The global dimension in Dutch primary education

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Research question
How is the world/global dimension represented in primary geography textbooks in the different year groups (age 6-12 years)?
• Which regional contexts are used in the textbook series?
• What global themes/topics are presented in the textbook series?

Method
Content Analysis
• The two most important primary geography textbook series are analysed, ‘The Blue Planet’1 & ‘A world of Difference’ 2
• Textbook sections are analysed for the regional context: countries & regions mentioned and used.
• Textbook sections are analysed for key concepts belonging to global education, based on ‘Windows of the world’ 3.

The Blue Planet

A world of Difference

The representative of the subjects in the 8 themes

Diversity
Sustainable development
Identity
Globalization
Equity & Poverty
Global involvement
Peace and conflict
Human rights

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The percentage of the ‘Windows of the World’ themes per textbook serie

The build up in the textbooks through the year groups is strongly from local to global.
The physical features of the world (diversity) are most important in the textbooks.
Hardly any attention for global issues.

Discussion
The content and pedagogy of these textbooks are based on a strong belief in a world that slowly moves or opens from the local to the global. However, in which extent does this meet up with children’s nowadays global awareness and do we not underestimate their awareness?