

# SECTION 2



## Global Challenges

### Title: Great Game of Power

**Aim:** To explore perceptions of whom and what is powerful in the world and how power is obtained and lost

**Age:** 10+

**Time:** 20 minutes


**Materials:** A table and a bottle

ACTIVITY  
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### WHAT TO DO

Place a table in the middle of the room and put a plastic bottle underneath. Ask participants which object they think has the most power at present? The table or the bottle? Why? Invite a volunteer to move an object to make it more powerful than the other. If it needs explaining, ask the group why they think it is now the more powerful object?

Ask if anyone can make themselves more powerful than the object? Choose one person to enter the picture and pose so they are more powerful than the object(s). They must stay completely still and are not allowed to talk when they are in the picture. Ask participants if they think the person is now the most powerful? Why? Ask if anyone can join in and make themselves more powerful than the person who joined? How? Allow them to join in. Continue until everyone has had a chance to join in.

 **DEBRIEF:** Was it difficult to join and be most powerful? Who held power longest? How quickly did you lose your power? Who was most powerful in the end? Why? Do you think objects can have power over people in the world? What might the bottle represent: A country, resource or people? What might we represent in this game? Why do people want to have control over others and resources? Are there positive and negative examples of how power is used over people? Are there some people in the world with more power than others? Why? Do you think this should change? If so, who should do it and how? If not, why?

**Variation:** You can play the game without a prop. A volunteer should go first by placing themselves in the middle and striking a powerful pose. Continue by asking others to join in.

 **FACT BOX:** The USA produces 8.5 million barrels of oil per day and consumes 19.5 million barrels per day. Saudi Arabia produces 10.8 million barrels of oil per day and consumes 2.4 million. It takes approximately 1 litre of oil to produce 10 plastic bottles (*Source: EIA (2010) US Energy Administration in [www.8020.ie](http://www.8020.ie), and [www.greenupgrader.com](http://www.greenupgrader.com)*)