

Lesson 7 – Preparing for the Carbon Classroom

Carbon Literacy
Project

Lesson Outline

Time: 1 hour

This lesson is about developing confidence to talk to adults about climate change and preparing to create your own Carbon Classroom.



Subject – English

Learning outcomes – Reading – comprehension

Pupils should be taught to: explain and discuss their understanding of what they have read, including through formal presentations and debates, maintaining a focus on the topic and using notes where necessary; provide reasoned justifications for their views.

What you need:

Step one - a selection of activities helping to pupils to understand about climate change:

Crazy climate

Making connections

Sustainable Food trumps

Picture and fact match

Cause, impact, solution?

Step two – suitable means for minutes to be recorded.

Step one: Exploring tools to use to teach

At the beginning of the session ask pupils to recap their knowledge of the basic science and main issues surrounding climate change. Distribute the activities which will help them examine climate change from a variety of perspectives. Ask pupils to focus on how they communicate the basic issues of climate change to each other and how they can best communicate the issues described by their activity. Ask pupils to try different activities.

Discuss:

Ask pupils if they think any of these activities would be good for teaching adults about climate change.

Ask pupils if they have any ideas for their own activities for teaching adults about climate change. For example, St Philip's Primary school Eco team created a Lazy-o-meter which was a reused cardboard box furnished with a turning cardboard arrow. They asked members of the public a set of questions, such as do you tend to drive everywhere, do you turn off the lights when you leave a room, do you recycle your waste, and with each answer gave the arrow a twist into the red zone, orange or green zone. The exercise was delivered in a way that made it fun but provoked the public to think about their actions.

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Please note that these materials are not to be used without first gaining permission from the Carbon Literacy Project.



Step two: Planning the Carbon Classroom

Discuss the practicalities of setting up a Carbon Classroom:

Ask for a volunteer secretary to minute the session. Ensure the secretary is able to identify what the group intends to do; who is doing which tasks and when they are going to do the task by.

Ask pupils who they need to talk to about climate change? Is there anyone in the school community they would like to approach? There are various community members such as the SLT, school governors, teachers and teaching assistants, peers, admin staff, lunchtime coordinators, parents and family members, and they need to identify which group, or groups, to target.

Ask the pupils to identify the aims of arranging a Carbon Classroom, the practicalities and the best methods.

Example 1:

Aim: pupils choose to run a Classroom for teaching staff to explain the science of climate change and ask staff to help improve the school's carbon footprint.

Practicalities: Could pupils go to a staff meeting? Or would a lunchtime drop-in session be more appropriate? How would staff be invited? Where would it be held?

Method: What approach would suit the teaching staff? If it is a staff meeting would a short presentation work best? Or, if it was a lunchtime drop in session, should it be conversations between individuals? Could they be asked to do an activity such as working out their own carbon footprints and to make a pledge to reduce it?

Example 2:

Aim: Pupils choose to run a Classroom for parents and families to help make everyone more aware of the issues of climate change.

Practicalities: Could the class organise a parent's afternoon? Could they invite parents from across the school? Where would they hold it? How could they make sure it was advertised without using too many resources? Could they organise low carbon refreshments for visitors to enjoy?

Method: What approach would suit parents and family members? Could a questionnaire be done first to find out what parents already know? Would a short film help? Or a carousel of activities provided by pupils? Would card games be appropriate? Or maybe a display and advice team for saving energy in the home? Or could parents be asked to make a pledge for changing an aspect of their behaviour? Or be invited in to help with something practical like a tree planting session? Organise the class to work on setting up the Carbon Classroom with groups of pupils having different roles. Example:

Team 1: Organising permission for the event, date, time and place.

Team 2: Organising the publicity.

Team 3: Organising the activities.

Team 4: Organising the space on the day and the refreshments.

Ensure the class supports the volunteer secretary to make sure all the relevant points have been recorded.