

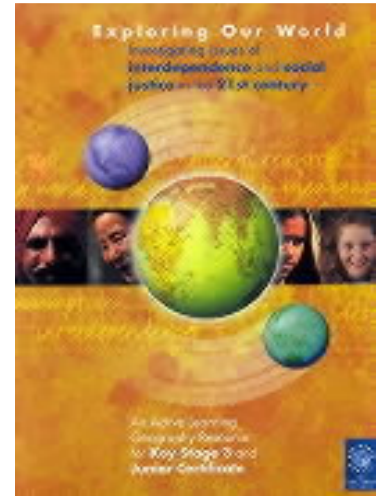
What is Sustainable Development?

Aims

This activity will enable students to recognise the importance of development being sustainable, benefiting present and not hindering future generations. This activity will encourage a sense of personal responsibility towards the care of our world for future generations.

You Will Need

A copy of the Bruntland Commission definition of sustainable development below on an acetate or chalkboard.



Summary

Write the verb 'to sustain' on the chalkboard. Discuss with the students what it means - (You may find a dictionary helpful).

Introduce the term 'sustainable' – explain that it refers to an activity or a process that can be sustained over a long period of time.

Introduce the definition of sustainable development to the students which was presented by the Bruntland Report in 1987 – (acetate or chalkboard).

Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without limiting the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Bruntland Commission 1987

Discuss the following:

- What do you consider to be the needs of the present generation?
- Are there any additional factors to consider in national and international situations? (for example – communications, travel, governments, trade, peace)

List these factors either on acetate or on the chalkboard. You may prefer to have the students work in groups, getting them to feedback their ideas.

- What might the needs of future generations be? (for example, the needs of their children and grandchildren)

Make sure they think about the immediate future and don't get carried away into space age fantasy!

Emphasise items such as food, clean water, clean air, jobs, fuel, electricity, good soil, happiness, trees, community, peace etc. Record these on acetate or the chalkboard.

- Are the needs of future generations any different to the needs of the present?
- Ask the students to think of any development that occurs that will be good for future generations and development that might hinder sustainable development?

Taken from 'Exploring Our World: Investigating Issues of Interdependence and Social Justice in the 21st Century' published by the One World Centre for Northern Ireland.

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