



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)?

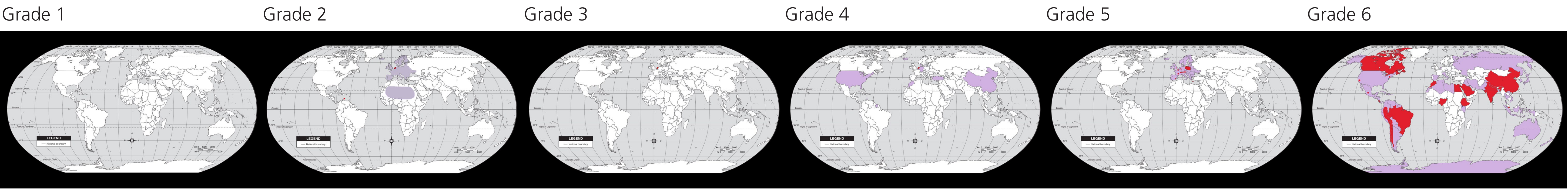
- Which regional contexts are used in the textbook series?
- What global themes/topics are presented in the textbook series?

Method

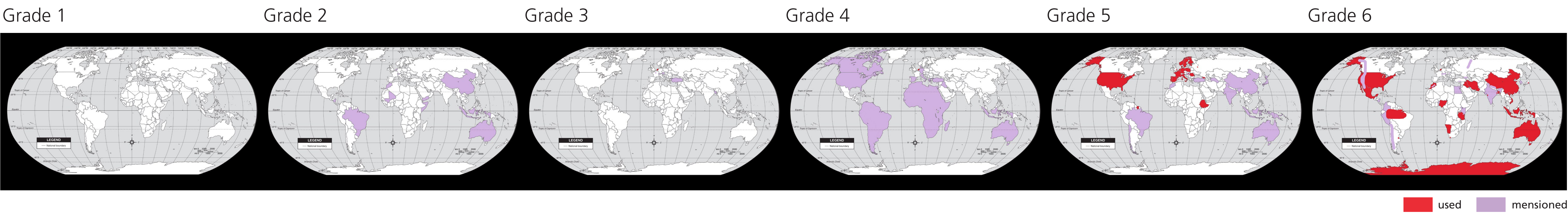
Content Analysis

- 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.

