



Gather at a Glance

Global Awareness Through Engaged Reflection

Welcome!

The Center for Global Awareness (CGA) welcomes all visitors to learn more about our GATHER program. The following short questions and answers should give you an overall idea about the program. For more in-depth information about our approach and philosophy, please see our GATHER Guide. Please don't hesitate to email info@global-awareness.org or call 505.480.0271 for more information.

1. What distinguishes the Center for Global Awareness's GATHER Program?

CGA infuses global awareness into our books and materials, applying a holistic approach, a global perspective, and a cross-cultural outlook. We use a four-dimensional learning model called SEEK: see, evolve, engage, and know. All GATHER materials incorporate SEEK for in-depth learning and to encourage deep, civil conversations on pertinent global and cultural issues.

2. Why did CGA create the GATHER program?

We at CGA feel that we have reached a critical juncture in our history. Now is the time for adults to come together to make wise choices for the well-being of our planet's and our children's future. Adults will find the GATHER books and materials particularly helpful in expanding their knowledge, seeing other perspectives, evolving a more complex understanding, and engaging with others to create projects for a more viable future for the next generations.

3. Who is the audience for GATHER?

GATHER participants are any concerned adult learners who would like to form a group with other concerned adults, to engage in civil conversations about pressing global and cultural issues. Actually, we like young people too; there are no age restrictions for participants.

4. What conversation topics are offered in the GATHER program?

GATHER covers a wide range of topics, from global issues, a holistic approach to world history, and cross-cultural concerns to topics addressing the deep cultural divide. Please visit our website for current listings and descriptions. We are constantly adding new conversation topics, so check back with us often.

5. How can I start a GATHER group?

We encourage concerned individuals to take the lead in forming a GATHER group. For instance, you may ask friends, work colleagues, others at your house of worship, or acquaintances in clubs or organizations, or you may post sign-up sheets at different locations in your area. Groups can be formed at, for example, houses of worship, civic organizations, social justice centers, adult education organizations, libraries, or senior citizen centers, or through meet-up or reading groups. These are just a few of the places that would be ideal for getting a lively conversation group started. You may contact us at CGA anytime for information about the program, or for help with your organization efforts.

6. What is the time commitment for GATHER?

The time commitment varies considerably. We have topics that range from one meeting (if you wish) to a suggested 16 weeks of meetings. We recommend about 2 hours for each meeting. You can tailor the different conversation topics to meet your group's needs and time constraints. We suggest that learners commit to the recommended time frame for each of the conversation topics, but it is up to your group to expand or reduce the time commitment as needed. The time issue should be discussed at the beginning of your first meeting.

7. How can I sign up?

GATHER is open to all individuals. We encourage you to take the lead in forming a group, to begin discussing the GATHER conversation topics. Just email us at info@global-awareness.org to order materials and request a free digital conversation/study guide for each topic.

8. What is included with a GATHER conversation topic?

A free conversation/study guide is available for each purchased conversation topic book or e-reader, or upon registration for one of our free conversation topics. In the guides, you will find thought-provoking questions and topics for group conversations that follow the four SEEK dimensions (see, evolve, engage, know) and are designed to add to your knowledge of the topic, broaden your perspective, evolve your consciousness, and provide suggestions for engagement. The guides follow a chapter-by-chapter format, but you are free to arrange the topics as you wish. Please email info@global-awareness.org to receive your free guides in pdf form.

The following are typically included in the conversation guides:

- Know Dimension: questions to review the information and prompt critical thinking
- See Dimension: exercises and questions to show different perspectives
- Evolve Dimension: reflective questions to better understand ourselves and each other
- Engage Dimension: suggestions for creating positive change in your local, national, or global communities
- Suggested readings and media recommendations
- Puzzles and activities
- Additional resources

9. How do I order GATHER books and materials?

Visit the Center for Global Awareness website, www.global-awareness.org, to order a particular conversation book or, if you prefer, e-reader. The books are reasonably priced, and because CGA is a nonprofit, you pay no sales tax. Proceeds are used to support CGA programs. You may order the books on the CGA website or through Amazon. (More \$\$ stay with CGA when ordering through our website!) If you feel so inclined, your tax-deductible donation of any size is welcome and very appreciated, to keep our program operating.

To obtain the free GATHER conversation/study guides, please email us at info@global-awareness.org, identifying your group and the conversation topic you are selecting.

10. What is the cost of GATHER?

Since the Center for Global Awareness is a nonprofit organization, we are able to offer GATHER materials at a very low cost. The only charge for a GATHER conversation topic is the cost of the suggested reading materials or book. The online conversation guides and other resources are free!

11. What size group do you recommend?

We encourage participants to form GATHER groups that meet their particular needs. The ideal group size is from seven to twelve individuals. If you prefer to study the program alone, you are welcome to access all the materials.

12. Do you have suggestions on how to get started with the GATHER materials?

We suggest starting your conversations with "The GATHER Guide." We think this background information is important for your study of global and cultural issues. After this introduction, you are free to choose whatever topic you would like to study. If you have the time or inclination, we suggest *Waves of Global Change: A Holistic World History* as a good resource to get a "big picture" historical context for your learning and conversations. Another good starting topic is *Five Worldview: How We See the World*.

13. Do you have suggestions for engagement?

We believe that active engagement is the culmination of dedicated study and reflective contemplation. We have a few examples of engagement projects on our website, and we look forward to GATHER participants sharing their engagement projects with us, so we may (with participants' permission) post them on our website for others to see. We hope the growing examples of engagement projects will help inspire others to create their own projects. But engagement projects are up to the groups and not "required" for participating in GATHER.

14. What are your qualifications in developing GATHER?

Veteran educators Dr. Denise Ames and Nancy Harmon created GATHER. Denise and Nancy co-founded the nonprofit Center for Global Awareness in 2011. They have written books and created materials with a global awareness approach for educators and students grades nine through university. They have recently expanded the focus of CGA to include adult learners. Also

contributing to GATHER are Grace Parazzoli and Dr. Moonsun Choi. Thanks to Jeanine McGann for website design and book publication, and Mia Beurskens for graphic design.

15. Do you offer any help?

We are here to help you with any questions or issues that may arise with GATHER. Please email us at info@global-awareness.org.