

## Lesson 6 Thomas the Tank Engine and SDGs

### Lesson 6 Part 1 Summary

Thomas is a blue steam engine in a British children's book series.

This series is still read by children in more than 160 countries today.

In the 22nd series of *Thomas & Friends*<sup>TM</sup>, Thomas leaves Sodor Island for the first time and travels around the world. The show's creators worked to feature more female characters in the show by adding two female engines to the Steam Teams.

The United Nations decided to work with a US toy maker. They incorporate some of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals into the storylines of several episodes from that series.

### Lesson 6 Part 2 Summary

The 17 SDGs were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. They are what the United Nations created to help achieve a better and more sustainable future for everyone.

The United Nations has a hope of achieving the goals by 2030. Their global challenges include improving education, achieving gender equality, and fighting climate change.

The United Nations and the toy company see great value in the goals.

They chose six of the SDGs that were a natural fit with the kind of stories that are often seen in *Thomas & Friends*<sup>TM</sup>.

### Lesson 6 Part 3 Summary

The episode of Goal 11 is about living in cities. It says cities need good transport networks and more people should use public transport, instead of private cars, to help clean the air.

The episode of Goal 12 is about reusing and recycling. His friend, Reg, works at a scrap yard and knows if waste can be reused or recycled. Thomas said "Reg recycles it when something is broken and can't be repaired."

The episode of Goal 15 is about forests. It is especially forests that we should take care of because nearly all the insects, plants, and animals on Earth live in forests.

### Lesson 6 Part 4 Summary

The world today is quite different from when Thomas the Tank Engine was first created. People's values have greatly changed and there are new problems. The SDGs in *Thomas & Friends*<sup>TM</sup> are an important response to these changes.

The messages in the SDG episodes are easy to understand for children, and they give life lessons.

The episodes can help children learn important values such as the importance of diversity at an early age.