Lesson plan - Climate change

Curriculum links
Geography Key Stage 2 Unit 7: Weather around the world
Citizenship Key Stage 2 Unit 3: Animals and us
ICT Key Stage 2 Unit 2C: Finding information

Prior learning
Understanding of the difference between gas, liquid and solid.

Points to note
Teachers will need a good understanding of how a rise in greenhouse gas emissions is causing climate change.

Learning objectives
• To understand what climate change is.
• To discover how wildlife is at risk from climate change.

Lesson structure
To be conducted over 2 sessions: introduction, reading and research in session 1 and activity & discussion in session 2.

Introduction
• Ask children how much they know about different types of weather and climate.
• Discuss how humans adapt to different types of weather e.g. use jumpers when cold.
• Ask class what they already know about climate change.
• Discuss how an increase in CO2 and other greenhouse gases is causing temperatures to rise and climate to change.
• Ask for suggestions on what the impact of climate change could be.
• Use our Mad about climate change leaflet to address some of the causes of climate change.

Activity (2 Lessons: one spent researching and another to carry out task)
Each child chooses an animal and researches the following questions:

• Where does this animal live?
• What is the climate like where this animal lives?
• What food does this animal eat?

Ask each child to draw an A4 picture of their animal and incorporate the answers to the questions somewhere on the body.
• Ask the children to think about how their chosen animal would survive if the climate continues to change (use the wildlife at risk section in our *Mad about climate change* leaflet for ideas).
• Add a speech bubble to each animal saying what would happen to their habitat and how they would survive if the climate changed.
• Use the work to create a frieze on the wall highlighting the risk to wildlife from climate change.

**Extension activity (for upper Key Stage 2 - yrs 5 & 6)**
Ask each child to think of two other species (plants or animals) that would be affected if their chosen animal became extinct.

**Plenary**
• Children to share their pictures and the impact climate change would have on their chosen animal.
• Ask the children if they think climate change has an impact on human survival too.
• Discuss possible impacts e.g. homelessness from flooding; starvation from crop failure.

**Resources**
*Mad about climate change* leaflet.
ICT time or library time to research animals.
Useful web address: [www.foe.co.uk/climatechange](http://www.foe.co.uk/climatechange)

**Key words/vocabulary**
Climate change
Global warming
Greenhouse gases
Temperature
Floods
Drought
Hurricanes

**Success criteria**
Children will produce an animal picture with information about impact of climate change.