Land grabs
This lesson:

1) **Reading** – about global issues and comparing simplified and original articles

2) **Speaking** – discussing global issues – practice for the IELTS speaking exam

3) **Writing** – practice interpreting graphs and writing a 150 word summary for IELTS writing exam
What are the problems and solutions related to “land grabbing”?

a) discuss, then read and make notes from:
http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Land_in_Mozambique

b) discuss again, then read the original article:
http://newint.org/features/2013/05/01/smallholders-last-land-keynote/

c) now compare the two articles and note down some new vocabulary
Where are the worst places for land-grabbing, and why?

Read and discuss the infographic on the next slide, or on this link (with zoom feature):

http://newint.org/features/2013/05/01/land-grabs-hotspots-infographic/
Now look at the graphs on the infographic on the next slide (or on the link below, with zoom feature) – and discuss what they show:

http://newint.org/features/2013/05/01/land grabs-the-facts-infographic/
LAND GRABS – THE FACTS

Big land deals are forcing people from their homes and damaging livelihoods

Land Grab =
A controversial large-scale land acquisition (an area of land over 200 hectares) by a foreigner or ‘outsider’. Can result in dispossession – often without compensation – of those who live there.

An estimated 50 m hectares sold off globally in last 10 years
An area the size of a football pitch is acquired every second in the global South

Top 10 grabber and target countries
Reported international deals in millions of hectares

Investor countries have an average GDP per capita 4 times higher than target countries.

Who are the grabbers?
Foreign investors, national elites & neighbours...
32% of deals involve regional investors, 57% in the case of Asia
66% of demand for land from Gulf states is for offshore food production, mostly in Africa

Breakdown of agricultural deals by investor type (in millions of hectares)

Investor countries have an average GDP per capita 4 times higher than target countries.

$14 billion
The amount of private capital committed to investment in agriculture

Sweat the small stuff
There is a growing number of small-scale land acquisitions by elites in Africa.

95%
Of land investments in Benin, Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger are by nationals, with an average land size of 85 hectares.

What’s being grown?
Key commodities: vegetables, oilseeds, sugar cane, rice, maize and plantation forests.

6 million
Hectares of biofuels projects established in sub-Saharan Africa in the last 3 years

Eightfold increase in palm oil cultivation in the last 20 years – predicted to double by 2020

190
Private equity firms are investing in agriculture and farmland

High demand, high rates of failure
Only 25% of deals have started production

The hunger connection
Big land deals jeopardize food security.

2 billion
People depend on smallholder farms for their food and livelihoods

Two thirds
75% proportion of Liberia’s land allocated or promised to large investors in 2012

24%
Proportion of Liberian children who are malnourished

Empty land myth
The World Bank says Africa is home to more than half the world’s available yet ‘unused’ land. But investors often seek occupied, fertile land, close to infrastructure.

Of agricultural deals since 2000:
50% are for land less than a day’s trip away from the nearest city
20% are in densely populated areas
46% are on land formerly used for smallholder agriculture

Push back
Recent years have seen a sharp rise in numbers of land activists being held, harassed, beaten or even killed

21
Formal complaints brought against World Bank for investments that violate land rights, since 2008

Securing tenure
Legitimizing community rights is a long, costly and difficult process.

31%
Of Majority World forests have community ownership or long term use rights in 2012

Countries that offer full, secure land ownership, by region

Latin America
Africa
Asia

Rate of land acquisition
Deals have slowed since their peak in 2009 but are still continuing.

30%
Weakest link
In places where people are unable to assert their rights, deals can be agreed quickly and cheaply.

What grabbed land is used for

Food crops 28
Biofuels 19
Wood and fibre 11
Tourism 10
Land speculation 10
Mining 8
No information 5
Other agricultural commodities 3
Livestock 2
Industry 2
Renewable energy 1
Carbon sequestration 1

Writing:

Now choose one of the sections of the infographic and write (in pairs, or alone) a summary of what it shows – 150 words