



Erasmus+

Tackling Climate Change in Schools



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The rationale



Erasmus+

CLEAN NATURE, LONG LIFE

For the past three years, five schools from different European countries have been working together to deliver lessons, activities and initiatives to raise the awareness of current environmental issues in our schools. This was part of an Erasmus+ project called 'Clean Nature, Long Life'.

There is so much we can do to help our children to help our planet. Schools from the UK, Portugal, Romania, Turkey and North Macedonia collaborated on the project. We created new climate change lesson materials, we introduced new teaching strategies to our pupils such as gamification, we took part in identical ecological activities such as litter picking and we have all worked with local, national and international charities, NGO's and agencies to improve our offer of eco lessons for our children.

What was clear was that, no matter where in Europe these lessons were taking place, children really wanted to help and make a difference. From taking part in litter picking and eco marches to creating digital story books on current environmental issues, children were engaged and wanted to make the difference that we need in our world today.

The ethos of the school

In order to really make a difference in your community and tackle climate change in schools, your school needs to have an eco-ethos. By this, I mean that your school needs to fully buy-in to trying to make a change. A little change or adaptation can have a major impact on raising awareness of climate change with our pupils.

There are so many things schools can do to help tackle the issue of climate change. This includes:

- Have a student body who focus on environmental issues at school
- Make changes in your curriculum to include more ecology lessons and activities
- Work with local, national and international charities, NGO's and agencies who focus on current environmental issues
- Involve parents with their children's learning. This could be through homework or other community initiatives
- Involve local stakeholders in the community. Speak to the local council about how they can help your school complete activities such as litter picking
- Look at your school environment. See if there is any space outside for planting or look inside to see there is evidence of climate change action in your school. For example, recycling centres or stickers and posters reminding people to turn the lights off

Involve the students

Children really want to get involved in current environmental issues and the more you can involve the students, the better the outcomes for all involved. At our school, we created a team of Eco Warriors. Prospective candidates had to write a letter explaining why they would be good in the role as an eco-warrior.

Once chosen, children are responsible for organising the school's recycling areas, keeping energy expenditure as low as possible by turning off lights and whiteboards when they are not being used, and looking after their environment through picking up litter and helping to plant new trees, plants and flowers.



Climate change lessons

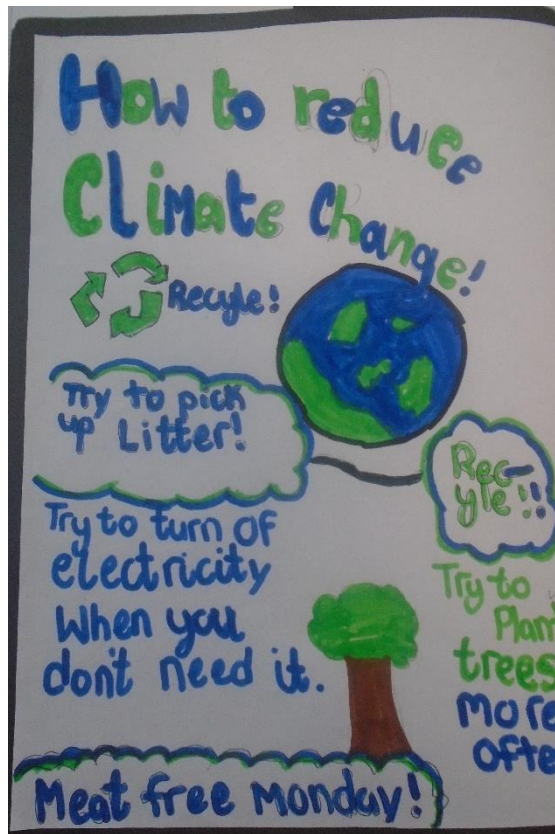
A lesson that you can do with children from any age, from nursery to upper secondary school. Look at the effects that climate change is having on our planet and children create a poster either looking at the dangers or looking at the solutions for our world.



