

## THE 21st CENTURY

The 21st century is the age of digital technology, mobile phones and the Internet. We have improved our transport, we have been able to land on Mars and we have also discovered water on the Moon. The World Wide Web continues to rise in popularity and Social Networking has emerged: Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube are making the world smaller. The world population reached 7 billion in October 2011 but we now usually use the term "global village".

It is also a time of conflicts, such as The Second Congo War or Terrorism. We have seen natural disasters: earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, volcanic eruptions and man-made disasters such as bushfires, oil spills, nuclear accidents, global warming, that are destroying the environment. We can see the effects of some diseases like the flu pandemic, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Each of these kill over a million people every year. Most of the time, poverty is the root cause for many of the world's other problems, including famine, disease, and insufficient education. We produced enough food to feed double the population. Something isn't working. Something is wrong.

What is going on???

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that United Nations member states have agreed to achieve by the year 2015 to find a solution to all these problems. These goals are to end poverty and hunger, universal education, gender equality, child health, maternal health, combat diseases, sustainable development and global partnership and collaboration.



## ACTIVITIES

1. Fill in the gaps.

The World Wide Web and Social Networking make the world \_\_\_\_\_.

The **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** are eight international development goals that \_\_\_\_\_ member states have agreed to achieve by the year 2015.

We can see the effects of some \_\_\_\_\_ like the flu pandemic, AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The World Wide Web and Social Networking make the world smaller, so now we usually use the term \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Answer the questions:

- Have you experienced any natural disaster in your country?
  
- Write the name of three diseases:
  
- How many goals have the United Nations agreed to achieve?
  
- What are the advantages of the 21st Century?

3) Match the different terms with their meaning.

Goal

to get or obtain

Development without  
damaging the environment;

fire in the trees and bushes

Bushfires

epidemic over a large area

Hunger

sustainable development

pandemic

aim; end, objective

to achieve

famine, without food



<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/21st\\_century](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/21st_century)