

THE STORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

A cross-curricular resource

The Story of Climate Change is aimed at primary school children. The book tells the story of our climate along a geological timeline. The global nonfiction narrative explores the climate's initial formation to the creation of fossil fuels and the human-induced climate change today. The book focuses children's attention on ways they can help slow this climate emergency. Applicable areas of the curriculum include Literacy and Numeracy, Humanities, Science, Digital Technology and Creative subjects. A number of STEAM projects can be delivered using the book as a stimulus.

Learning objectives

To understand the causes and effects of climate change. To learn how people all over the world can address the issues.

Discussion topics

1. The greenhouse effect and the Industrial Revolution
2. Farming & deforestation
3. Scientific enquiry
4. Migration
5. Food chains
6. Renewable energy
7. Activism and change



Essential questions

What are the causes of climate change?

How is climate change affecting our world?

What can we do to minimise the effects of climate change?

Topic-led ideas

Greenhouse effect and Industrial Revolution

Using the book as a stimulus, educators could discuss how the burning of fossil fuels from the Industrial Revolution has led to an increased greenhouse effect and human-induced climate change.



Farming and deforestation

Educators can explore how agriculture leads to deforestation and how trees remove carbon dioxide from the air. The nature of extinction and how loss of habitats can lead to extinction. Pupils could develop geography skills by exploring where in the world deforestation is greatest and develop literacy and IT skills by creating persuasive posters or leaflets on the reasons to conserve forests.

Scientific enquiry

Educators can discuss the importance of collecting evidence, notably about weather and climate. Pupils could develop numeracy skills by collecting weather information such as temperature, air pressure, cloud cover, and invent and construct a rain gauge to collect rainfall.

Migration

This is an opportunity to teach children about diversity and equality. Students could develop literacy skills by making a story board about how climate change can lead to migration and tell the story through the eyes of a migrating family or young child.

Food chains

Antarctic food chains and webs are diverse and fascinate pupils. Children could learn how the sun is the source of energy for the food chains and how energy passes up through the chain to the top predators. They could then use food webs to predict the impact of the loss of some species on other species to focus on interdependence.

Renewable and sustainable energy

Children could investigate the different types of renewable energy and invent their own renewable energy windmill or watermill. Simple electrical circuits can be made with educational solar panels.

Activism and change

Using the spreads on how children are protesting to protect the planet and how a green future may look, students could create a campaign to help achieve this goal. Songs, poems and plays could be written to support their ideas and persuade others to help protect the planet and slow climate change.



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