



CSPE Lesson 1: Climate Change and Ireland

Human-induced climate change is an urgent global issue and is the primary environmental challenge of this century. Increased levels of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane are enhancing the greenhouse effect and causing irreversible changes in the climate. The main sources of greenhouse gas emissions are from transport, energy production, agriculture, industrial processes and deforestation. Irish per capita emissions of greenhouse gases are among the highest in Europe and indeed the world.

Curriculum link

Concepts - Rights and Responsibilities/ Interdependence, Stewardship
Unit 2 Community

Aim

- Students will develop a general understanding of the concept of climate change and how it relates to Ireland.
- Students will understand climate change, the possible effects and the individual's responsibilities in addressing the issue.

Eco Eye film clip and comprehension – Climate change

- Climate change and Ireland – an introduction

(NB Comprehension exercises are provided for each clip in separate PDFs and should be printed in advance)

Introducing the topic

Materials

Green/red/amber coloured paper for students to hold up to indicate if they agree/disagree or are unsure.





Method

- Give each student or group of students the different coloured cards and explain to them that they will hold up one, depending on whether they agree (green), disagree (red) or are unsure (orange).
- Marks will be awarded for each correct answer (rewards can be given or a scoreboard can be drawn up which can be used throughout the year for CSPE activities).
- Teacher reads out the list of statements (worksheet 1) and students decide whether they are true or untrue.
- This can also be done as an individual activity, photocopy the statements and students can fill in their opinions.

Exploring the topic

- Students watch the film clip 'Climate change and Ireland - an Introduction'.
- Students complete the comprehension or mix and match activity.
- Group students together to correct/complete the comprehension – give out the answers.
- Feedback to class/classroom discussion.

Suggested trigger questions – What did you find surprising or shocking? Are you doing anything to tackle climate change already? Could you do more? Why is it important to do something to help?

Follow on activities

Suggested homework

- Make a list of all the things you do to tackle climate change.
- Make a poster/write an article telling people about climate change.





Possible Action Projects

- Calculate the Carbon footprint of the class/school at <http://cmt.epa.ie/en/calculator/> or <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/environment-geography/Change/calculator-tools/> .
- Create an awareness campaign on climate change in your school. For resources go to http://www.seai.ie/Power_of_One/One_Good_Idea_School_Project/.
- Make a map of all of the agencies in your local area/Ireland who are working towards highlighting climate change.
- Is your community working together to fight climate change? Find out who is involved and how can you help them.





Worksheet 1: Climate Change and Ireland - An Introduction

| | Statement | True | False | Unsure |
|----|--|------|-------|--------|
| 1. | The climate can be described as the average weather over a period of time | | | |
| 2. | Poor countries will not be as badly affected by climate change as rich countries that burn more fossil fuels | | | |
| 3. | The Ice Age was an example of climate change | | | |
| 4. | Humans are the main contributors to the climate change that is happening at the moment | | | |
| 5. | Sea Levels are rising as a result of climate change | | | |
| 6. | Scientists can predict the exact effects of climate change | | | |
| 7. | Burning of coal contributes to climate change | | | |
| 8. | Ireland will get hotter as a result of climate change | | | |
| 9. | I can help make a reduction in climate change | | | |

