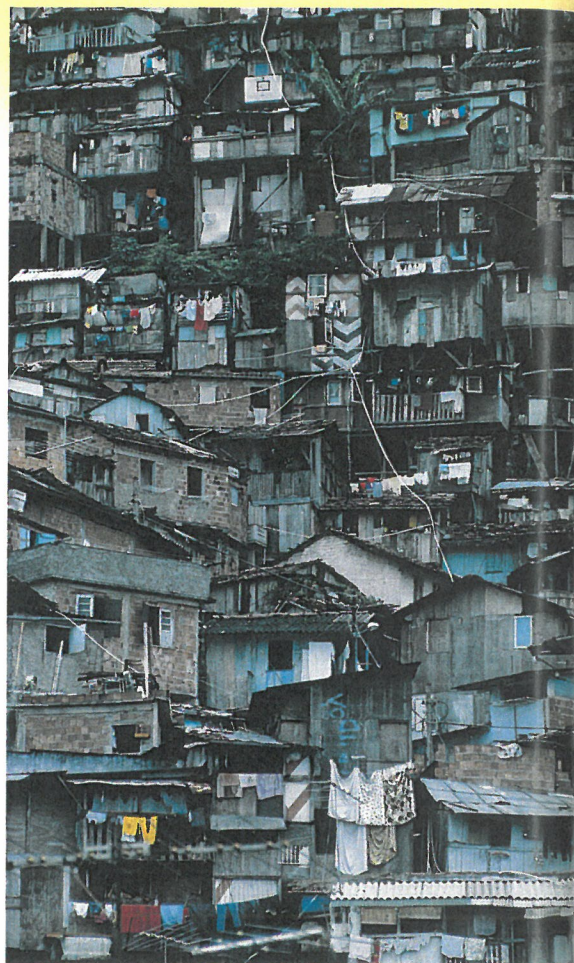
The map shows that the richest countries are in North America, Europe, Japan and Australia. Here most people usually have plenty to eat. They can buy many kinds of food; they can go to a doctor or hospital when they need to, and the children can go to school.

The richest countries are the ones that control most of the world’s trade and make decisions about international rules. But they also give aid to help the poorer countries.

The poorest countries (shown in dark green) are in the tropics – mostly in Africa. Life in these countries is very different from life in the rich world. Many people struggle to grow enough food, and they are often hungry.

People who do not have enough to eat find it difficult to work hard and they get ill more easily. They do not have enough money to pay for medicines or to send their children to school to learn to read and write. Some of the poorest people live in shanty towns in or near large cities.

But many people in the tropics do manage to break out of this ‘cycle of poverty’. They now have a better diet, and more and more people can obtain clean water. Primary schools now teach most children to read and write and do simple arithmetic – though there are few books and classes may be very large. In many places, village health workers are taught to recognize and treat the common diseases.



▲ **Crowded and poor:** a shanty town in Brazil. These shanties on a steep hillside in Rio de Janeiro were built by people who have nowhere else to live. Some of them have low-paid jobs, but others have to beg to get enough to eat.

THIRD WORLD AID



This young boy is collecting water from a tap in his village in Uganda. Now he and his family have clean, safe water to drink and wash in. They no longer have to walk far for water. Many schemes like this are helped by money given by the rich countries of the world.

