

KS2 – Sisay’s Story - Activity

KS2 Subjects:

Curriculum Links
English: 1.1b, 1.2c, 1.4a, 2.3, 3.3c, 3.3d
Geography: 1.4b, 2.1d
Citizenship: 2a, 4a, 4b

Students discuss Sisay’s Story and use it as a basis for a report-writing exercise about the effects of climate change on Ethiopia.

Time: 45 mins

Objectives

- Students gain awareness of the human impact of climate change
- Students reflect on Sisay’s story and its relation to their own lives
- Students argue for action on climate change based on Sisay’s story and their own prior knowledge.

Preparation

- Students should be familiar with the mechanisms of climate change and have learnt about some of the effects on Ethiopia
- Photocopy Sisay’s Story

Instructions

- As a class, or in pairs, read Sisay’s Story (5 mins)
- As a class discuss the following questions about Sisay’s story (10 mins)
 - *What is the problem in the story? How does it make Sisay and her family feel? How has it changed their lives?*
 - *How does the story make you feel?*
 - *What activities emit CO₂ and make climate change worse? (Eg flying, driving, cutting down trees etc.)*
 - *Where does responsibility lie for the problems in the story? (Tell pupils that, on average, a person in the UK/Ireland emits 80 times more CO₂ each year than a person in Ethiopia).*
 - *Are there any solutions to Sisay’s problem? Are there any other solutions you can think of?*
 - *What can we do to help?*

Make it clear to pupils that Ethiopia is a big country (five times the size of UK). Sisay lives in a hot, low-lying area in the South. Your link school is in a more central area of mountains and lakes where it is cooler and wetter.

- Tell the class that every few years there is a big meeting about climate change which is attended by governments from every country. At these meetings, the governments try to agree actions they will take to slow down climate change. The meetings are organised by the United Nations (UN) an international organisation set up to help countries to work together for peace, better living standards and human rights.
- Ask students to imagine they are attending the next conference to represent Ethiopia. Ask them to prepare a report about the effects of climate change on Ethiopia, using the case study as an example, and outlining why it is imperative that governments agree to a major reduction in emissions of climate change gases. (30 mins)