

The Shrinking Island

Overview: The purpose of this lesson is to make students think about the possible impacts of sea level rise on island communities by engaging with the issues on a creative and human level.

Target age group:

Length of activity: 1 hour lesson

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Learn that changes in sea level are linked to climate change
- Understand and apply the use of contour lines on a map
- Consider the effects of changes in sea levels on people and communities

Curriculum area(s) covered: Geography, Science

National Curriculum links

Geography

Physical and human processes

"Understanding how sequences of events and activities in the physical and human worlds lead to change in places, landscapes and societies."

Science

The environment, Earth and universe

"Human activity and natural processes can lead to changes in the environment"

Resources provided on e-day website

Reading comprehension about rising sea level, Map of "The Shrinking Island", stimulus material for "News report – The Shrinking island"

End product

Presentations OR creative stories about sea level rise, completed reading comprehension and shaded contour map.

Timing
(Minutes)

5-10

Starter

Brief reading comprehension about sea level rise (PDF provided)

10

Main activity 1

Students colour in a contour map to see how an island can change as sea level rises due to climate change (PDF provided).

Then make a list of the parts of the island community that are lost.

15

Main activity 2

Students work in groups of four to prepare a TV news report that will be performed to class about how life changed on the island as sea levels rose. The student taking the reporter role should interview students taking acting as the local farmer, house wife, and fisherman about how they have been affected by the changes to their island caused by rises in sea level (stimulus material provided).

Students should discuss how sea level rise could change the lives of each character in their groups for 10 minutes, and then rehearse the news report they will perform.

20

Performance

Students perform their news report to the class.

Extension activity

Students could add to their coloured map where they would put the parts of the settlement that have been lost to rising sea levels. They then annotate the changes to explain why they have placed things where they have.

Home learning

Students could be invited to interview their parents/guardians/careers and to write a short report on the major changes that their chosen adult has noticed in the environment, and attitudes towards the environment, since they were children.