

ECO

TALK

GLOBAL WARMING



**Discussion Cards To Build Language Skills
And Environmental Awareness**



GLOBAL WARMING



ECO TALK cards contain images, information and activities to increase awareness of global and environmental issues for students working in a cross-curricular context.

The focus on discussion at small group work as well as whole class level, using the CD-ROM supplied in this pack to facilitate projection onto a whiteboard.

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What's the issue?

- To understand that if the weather gets hotter, then things around you change.
- To understand that warmer weather will affect the way we live, the animals, plants and the environment.
- To understand that changes bring both problems and benefits, but they are out of our control.

What you need to know ...

Comprehending things on a global scale is very difficult, but global warming is a serious issue that will affect us all through climate change.

Climate change does not happen overnight. In a young person's lifetime, the temperature changes will be small, but the effects could be significant. The Arctic Ocean could be free of summer ice, the Sahara desert could have extended hundreds of miles to the south, low-lying land all over the world could be under water.

Let's talk about it ...

- Greenhouse gases cause global warming. Why is the world getting warmer?
- What causes greenhouse gases?
- How can we stop producing so much greenhouse gas?
- What happens to sea levels if the world gets warmer? How does this affect us?
- How does global warming affect the growing of crops? How does this affect us?
- How have polar bears been affected by global warming?
- What will happen to them?

Now try this ...

1. Find some pages from winter sport's holiday brochures and discuss what changes ski resorts will have to make if they are still to attract tourists in the future.
2. Take a greetings card with a traditional winter scene, e.g. a snowy Christmas or mountain scene. Scan it, and using a computer drawing program, change the scene to what it would look like if the temperatures were much hotter.
3. Alternatively, design and paint a similar scene in a hotter climate.



What's the issue?

- The world average temperatures have increased over the past 150 years.
- The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has also increased.
- Carbon dioxide has been caused by human activity. We are burning more carbon-based fuels (oil, gas and coal) than ever before and also reducing forests, which are the main natural absorbers of carbon dioxide.

What you need to know ...

Over the last 100,000 years, the earth has been both far colder and warmer than at present. This has been caused by variations in the activity of the sun and events such as periods of volcanic eruptions producing enough dust to screen the sun's rays. Whilst there is some discussion about the role solar activity has to play in the current warming trend, the increasing industrialisation of the world over the past 200 years, and particularly the last 75 years, has increased carbon dioxide levels dramatically.

Let's talk about it ...

- Where does the power come from to light up the city in the picture?
- How is this power made?
- What is a fossil fuel?
- How do these make greenhouse gases?
- How do these gases help to create global warming?
- What forms of energy are sustainable?
- Why don't we use more of these types of energy?
- What could the people in the city in the picture do to help reduce global warming?

Now try this ...

1. Imagine that you are the television weather forecaster on the day which is going to be the hottest day ever recorded. Write your report and then present your weather forecast to your group.
2. Investigate all of the things that produce carbon dioxide. Don't forget animals!
3. Investigate all of the things that reduce and absorb carbon dioxide.
4. What could each of us do at home and school to help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide produced?