Schools can have a competition across all classes where they create logos / posters / banners with a focus on environmental issues.

Schools could then create a shortlist of the best entries and hold a whole school vote on their favourite environmentally friendly poster / logo.

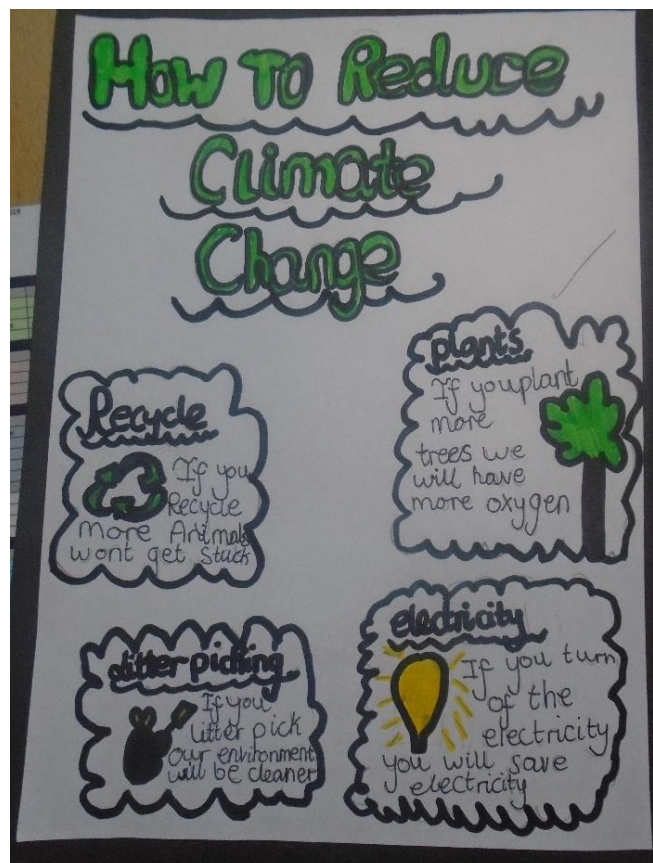
Climate change lessons



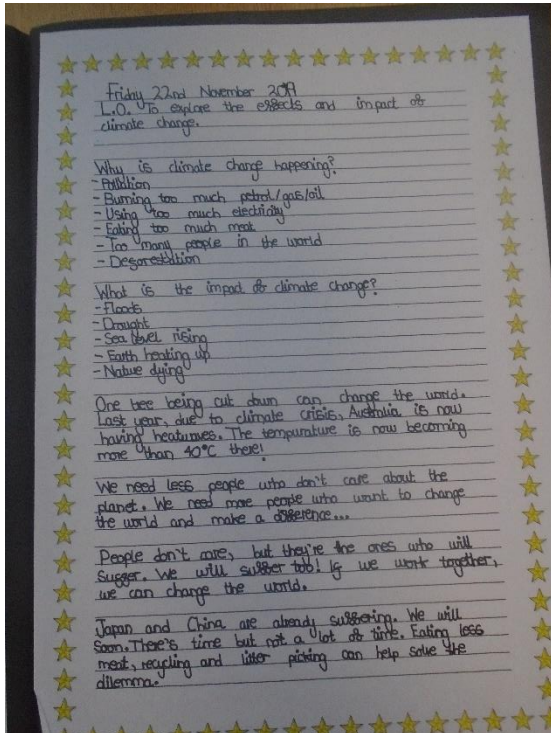
We created posters with a focus on what we can do to reduce the effects of climate change both at home and at school.

