### LESSON 1  Does the rise of the ‘global middle class’ mean that poverty is becoming a thing of the past?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching activities</th>
<th>Learning outcomes</th>
<th>Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Starter**
*What does ‘middle class’ mean?*
- A brief refresher on key terms: absolute poverty, purchasing power
- Investigating what ‘global middle class’ and ‘fragile middle’ mean (the 2-min BBC film can be used)

| **Main activity**
(1) *Rise of the global middle class*

How many people have escaped poverty and why is it happening now? The big picture of global development is outlined, using a range of contemporary evidence. Special consideration is given to the groups that Jim O’Neill christened BRIC and MINT. In each case, their ‘middle class credentials’ are outlined as the starting point for a possible extension research activity by students.

(2) *Global poverty reduction*

Does the growth of the global middle class mean that the MDG (Millennium development Goal) targets will be reached in 2015? Key evidence is examined and conclusions drawn. A case study of China is included, which charts key trends in poverty, incomes consumption and urbanisation since 1990. Finally, the precarious state of the fragile middle is examined, showing students that some recent human gains could be difficult to sustain, due to physical challenges.

| **Plenary**
*What challenges could harm the future prospects for the ‘fragile middle’?*

The ‘fragile middle’ have not fully consolidated their middle-class status yet. What are their main security and sustainability challenges?

This lesson is fully supported with the following resources:

1. A magazine-style case study article covering the main themes covered by this lesson (Word / pdf)

**External links**

- Resources Future interactive website: [http://resourcesfutures.org/#!/introduction](http://resourcesfutures.org/#!/introduction)