

Animal Earth Summit

Overview: These 3 lessons build towards an exciting "Animal Earth Summit" in which students perform as an animal that has been asked to share its experience of the impacts of climate change with other animals. These lessons involve:

1. Science: Students research their animal or plant
2. Art: Students design costumes and rehearse their talk
3. Performance

The best talks can then be performed in school events such as assemblies.

Target age group: Year 7 and 8

Length of activity: 2-3 lessons

Learning objectives

Students will:

- Learn about variations in the environmental requirements of different organisms from around the world
- Learn how climate change is expected to affect different habitats
- Improve their presentation and research skills
- Develop their ability to design an artistic costume

Curriculum area(s) covered: Science, Art

National Curriculum links

Science

Organisms, behaviour and health

"All living things show variation, can be classified and are interdependent, interacting with each other and their environment"

Art

"Make purposeful images and artefacts"

"Make links between art and design and other subjects and areas of the curriculum."

Resources provided on e-day website

10 fact files about different animals and the effects of climate change on them, templates for animal head dresses, starter activity for first lesson, video link for stimulus material

End product

Class presentations, completed score sheets for each group, animal costumes

Timing
(Minutes)

Science - Lesson 1
Starter

5-10

- Complete "Animal Adaptation" worksheet (PDF provided)
- Natural history clip: Polar bear – victim of climate change (link provided)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3b1-dpcyC0&feature=PlayList&p=F6B530E01FE5C76E&playnext=1&playnext_from=PL&index=46

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Main activity

Teacher introduces the challenge:

- Each group (3 students) researches an animal and the effects that climate change is having upon them (10 PDFs with information provided or more gifted students could do research an organism of their choice on the internet)
- Prepare a 3 minute presentation about how their creature is affected by climate change.
- They will be marked out of 5 by the rest of the class according to several criteria (marking PDF provided). In particular, students must use the available facts and their rhetorical skills to convince audience to sympathise with their animal's plight.

Each student in the group has a different role during the preparation stage:

1. Student gathers interesting facts about the organism
2. Student finds out how the organism is affected by climate change.
3. Student draws an attractive picture of the creature to be held up with the presentation.

Once students have finished gathering their information they can start to rehearse their presentation.

NOTE: Students should take their presentation notes with them to their art lesson so that they can remember what their creature looks like and can continue to rehearse when their costume is ready.

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Art - Lesson 2 – Artistic costume design
Starter

- Class discussion of examples of different animals in terms of their mannerisms, how they move, noises that they make to get students thinking about how they will make their organism "come to life".

5-10

Main activity

- Students are instructed to make costumes to improve their impersonations of different creatures.
(Mask templates of animals and plain versions provided as PDFs)
- When this is done students should rehearse their presentation.

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Science - Lesson 3 – The Animal Earth Summit

- Students give their presentations to their class and explain how their organism is affected by climate change.
- They are marked by peers (PDF with marking criteria provided)