Children came up with different ways in which we can alter our behaviour to make a difference:

- Recycling materials
- Saving electricity
- Picking up litter
- Planting more trees and plants in school and at home
- Trying to eat less meat



Climate change lessons

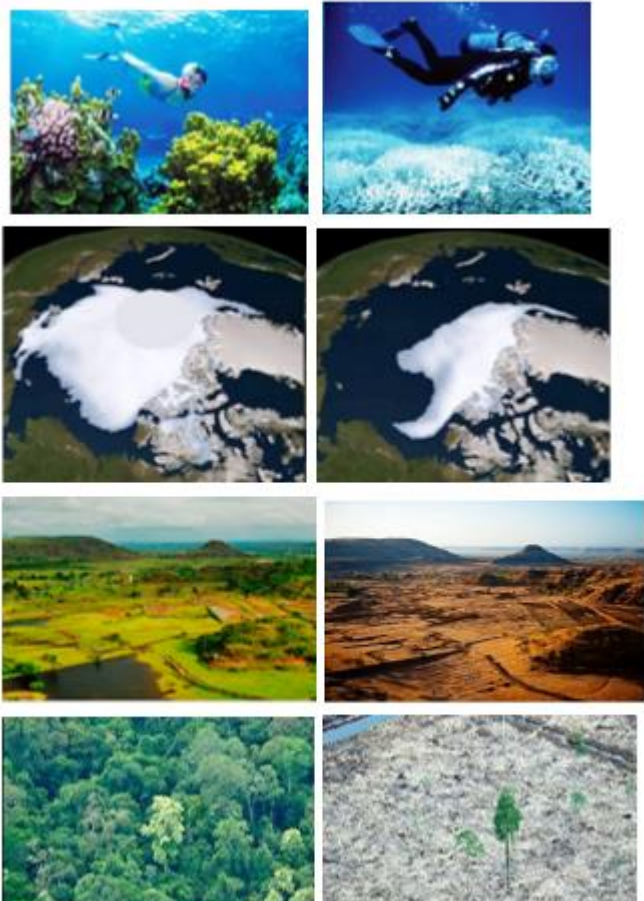


Children can learn about why climate change is happening and the impact it is having on our planet.

We watched some documentaries by David Attenborough and discussed how climate change is affecting our lives and the lives of people all over the world.

This activity looked at before and after photos focusing on our natural world.

Children had to match the photos to before and after. Once they had done that, we looked at the reasons why there is such a drastic difference in the photos and what we can do to limit the problems in the future.



Climate change lessons

There are many activities you can do in order to improve pupils' knowledge and understanding of current environmental issues. Here, children in Portugal had to answer questions based on a video and a text, similar to a reading comprehension.



Vamos dar início ao Eco-Peddy Paper! Estão preparados? Então, vamos lá começar!

A vossa prova começa aqui! Leiam com atenção as pistas e facilmente irão encontrar as respostas desejadas.

1. Olhem ao vosso redor! Já viram que temos uma estação de comboios na CAA. Se estiverem no banquinho à espera do comboio, de que árvore estarão à sombra nos dias quentes de verão e que fruta poderão comer?


R: _____ R: _____

2. A história da Terra também é contada pelas rochas. Sabem o nome da rocha onde está o *Poema para Galileu*?

R: _____

3. Somos com Orgulho alunos da CAA. Na zona da entrada da escola descubram em que ano tivemos alunos na CAA.

R: _____

	UNIT 4 - THE ENVIRONMENT CLIMATE CHANGE Greta Thunberg	Name:	No:	Class:	Date: / /
		Name:	No:		

Who is she ?



Write the things you already know about this girl in the 1st column, then write the things you wish to know *before* reading a text. *After* reading, complete the 3rd column with the things you have learned.

KWL

What I k now	What I w ant to know	What I l earned
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Children can research global activists such as Greta Thunberg in ICT lessons and then create fact files or posters on their chosen person.

Art projects

We created different pieces of artwork using recyclable and reusable materials.



Art projects

We also made bigger pieces of art that we had on display in our schools. Some schools put their work up in a gallery and invited other students and parents to come in and observe.



Litter picks

A great way to enthuse the children and get them involved in helping the community is by going around the local area picking up litter. We borrowed litter pickers and gloves off the local council and tidied our school grounds. Once that was free of litter, we then went out into the local area.



