

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify Marx's criticisms of capitalism.
- Identify Marx's solution to the problems of capitalism.
- Evaluate the relevance of Marx's ideas to today's society.

Working in pairs, carry out the following tasks:

A. Watch the following clip and answer the questions below.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy_ilcc

1. Despite many criticisms that are often made of capitalism, why are Marx's ideas often ignored?
 2. Why does the clip suggest we should not ignore Marx's ideas?
 3. What were the communist party trying to do?
 4. Explain the following problems with capitalism that Marx identified:
 - a. Work in capitalist society is alienated.
 - b. Work in capitalist society is insecure.
 - c. Workers get paid little while capitalists get rich.
 - d. Capitalism is unstable.
 - e. Capitalism is bad for capitalists.
 5. What is an ideology? Give an example.
 6. What was Marx's solution to the problems caused by capitalism?
 7. What would communist society enable?
 8. What did Marx's ideas inspire?
 9. According to the clip, why should we all be Marxists?
- B. Using the information from the clip, individually write a paragraph on how far you think Marx's ideas are useful for understanding society today.