



Your right to a clean and healthy environment

Activity Guide



This activity guide provides you with additional information to present this school kit to your peers and to run activities together!

THE PRESENTATION

To help you with the presentation we have written out some more information that you can share on the different topics discussed.

Slide 3 - What is Climate Change

Climate change describes a change in the average conditions — such as temperature and rainfall — in a region over a long period of time. Scientists have observed Earth's surface is warming, and many of the warmest years on record have happened in the past 20 years.

Global climate change are the average long-term changes over the entire Earth. These include warming temperatures and changes in rainfall, as well as the effects of Earth's warming, such as:

- Rising sea levels
- Shrinking mountain glaciers
- Ice melting at a faster rate than usual in Greenland, Antarctica and the Arctic
- Changes in flower and plant blooming times.

*<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/climate-change-meaning/>



Slide 4 - The human causes of climate change

1. Burning of fossil fuels

Over the past 150 years, industrialised countries have been burning large amounts of fossil fuels such as oil and gas. The gases released into the atmosphere during this process act like an “invisible blanket”, trapping heat from the sun and warming the Earth. This is known as the “Greenhouse Effect”

2. Deforestation

Forests absorb huge amounts of carbon dioxide – another greenhouse gas – from the air, and release oxygen back into it. The Amazon rainforest is so large and efficient at doing this that it acts like our planet’s air conditioner – limiting climate change. Sadly, many rainforests are being cut down to make wood, palm oil and to clear the way for farmland, roads, oil mines, and dams.

3. Agriculture

Believe it or not, cows’ eating habits contribute towards climate change. When cows eat, methane – a type of greenhouse gas – builds up in their digestive system and is released in the form of a burp! With 1.5 billion cows releasing all that gas into the atmosphere, it sure adds up! Farmers may also use harmful pesticides to protect their plants and have them grow faster - these chemicals however are bad for the environment around them.

*<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/geography/general-geography/what-is-climate-change/>

Slide 5 - The natural causes of climate change

Some causes of climate change are natural. These include changes in Earth's orbit and in the amount of energy coming from the sun. Ocean changes and volcanic eruptions are also natural causes of climate change.

Most scientists think that recent warming can't be explained by nature alone. Most scientists say it's very likely that most of the warming since the mid-1900s is due to the burning of coal, oil and gas. Burning these fuels is how we produce most of the energy that we use every day. This burning adds heat-trapping greenhouse gasses.

<https://www.nasa.gov/learning-resources/for-kids-and-students/what-are-climate-and-climate-change-grades-5-8/#:~:text=Some%20causes%20of%20climate%20change,be%20explained%20by%20nature%20alone.>



Slide 6 - Climate change effects

Why is this harmful to children?

- Extreme temperatures leave many families living in poverty with less food, less clean water, lower incomes and worsening health.
- Extreme events can destroy homes, schools, child care centers and infrastructure critical to children's well-being.
- Droughts and flooding can destroy crops and cut access to clean water.
- The UN warns that many families will have to choose between starvation and migration.
- With families experiencing less means to provide for their family and to take care of their children, in many parts of the world child marriages are on the rise.

<https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/emergency-response/climate-change>

<https://www.rescue.org/press-release/bangladesh-irc-study-reveals-staggering-39-surge-child-marriage-due-climate-change#:~:text=The%20study%20reveals%20a%20staggering,to%20address%20this%20compounded%20crisis.>



THE PRESENTATION

Slide 8 - Children's right to a clean and healthy environment GC26

All children's rights are connected and equally important. Some rights of the Convention on the rights of the child (CRC) are particularly threatened by environmental harm and climate change. Can you think of an example for the following rights?

Art 2 CRC: Right to non-discrimination

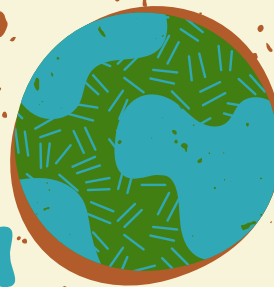
Art. 3 CRC: Best interest of the child

Art.6 CRC: Right to life, survival and development

Art. 12 CRC: Right to be heard



SAVE
OUR
PLANET!



THE PRESENTATION

Slide 9 - Children's right to a clean and healthy environment GC26

Can you think of an example for the following rights?

Art.13&15: Right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly

Art. 13&17 CRC: Access to information

Art.19 CRC: The right to freedom from all forms of violence



Slide 10 - Children's right to a clean and healthy environment GC26

Can you think of an example for the following rights?

Art.24 CRC: Right to health

Art. 26&27 CRC: Right to social security and decent standard of living

Art. 28&29 CRC: Right to education

Art. 30 CRC: The rights of Indigenous children and children of minority groups

Art.31 CRC: Right to rest and play



Slide 13 - How to prevent climate change?

- Refrain from using plastic shopping bags.

Plastic bags are not biodegradable, this means that they do not decompose, this means that they keep on polluting the environment. Plastic bags also pose a danger to birds and marine mammals that often mistake them for food. Floating plastic bags regularly fool sea turtles into thinking they are one of their favorite prey: jellyfish.

- Consume organic food

Know where your food comes from! Try to eat food that has been sourced responsibly, in a way that helps protect the environment. Overfishing and cattle causes a lot of pressure on the environment. You could all try to eat some more vegetarian or vegan meals!

- Reuse and Recycle

People throw many things away these days. Make sure you're putting it in the right place after having separated the trash based on its composition or even better, you can avoid throwing things away altogether, by buying fewer things, taking better care of the things you have, and finding ways to repair or reuse things that are old or broken. But be careful! Companies add things like "made from 100% recyclable PET" on their plastic packaging, but don't be fooled. Just because something can be recycled doesn't mean it will be. Plastic is a good example of this. Recycling alone is not enough to prevent the effects of climate change but can be one step in the right direction if done properly.

-Make your environment more wild-life friendly

As wild life is at risk you can try reducing your consumption of products that cause deforestation such as palm oil. Or make your home wildlife-friendly by planting trees or building a bee hotel for example!

Slide 13 - How to prevent climate change?

-Advocate towards people who can make decisions for a group
Speak about your worries about climate change and your ideas to do better to people who may be able to change something in your environment such as politicians, your teachers at school or even your parents.

