



Invest in a healthier world.
Immunize a child.

Dear Educator:

Did you know that a child dies every 20 seconds from a vaccine-preventable disease? By using this curriculum on the legislative process and civic engagement, your students can help give children around the world access to the life-saving vaccines they need to stay healthy.

The **Shot@Life** campaign educates, connects, and empowers Americans to help protect children in developing countries from vaccine-preventable diseases by building a movement in support of programs of the United Nations and other partners that improve the health of children around the world every day. **Shot@Life** invites your students to become informed citizens about the importance of global child health and vaccination programs, exercising their constitutional right to petition the government by writing letters to their congressional representatives. You can mail their letters postage-free using the downloadable label available at ymiclassroom.com/shotatlife.

The **Shot@Life** campaign provides a perfect case study for teaching students how the U.S. government works. Your students will feel empowered to affect the agenda for elected officials and set priorities for government spending through grassroots advocacy. At the same time, your students and their families will become aware of the issue of global child health and the need for access to vaccines that have life-or-death importance for millions of children around the world.

We encourage you to share this program with other teachers at your school. Although the materials are protected by copyright, you may make as many copies as you need for educational purposes.

We would love to get your opinion of this program. Let us know what you think by returning the enclosed reply card or by responding through the feedback form at ymiclassroom.com/shotatlife. We depend on your comments to continue providing free educational programs that make a real difference in students' lives.



For questions, contact us toll-free at 1-800-859-8005 or by email at feedback@ymiclassroom.com.

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Target Audience

This program is designed as a supplement to government and civics classes in grades 6-8.

Program Objectives

- Educate students and their families about the **Shot@Life** campaign and encourage discussion about global child health and vaccination programs.
- Empower students to take part in the legislative process as informed citizens equipped to make their voices heard by their elected representatives.
- Motivate students to write thoughtful, personal, and persuasive letters to their congressional representatives about the need to support global childhood vaccination programs.
- Provide a framework for delivering students' letters to their representatives as a civics exercise.

Program Components

- This one-page teacher's guide
- Three reproducible student activity sheets
- Support Slides with background information for students available at ymiclassroom.com/shotatlife
- A colorful classroom wall poster
- A downloadable postage-paid label for mailing your students' letters available at ymiclassroom.com/shotatlife
- A reply card for your feedback (or reply online at ymiclassroom.com/shotatlife)

Standards

This program aligns with national standards for both Civics and Government and Social Studies for grades 6-8. For a detailed correlation, visit ymiclassroom.com/shotatlife.

How to Use This Program

Display the poster after photocopying the activity sheets. You may choose to collaborate with other Social Studies teachers and/or work with Science and/or Health teachers to conduct an interdisciplinary unit. Use the poster as an overview and reference point.

Activity 1 • Research the Issue

This activity lays the groundwork for students to learn about the need for childhood vaccination programs around the world and how the **Shot@Life** campaign is empowering Americans to help solve this problem through grassroots advocacy.

Part 1: Explain to students that this web quest will provide them with a foundation of knowledge to inform their letter-writing and advocacy. Ask each student group to identify one question they have about global childhood vaccines, then use the quiz answers and students' questions to conduct a discussion that will reinforce learning. If possible, have students use the Internet to answer the questions they come up with.

Quiz Answers: 1-C; 2-B; 3-C; 4-B; 5-A; 6-True; 7-False; 8-True; 9-True; 10-True.

Part 2: Have students work in small groups to share their views about the importance of U.S. government support for global childhood vaccination programs. Then have them work individually to create a personal statement of support. Have students share their position statements in class.

Activity 2 • Meet the Policymakers

Members of Congress consider many factors when deciding how to pass laws. Some of these factors include their personal beliefs, the wishes of their constituents, and the ideals of their political parties. In this activity, students will learn about the decision-making and legislative process.

Part 1: Have students research their representatives' records on the issue of global child health and vaccination programs, if available, at the representatives' websites, using the graphic organizer on the activity sheet to make notes on what they learn. For background on the importance of congressional support for this issue, have students review the Support Slides and the "Preparing to Take Action: Learn About U.S. Support for Global Vaccines" page on the **Shot@Life** website (<http://shotatlife.org/blog/us-support-for-global-vaccines.html>), then have them create a KWL chart and "read, pair, share" about what they've learned and what they'd like to know.

Part 2: Encourage students to interview family members and friends about how they think their representatives will respond to the student's position on supporting global child health and vaccination programs. Then have students write a profile of each representative that identifies factors that seem to determine their decisions about supporting international health programs that develop, purchase, or deliver global vaccines.

Activity 3 • Taking Action

This activity guides students in writing letters to their congressional representatives, and introduces other forms of advocacy they can explore.

