

Activity 1

Research the Issue

Chances are that you've grown up getting "shots" to help you stay healthy. These shots are vaccines that build up your body's resistance to the germs that cause diseases like polio, pneumonia, and measles. In many parts of the world, however, children do not have access to vaccines. As a result, every 20 seconds a child dies from a disease that could be prevented with a vaccine. That's more than 1.5 million children each year.

Vaccines work and are one of the most cost-effective ways to save and improve the lives of children worldwide. The **Shot@Life** campaign encourages Americans to

support improving access to life-saving vaccines. The campaign collects donations, but its primary goal is to empower Americans to advocate for congressional support for global child health and vaccination programs that save lives and help protect us here at home. To achieve this goal, **Shot@Life** rallies Americans to tell their congressional representatives that supporting global child health and vaccination programs should be a foreign policy priority.

Will you join **Shot@Life** by raising your voice to save the lives of millions of children in developing countries by speaking out in support of these programs?

Part 1

To answer that question, become an informed citizen by learning more about the need for global childhood vaccination programs around the world. Start with these online videos:

- *Shot@Life Campaign* — a 90-second call to action <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTOZRhDxZe8>
- *Vaccines Save Lives* — background on the importance of vaccinations [msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/vaccines-save-lives-312232515889](https://www.msnbc.com/msnbc/watch/vaccines-save-lives-312232515889)
- *The Last Polio Ward in India* — how vaccination eliminated polio in India in just five years <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WsHxUMgJzn8>
- *Value of Vaccination* — a video from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, on the impact of vaccination [gavi.org/about/value/](https://www.gavi.org/about/value/)
- *About Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance* — a video telling the story of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance [youtube.com/watch?v=Ufiu9jbf-Es#t=152](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufiu9jbf-Es#t=152)

For more information, visit these websites:

- *Shot@Life: Learn* — facts about the global problem and the proven benefits of vaccination shotatlife.org/learn
- *Vaccines Work* — an infographic that provides statistics on global vaccination unicefusa.org/stories/infographic-vaccines-statistics
- *The Big Picture* — statistics and news on how UNICEF saves children's lives through immunization unicef.org/immunization/index_bigpicture.html
- *World Health Organization Immunization* — details from WHO on immunization who.int/topics/immunization/en/ or who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs378/en/
- *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Global Immunization* — stories from the field sharing how the CDC protects against vaccine-preventable diseases cdc.gov/globalhealth/immunization/field_stories.htm

Now take this quiz to find out if you are an informed citizen on the issue of global access to vaccines. Circle the correct answer.

- How many children under the age of 5 die every year from diseases that could be prevented by vaccines?
A) 10,000,000 B) 150,000 C) 1,500,000
- Which of the following diseases can be prevented by a vaccine?
A) Cancer B) Measles C) Acne
- 70% of the world's unvaccinated children live in only _____ countries.
A) 2 B) 18 C) 10
- For about _____, one child can be vaccinated against measles.
A) \$5.00 B) \$1.00 C) 10¢
- What percent of the world's children do not have access to vaccines?
A) 20% B) 30% C) 40%
- Vaccines have saved the lives of more children than any other medical intervention in the last 50 years.
 True False
- Vaccines have completely eliminated polio around the world.
 True False
- Vaccines work by giving you a weakened or dead form of the disease-causing germ so your body can make antibodies to fight it off.
 True False
- Vaccines are one of the most cost-effective ways to save and improve the lives of children worldwide.
 True False
- Pneumonia and diarrhea are the two biggest killers of children worldwide under the age of five.
 True False

Part 2

As an informed citizen, you are now prepared to decide whether you will join the **Shot@Life** campaign in telling your congressional representatives to support global child health and vaccination programs. Team up with a small group of classmates to share what you've learned and compare your points of view. Then use the back of this paper to state your position on the issue and three facts that support your opinion.

