

INTRODUCTION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Submitted by Shona Scheuerl, Teacher of Chemistry at Dollar Academy



LEARNING PLAN OVERVIEW

Subject(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Sciences • Environmental Education • Sustainable Development Project
Grade Level (s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Primary (ages 8-11) • Middle School (ages 12- 13)
Systems Tool(s)	Sustainability Compass
Purpose of Using Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical Thinking • Discussion
Summary	A lesson to introduce climate change and give pupils the opportunities to explore some of the information presented in the film clip to deepen their understanding about what causes climate change and what are some of the effects of climate change.

Learning Objectives

- To explore what climate change means
- To explore what causes climate change
- To explore what some of the effects of climate change are
- To develop deeper thinking around a topic
- To develop critical thinking
- To introduce using the Sustainability Compass tool

Material and Settings

- 6x Sustainability Compass on A3 paper
- Felt pens
- Access to two film clips

Learning Context

This was a short notice cover lesson with a class I have not previously taught but as they were learning about climate change it seemed a good opportunity to try using the Sustainability Compass to further their understanding of climate change. They had been learning about types of energy, energy transfer and where we get electricity from prior to the lesson.

Purpose of Using the Systems Thinking Tools

To explore all the aspects of climate change, the Sustainability Compass tool seemed to be the most appropriate so they could use aspects of the information in the film clip to begin their discussions and they could explore all aspects of climate change.

Learning Plan Step-by-step Description

This is a cover lesson and so I have not taught the topic before now with this class.

Question session around "What do you understand by 'climate change?'".

Show Ian Stewart video: [Introduction to Climate Science by Prof Iain Stewart | Scotland's Climate Assembly](#) (ten minutes 10:25).

Introduce the Sustainability Compass tool and explain how to use it – the 'topic' is climate change

Divide the class into groups of 3 or 4 and issue the Sustainability Compass.

Write some words relating to climate change on the board for them to place into categories to allow them to see how it works.

Ask groups to add words – to only one category, relating to climate change (20 minutes – 10:45).

Stop and ask questions to further understanding as required.

Ask the groups to look at any of the points that are lacking words/phrases.

Look around at other Compasses (10:50).

Make some connections between words/phrases on your Compass (5 minutes – 10:55).

Ask for feedback on using the Sustainability Compass tool (5 minutes).

Show [An Introduction to Climate Change](#) for kids (6 minutes 11:08) to finish and lead on to 'What can we do about climate change?'.

REFLECTION

Plusses

The class engaged well with the compass tool with all pupils engaged in meaningful discussions around the topic.