Part 1: Students can use the template provided on the activity sheet as a model for their letters, or draw inspiration from the letter found in the "Tools" section of the **Shot@Life** website at <http://goo.gl/QmGyZ1>. Have students write a letter to each of their senators and one to their representative. Collect the letters and mail them to YMI using the downloadable postage-paid label available at ymiclassroom.com/shotatlife. YMI will mail the letters directly to your students' congressional representatives.

Part 2: Now help students take the step from informed citizenship to activism. Review the ideas listed on the activity sheet and encourage students to suggest ideas of their own. Should you wish to invite a **Shot@Life** spokesperson to speak at a school assembly or to your class, contact **Shot@Life** at info@shotatlife.org. In addition, **Shot@Life** would welcome the opportunity to arrange for your congressional representative or a member of their staff to visit your classroom OR for your class to visit their congressional representative's offices, should you be planning a class field trip to Washington, D.C. For further information, please contact **Shot@Life** at info@shotatlife.org.

Resources

- Shot@Life**, shotatlife.org
- YMI microsite, ymiclassroom.com/shotatlife
- Vaccines Work, unicefusa.org/stories/info-graphic-vaccines-statistics

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

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.msnbc.net/microsoft/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/
 - *About Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance* — a video telling the story of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance [youtube.com/watch?v=Ufi9jbF-Es#t=152](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ufi9jbF-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

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?

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.



Activity 2

Meet the Policymakers

Congressional representatives decide how to spend the taxpayers' money by creating a budget. They budget funds for the armed forces, education, law enforcement, scientific research, and many other national priorities. They also budget funds for foreign aid, which includes money for global child health and vaccination programs. As an informed citizen, how can you influence these budgeting decisions?

Part 1

Congressional representatives are most influenced by their constituents — the people who live in their state or district whom they represent and who vote to put them in office. That means you can have the most influence on budgeting decisions by talking with your own congressional representatives. Even though you don't vote yet, you are still one of their constituents, and they care about your point of view. Generally, every American has three representatives — two people who represent you in the U.S. Senate, called senators, and one person who represents you in the House of Representatives, called a representative.



Use a chart like this to learn more about your congressional representatives. You can start your research at [GovTrack.us](#), a website that will tell you the names of your representatives and provide links to their official websites. Go to their websites and focus your research on finding out what your representatives are interested in. Find out if your representatives serve on committees — the Senate Foreign Relations and House Foreign Affairs committees — that debate this issue. Find out if they serve on the House or Senate appropriations or budget committees that put together and debate the federal budget. The more you know about your representatives and where they stand on this issue, the more effective you can be in presenting your position and influencing their decisions.

Representative's Name:	Political Party:
Committee Assignments:	
What are their interests?	
Do they talk about other countries? If so, which countries?	
Senator's Name:	Political Party:
Committee Assignments:	
What are their interests?	
Do they talk about other countries? If so, which countries?	
Senator's Name:	Political Party:
Committee Assignments:	
What are their interests?	
Do they talk about other countries? If so, which countries?	

Part 2

After you've gathered facts about your congressional representatives, you can find out more about how they make decisions by talking with some of their other constituents — your parents, teachers, or other adults in your community. As a homework assignment, ask these people how they think your representatives will respond to your position on supporting global child health and vaccination programs. Ask for ideas on the most effective way to explain your position. Use this information and the facts you have gathered to write a profile of each of your representatives that identifies the factors that seem to determine his or her decisions about supporting global child health and vaccination programs.



Activity 3

Taking Action

The First Amendment guarantees every American the right “to petition the Government.” You are now prepared to exercise this right by writing to your congressional representatives as part of this activity.

You might think that letters are old-fashioned. Wouldn’t it be just as effective to send a text or email, or leave a comment on a representative’s website or Facebook page? Those are all good ideas, but a letter is still the best way to make personal contact with your representatives and have an influence on their legislative decisions. A letter carries your signature. It speaks with your voice and expresses your feelings. It allows you to explain your position and give reasons why your representatives should agree with you.

Part 1

Join the **Shot@Life** campaign by writing letters to your congressional representatives in support of global child health and vaccination programs. Use the facts you have researched to explain why global childhood vaccination programs are important. Use what you have learned about your representatives to make your letters persuasive. Express your feelings so that your representatives know you are passionate about this issue.

For help getting started, take a look at the letter on the **Shot@Life** website (<http://goo.gl/QmGyZ1>), or follow the model below. When you have finished, give your letters to your teacher, who will mail all the letters from your class to your representatives in Washington, D.C.

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives/U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Representative/Senator _____,

I am deeply concerned about providing vaccinations to children around the world.

I urge you to...[state what you want your representative to do].

As you may know,...[provide facts to support your position].