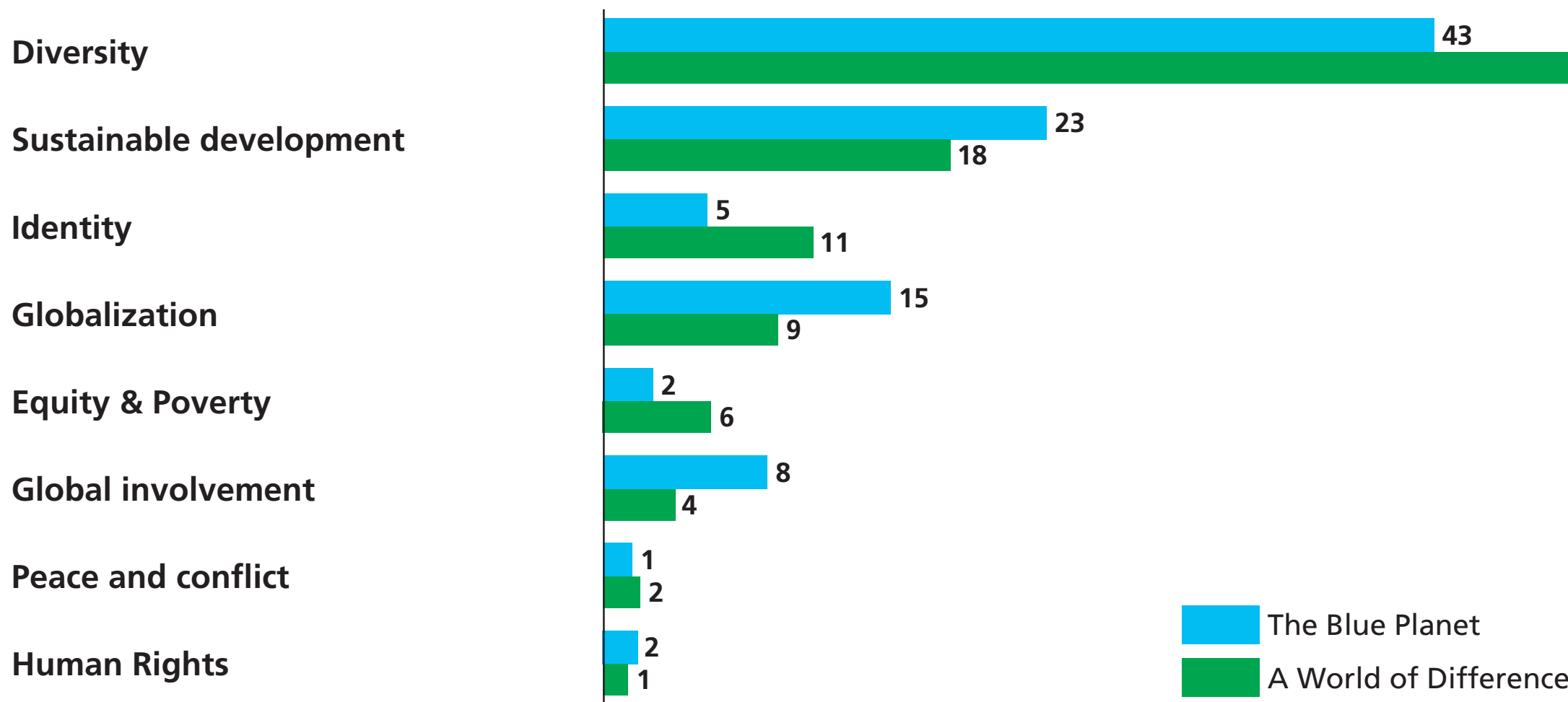
The Blue Planet



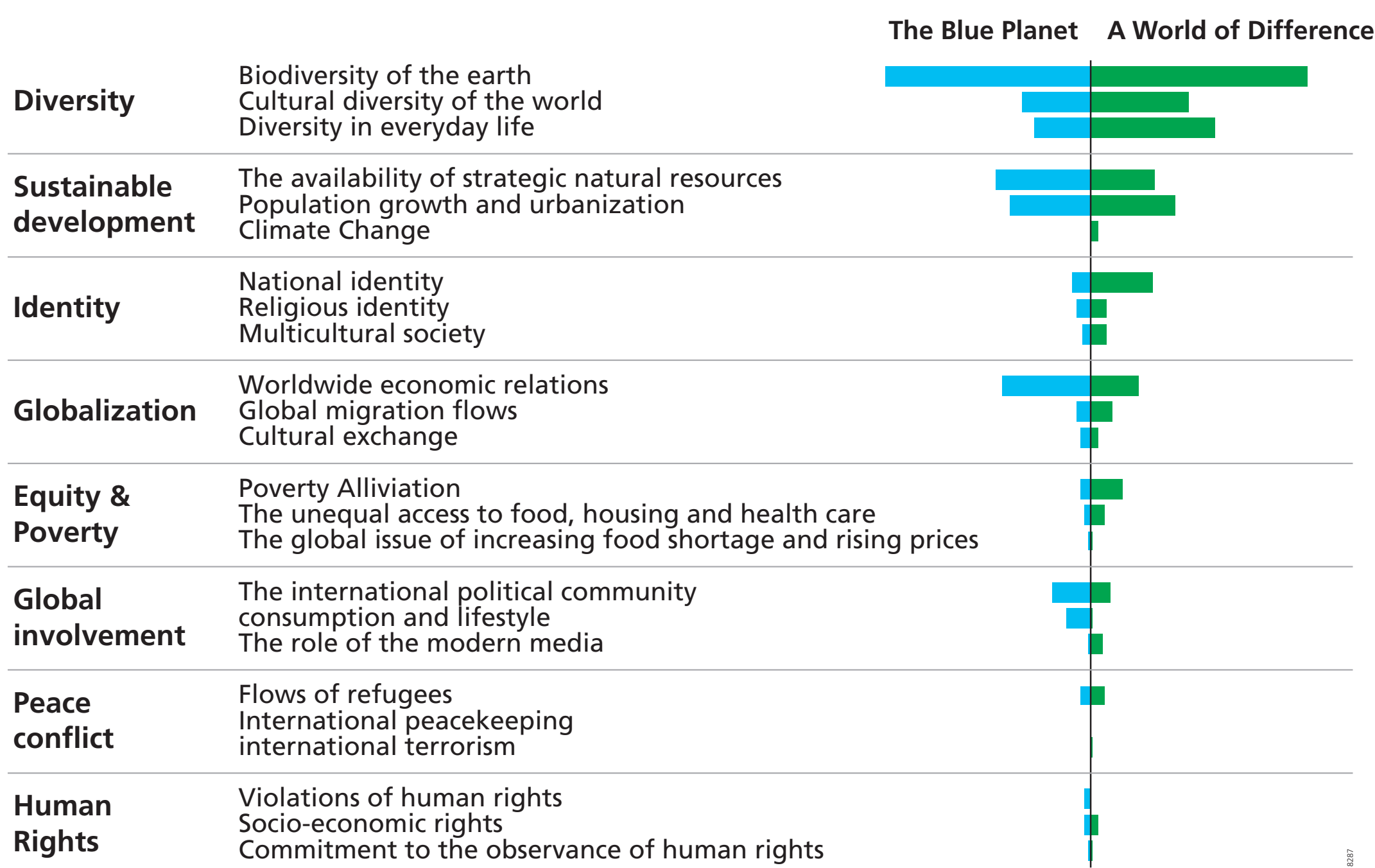
A world of Difference



The percentage of the 'Windows of the World' themes per textbook serie

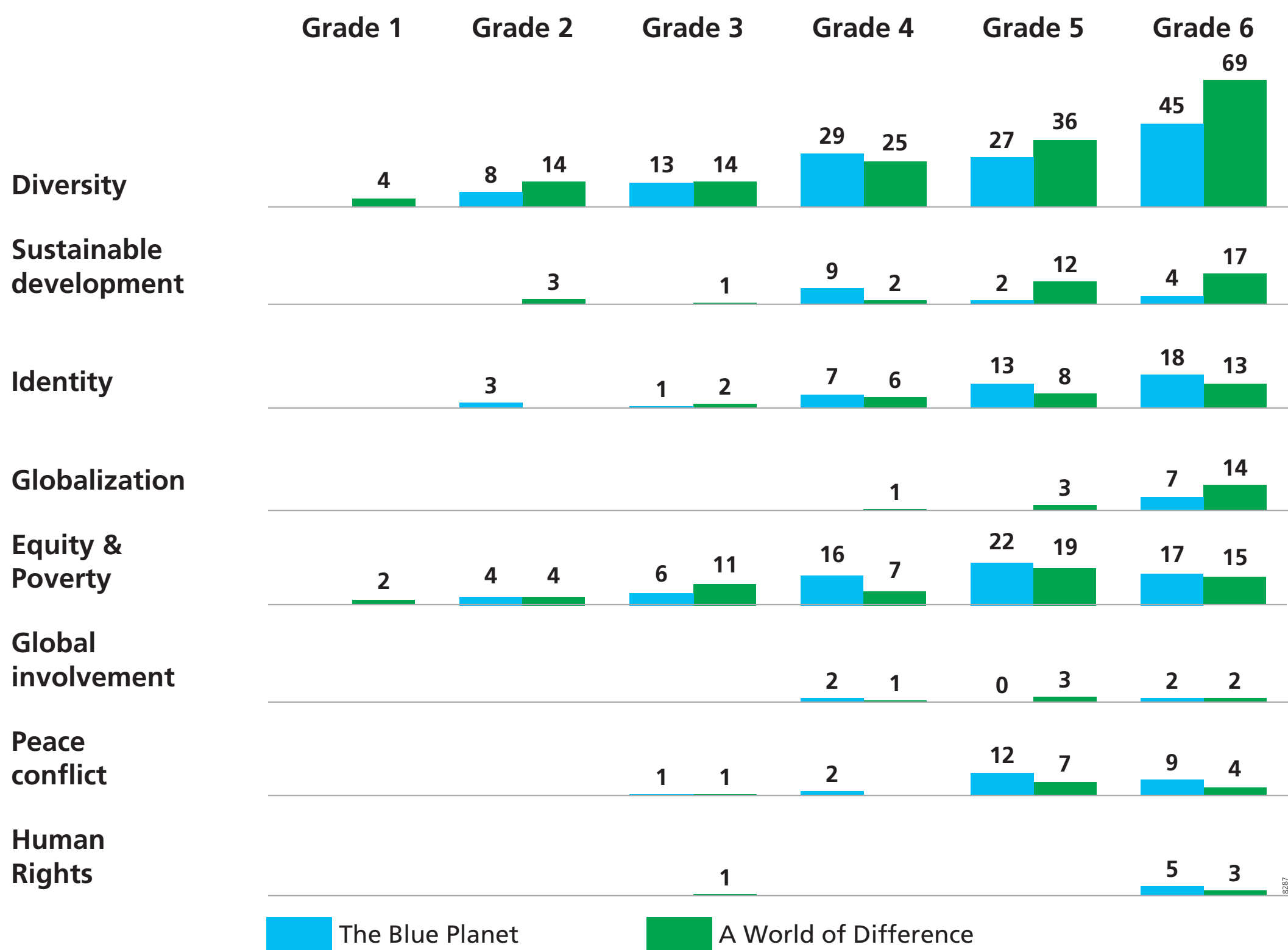


The representative of the subjects in the 8 themes



Theme	Subject	Grade											
		1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
Diversity	Biodiversity of the earth												
	Cultural diversity of the world												
	Diversity in everyday life												
Sustainable development	The availability of strategic natural resources												
	Population growth and urbanization												
	Climate Change												
Identity	National identity												
	Religious identity												
	Multicultural society												
Globalization	Worldwide economic relations												
	Global migration flows												
	Cultural exchange												
Equity & Poverty	Poverty alleviation												
	The unequal access to food, housing and health care												
	The global issue of increasing food shortage and rising prices												
Global involvement	The international political community												
	consumption and lifestyle												
	The role of the modern media												
Peace conflict	Flow of refugees												
	International peacekeeping												
	international terrorism												
Human Rights	Violations of human rights												
	Socio-economic rights												
	Commitment to the observance of human rights												

The Blue Planet A World of Difference



Conclusion

- 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?

1 Bakker, A. et al., 2007. The Blue Planet, geography for primary education. Utrecht/Zutphen, ThiemeMeulenhoff.
2 Bakker, A. et al., 2007. The Blue Planet, geography for primary education. Utrecht/Zutphen, ThiemeMeulenhoff.
3 Bénéker, T., M. van Stalborch & R. van der Vaart (2009) (Eds). Windows on the world. Report of the Canon for Global Citizenship Committee. Amsterdam: NCDO / Faculty of Geosciences, Utrecht University.