


Primary activities

Climate change... what's it all about?

- What is climate change?
- What is the difference between climate and weather?
- How do humans contribute to climate change?
- What happens to the environment when the Earth's temperature gets warmer?
- How will climate change affect people living near the ocean?

Reconnecting with nature...



Take your students on a quiet nature walk. Before going have some quiet time to encourage the students to stay in the present, to use their four senses (all but taste!) and to focus on their feelings (are they feeling peaceful, anxious, happy, sad etc).


During the nature walk have students observe a specific area. While observing this area ask the students to focus on how what they are seeing is making them feel. Ask the students to also observe the sounds they have heard since coming to the site.

At the end of the walk have the students list the different feelings they experienced and sounds they heard on their nature walk. Encourage students to discuss their experiences.

Going green at school...

- How do the three Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) help to combat climate change? Devise a recycling strategy for your school if there is not one already in place.
- Have students analyse, sort and reduce classroom waste (paper, compost, plastic, etc). This is a two-day activity: the first part occurs on a 'typical' day and the second part on a day when students make an effort to reduce their waste. Students measure the volume and weight of the waste – a

useful math activity. Students create labels and posters for their classroom recycling, compost and garbage bins.

- Waste free lunches! Set your class the challenge of packing waste free lunchboxes to reduce the amount of waste you throw away. You could do this over two weeks to monitor the difference in your class' waste production.
 - Look into setting up a school garden; you could have an herb or vegetable garden at school with the produce to be used in the tuckshop.
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Going green at home...

- As a homework task, ask students to keep a car journal with their family, recording all the trips your family makes in the car each week, including the distances. At the end of the week discuss if any alternative transport could have been used for each trip.
- Students go around their homes and list the lights, appliances, and other household items that are turned on. Students compare what is turned on during a typical evening at home to a second evening when they are trying to conserve energy.

Creative arts...

- Design a poster or comic strip that highlights the impacts of climate change and includes some tips on how we can care for creation.
- Create a collage of recyclable items using pictures cut from magazines.
- Make your own recycled paper.
- Create a sculpture from recycled material.



Reflecting on teachings from other cultures

Many cultures around the world speak of Mother Earth. In Bolivia and Peru, for example, before someone has a drink a little is poured back in thanksgiving to the Mother Earth or Pacha Mama.

Share and reflect on this traditional Ute Prayer (native North American):

Earth teach me stillness as the grasses are stilled with light.

Earth teach me suffering as old stones suffer with memory.

Earth teach me humility as blossoms are humbled with beginning.

Earth teach me caring as the mother who secures her young.

Earth teach me courage as the tree which stands all alone.

Earth teach me limitations as the ant which crawls on the ground.

Earth teach me freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky.

Earth teach me resignation as the leaves which die in the fall.

Earth teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring.

Earth teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life.

Earth teach me to remember kindness as dry fields weep with rain.

- Our world is full of diversity – what can we learn from the teachings of other cultures about our relationship with the Earth?
- Ask the children to write their own prayers or poems starting each line with ‘Earth teach me’.
- Illustrate the prayers/poems for display or publish using a computer, choosing appropriate fonts to elaborate the qualities and inserting images to show the aspects of nature.

Source: www.cafod.org.uk

Fijian school children help spread the message about disaster preparedness

Watch this short video to see how school children have come together to help educate their community about disaster preparedness, after their school was destroyed by a cyclone in 2008.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gFuJT9PhAVM>

Focus on Kiribati

Visit the website <http://pcc.org.fj> scroll down to the videos at the bottom of the homepage and watch the ‘Kiribati – A Climate Change Reality’ video. After watching the video discuss the following questions:

- What evidence is there of rising sea levels?
- What are residents trying to do to hold off the effects of rising sea levels?
- What does the President see as the ultimate consequence of climate change on his country?
- How do local Kiribati people feel about their future?



Photo: Paul Smart/Act for Peace