



Living with climate change

Introduction

This is one of two introductory activities to start the study of climate change. This activity can bring out the human side of climate change and its impacts at the start of the topic.

The activity

The aim here is for each student to focus on just one community, with the set of presentations raising awareness of the very real impacts on people's lives in developing countries.

How Science Works

Ha Science-based technology provides people with many things that they value, and which enhance the quality of life or of the environment. Some technologies, however, have unintended and undesirable impacts. These need to be weighed against the benefits

Hh Some new technologies and new areas of scientific research raise ethical issues. That is to say, they raise questions about whether a particular action is right or wrong.

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The topic of climate change is often discussed in an impersonal way – dealing with the science, economics and politics of the subject in generalities. However there are already people in the world who are being affected very directly by climate change. In this activity you will explore a personal story – preferably from a part of the world outside the UK.

The activity

In this activity you are going to find out about the impact of climate change now on an individual or a community. With the help of the web sites below, or other sources, choose a story from a part of the world that interests you.

Aim to find a single image that you can display as you tell the story to the rest of your group or class. Try to make a connection between the story you tell and something that you know about the science of climate change.

Web sites with stories about people and climate change

WWF Climate witness – stories from individuals about their observations of climate change and its impact on their lives. You can search to find a witness story in a part of the World that interests you with the help of a map or a list of the stories. Many of the accounts from the witnesses are followed by a scientific review.

http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/aboutcc/problems/people_at_risk/personal_stories

Oxfam reports on cases showing the impact of climate change on the lives of poor people.

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/campaigns/climatechange/suffering-the-science-case-studies>

The Practical Action web site describes work being done with communities in countries affected by climate change:

<http://practicalaction.org/>

Scidev.net covers many of the issues as they affect developing countries.

<http://www.scidev.net/en/climate-change-and-energy/climate-change-impacts/>