We need to take action...[express your personal convictions or share a personal story about the issue].

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,
[your signature]
[your name and address]



Part 2

There are many other ways you can make your voice heard on the issue of global access to vaccines. For example:

- Speak personally to your congressional representatives by phoning them, asking them to visit your classroom, or visiting their offices, locally and in Washington, D.C.
- Attend your representatives’ town hall meetings in your area and ask them to support global child health and vaccination programs.
- Get your friends and family involved by hosting a letter writing party, so they can all urge your representatives to support global child health and vaccination programs.
- Use social media to raise awareness of this issue, encourage support from your member of Congress, and link your online community to the **Shot@Life** website, shotatlife.org.
- Invite a **Shot@Life** champion to speak at a school assembly about global child health and vaccination programs around the world.

As a class, choose one of these ideas or come up with a plan of your own to take the next step as informed citizens and help **Shot@Life** build congressional support for global childhood immunization programs that work to save the lives of millions of children around the world.

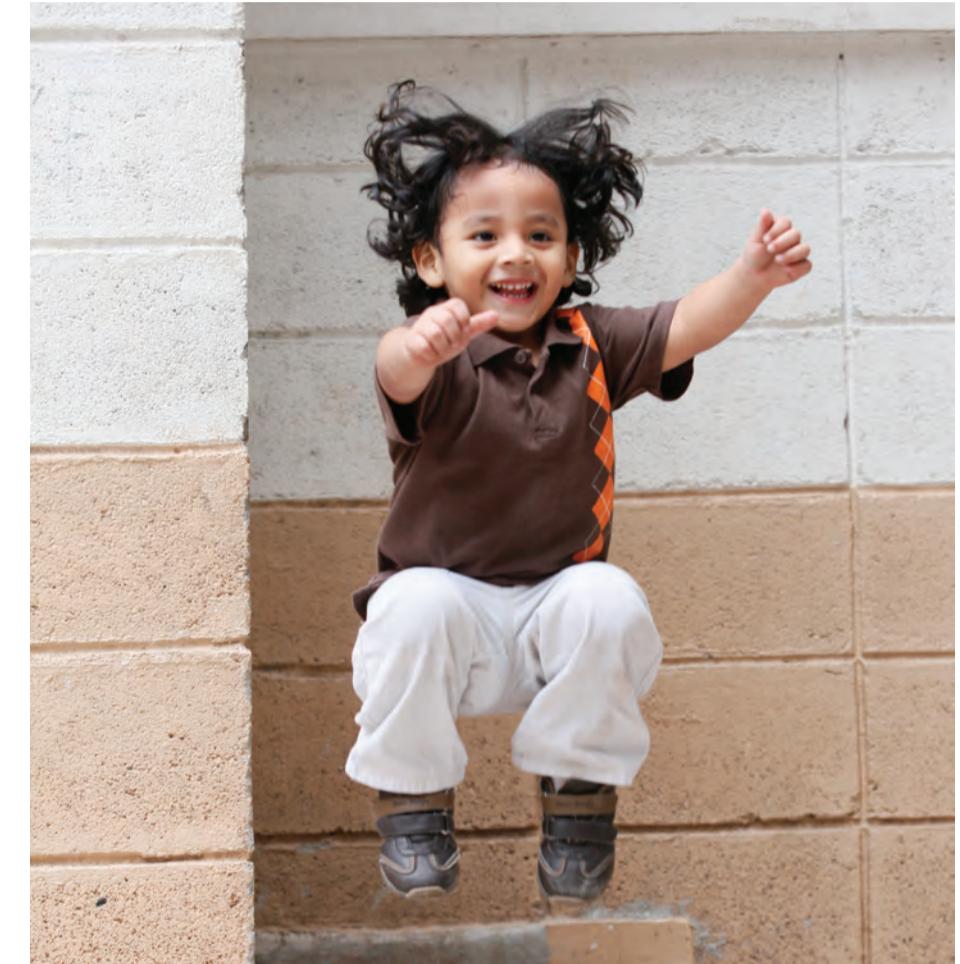


We the People... Can Save Lives



The Problem

In 2012, 22.6 million children around the world went unimmunized. Seventy percent of these children live in just 10 countries. Every 20 seconds, one of these children dies of a disease that could have been prevented by a vaccine.



The Solution

We the People can help save these children through our congressional representatives.

- Inform Congress about the importance of global child health and vaccination programs.
- Urge Congress to provide federal support for organizations that administer global child health and vaccination programs.
- Speak out to give every child a shot at a healthy life.



Take Action

You have members of Congress who are critically important to ensuring continued U.S. support for global child health and vaccination programs. Write letters to your congressional representatives. Let them know that you support these programs.



Sen. _____

Sen. _____

Rep. _____