Reusable clothes

To make children more aware of recycling and reusing clothes, you can hold a reusable materials fashion show. Here, children and their families created items of clothing made from reusable and recyclable materials. The children then came into school wearing their new clothes!



You can even turn this event into a whole school fashion show. As you can see here, children processed through the school wearing their new reusable clothing.

Plant trees and flowers



Planting trees, saplings, plants and flowers with children can really raise awareness of the importance of looking after the environment. It is a fun activity for children and they learn the positive impact trees, plants and flowers have on our world.

It does not matter the age of the children you work with, whether they are 3 or 33, it is still good to get outside and join in some planting!



Work with outside agencies



There are many companies that work on environmental issues with schools. They have good resources and lesson ideas and schools can even gain accreditations such as becoming an Eco-School.



It is not only national companies that you can work with on environmental issues. There are a number of local charities and NGO's who want to reach out to schools with the aim of raising awareness of climate issues.

For example, a school in North Macedonia worked with a local charity where their sole purpose was to improve the ecology of Lake Ohrid. Other schools have worked with local national parks or local recycling centres.

Walk to school



A LIVING STREETS CAMPAIGN

Your school can try to promote walking to school instead of driving.

If parents live far away, they can share cars or drive some of the way and walk the rest. Children can cycle, scooter or walk as all are better methods of transport for the environment and they improve the physical well-being of the pupils.

If you haven't already, think about getting a bike and scooter rack for your school.

Go on a march

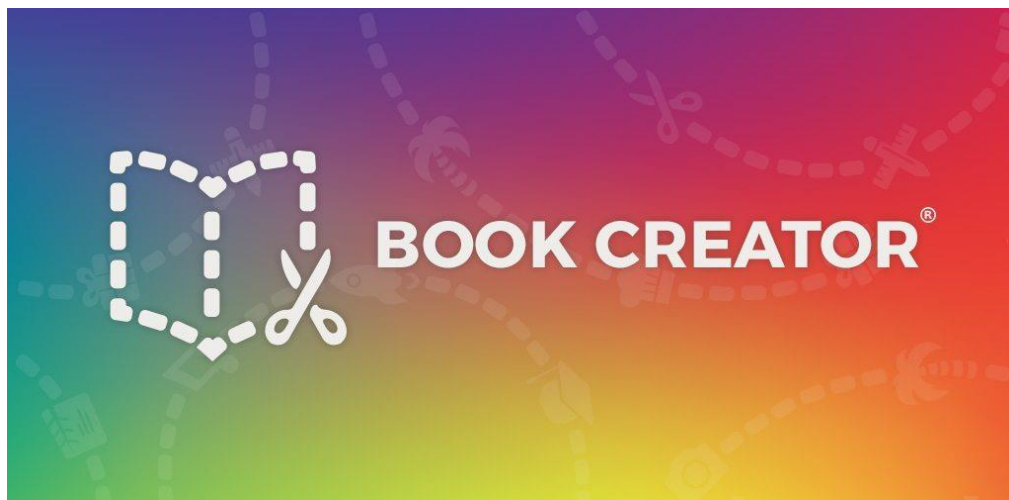


Some schools have gone on eco marches. This raises awareness of environmental issues for pupils and the local community.

You can carry placards or hand out leaflets that you have made in class looking at how we can reduce the impact of climate change.



Use ICT



Children of any age love using ICT for their work. When delivering climate change lessons, schools have used a range of ICT to engage learners. Schools have used Book Creator to create digital stories focusing on environmental issues. We have also documented our climate change lessons on Padlet. PowerPoint is another ICT tool that children like to work on. We created PowerPoint presentations on endangered species.



Games

Kahoot!

Similarly to the ICT, children love playing games! In order to engage our students, teachers created climate change quizzes and games through a range of ICT apps and websites. This tested children's knowledge before and after a unit of work to see how much they remembered.

It was also used to create games on current environmental issues through apps such as Kahoot and Symbaloo.



symbaloo
start simple



QUIZIZZ