

A Planet in Crisis – Sustainable Development and Agenda 21

Aims

To consider the problems facing the planet earth.

You Will Need

An apple and a knife.

Copies of the information sheet – A planet in Crisis.

Large sheets of paper for quick listing.

Introduction

Demonstrate to the pupils the precarious nature of our existence, how reliant we are upon a small area of the earth for our existence and how important it is to take care of this:

Take an apple – this represents the world. Cut it into four quarters, vertically. Put three aside – they represent the earth's surface covered by water. Slice the remaining quarter into eight slivers and discard seven – these represent mountains, deserts etc. where agriculture is not possible. Peel the remaining sliver – that peel represents the earth's surface on which we depend for food and for survival.

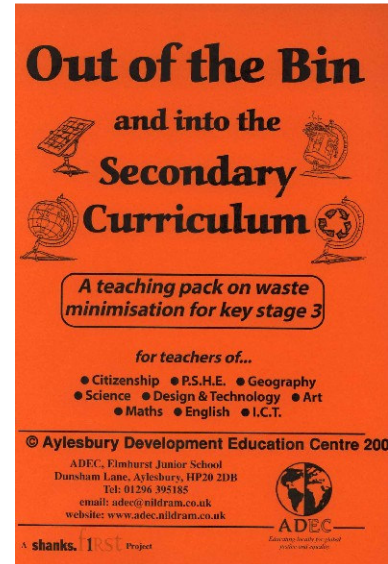
Pupil Activity

In groups, the pupils quick list the different problems that the planet faces – environmental, social and economic.

Look at the Information Sheet. Did they think of anything that could be added to this list?

Plenary

Feedback their list of problems to the rest of the group, and ask them to pinpoint a problem which they feel they can do something about.



Taken from 'Out of the Bin and into the Secondary Curriculum' published by Aylesbury DEC

Available from the Yorkshire and Humber Global Schools Association through the Go-Global Resources Distribution Service – email goglobal@leedsdec.org.uk



INFORMATION SHEET - A Planet In Crisis

▶ Our planet is in crisis as a direct result of human activity

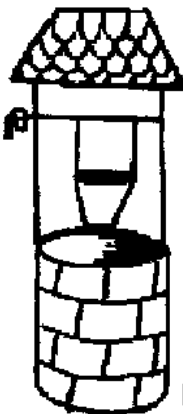


▶ Our consumption of energy produces carbon dioxide, a dangerous greenhouse gas, which is contributing to our changing climate.

▶ Our use of CFCs (chloro-fluorocarbons) has caused the hole in the ozone layer which is responsible for an increase in skin cancer.

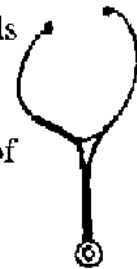


▶ There are more than 1.1 billion people in the world living in poverty.



▶ Deserts are expanding because inappropriate farming methods are degrading the soil, making it less and less fertile.

▶ Our seas are becoming increasingly polluted - 600,000 tons of oil is dumped into the sea each year.



▶ The world's poorest people do not have access to minimal healthcare. 3 million children die every year from preventable diseases.

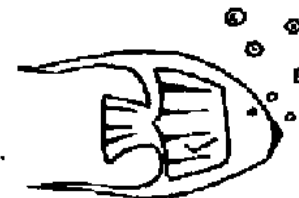
▶ We are addicted to shopping. The consumption of unnecessary items means we are using up our precious resources of energy and raw materials.



▶ We produce too much waste, including hazardous waste and nuclear waste.

▶ There are many homeless people in our cities.

▶ In many countries freshwater supplies are scarce.



▶ We exploit our forests. 1 square mile of rain forest is destroyed every 6 minutes. Only one tree is planted for every 10 cut down.

