



Would you rather?

Age 11-15 | Literacy and Language, Science

Topic: Debate, climate change

Overview

This activity encourages debate and conversation around topics of climate and the natural world. By promoting deep thinking and discussion around these topics, pupils will start to understand their own feelings towards our climate situation and be given a safe space to share and hear other people's opinions.

Resources

- An open space

Activity

1. Ask pupils to stand on a line in an open space.
2. Explain that you are going to ask a series of questions and they must vote with their feet, moving to the left or right along a scale depending on their answer. Each end of the line will represent strong agreement to either statement while the central areas are for those who are unsure of what they think.
3. Reassure pupils that it is ok if they are not sure of their view. Remind pupils that this is a safe space to share opinions and everybody's thoughts must be respected.
4. After sharing a question, pick a pupil who has placed themselves at a far end of the scale and ask them to explain to the group why they are standing where they are.
5. That person then picks someone else on the opposite side who gives their argument for the other option.
6. Pupils can then choose to move themselves along the scale or change their mind after hearing the persuasive language and arguments from others. divide the girth by 1.25 and if your tree was in an open space, divide the girth by 2.5.



Questions

- Would you rather the weather be really hot or really cold?
- What worries you more ice caps melting or the rainforest being cut down?
- Would you rather live in a solar powered house or a wind powered house?
- Would you rather have the power to repair all habitat damage that has already happened or prevent any future damage happening?
- As the climate gets hotter would you rather live in a tree house or underground?
- If you could save one would you stop the ice caps melting or the rainforest being cut down?
- Would you rather visit a rainforest or a coral reef?
- Would you rather end global warming or remove plastic from oceans?
- Would you rather turn all waste into usable products or create any material without harmful side effects?
- Would you rather end noise or light pollution?
- Would you rather end water or air pollution?
- Would you rather end deforestation or desertification?

Suggested outcomes for learning

We understand you will tailor this activity to the learning needs of your pupils. Here are some of the learning outcomes and extension ideas that other practitioners have used this lesson idea to reach.

- To speak confidently about a personal opinion or view
- To think critically and recognise the difference between fact and opinion
- To share ideas and feelings about a topic
- To use persuasive language effectively as part of a debate

Subject area	Topic	Ideas for further exploration
Maths	Statistics	Calculate the number of pupils who vote each way for each statement, find the most popular answers and create charts to represent this
Arts	Drama	Devise a dramatic piece about climate change and the human populations differing opinions around them
Computing	Media	Film and edit pupils making their debates outside
Literacy and language	Persuasive writing	Use the language and ideas collected to write a persuasive piece of writing

