



ACTIVITY 9.03
EDUCATION, HELICOPTERS, AND THE FUTURE



Sikorsky

A United Technologies Company

5th ANNUAL
HELICOPTER
2050
CHALLENGE

Name _____

Date _____

ACTIVITY OBJECTIVE: In this activity, kids will take a look at how the lack of access to education in many parts of the world—and even in some parts of the United States—contributes to many of the global challenges we face. This will lead to a discussion of how better access to education around the world can foster improved health, well-being, prosperity, and quality of life around the world. It will conclude with considering how some of those improvements in educational access might involve helicopters.

TIME REQUIRED: 30 min. (or more if desired)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Notepad (for brainstorming ideas)
- Poster board
- Pencils, markers, etc.

WHAT TO DO:

Start this activity by asking kids to once more revisit the phrase “global challenge.” Have them consider that a lack of access to education—especially in developing or “third-world” nations—might indeed qualify as a global challenge. A lack of access to education can directly or indirectly prevent small and large populations from leading healthy, happy, and productive lives.

Have kids think about and suggest ways in which inadequate education and a lack of educational access and resources might contribute to a whole range of other global challenges we’ve talked about earlier, including:

- Long-term poverty
- Hunger and lack of sustainable agriculture
- Natural disasters and their effects
- The spread of disease due to inadequate sanitation and ignorance of safe practices
- Man-made disasters like industrial accidents and armed conflict

Next, ask participants to give examples of ways in which increased access to education might prevent or help overcome some of these challenges (examples are provided in the “Background” section below). This can lead into a discussion of how helicopters might play a role in providing more—and better—access to education around the world.

EXTENSION:

Challenge kids to create posters, public service announcements, or other communications promoting education as a way to combat and overcome global challenges like hunger, homelessness, etc. Kids may also spotlight the possible roles of helicopters in overcoming such challenges.





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BACKGROUND ON EDUCATION'S ROLE IN PREVENTING GLOBAL CHALLENGES:

1. Fighting poverty, hunger, and famine through education

Education is integral to helping people in impoverished areas help themselves by becoming self-sustaining. Educational outreach can be carried out by teams brought in by helicopter that can help get education and training started and then deliver and provide ongoing support.

2. Education regarding clean water and preventing disease

Educating adults and children about proper hygiene and how to make drinking water safe can save thousands of lives through the prevention of waterborne and other diseases. Helicopters can assist in these efforts by delivering educators and the supplies they need to establish safe practices in communities.

3. Better response to natural and man-made disasters through education

The better educated a population is, the more effective their recovery from disasters like earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, etc., will be. The people will likely be better prepared and will better comprehend emergency instructions from authorities. Also, a better-educated population could produce more doctors to serve the region. Helicopters could serve as flying clinics in which disaster victims would receive treatment.