

Focus on Climate Change

Climate change is arguably the most serious and pressing issue currently facing us. Climate change affects everyone around the world, regardless of country. As such, it makes an excellent topic for investigation and shared learning as part of your school link. This pack explores the climate change with a special focus on Ethiopia.

Aims:

- Pupils gain an understanding of the causes and effects of climate change around the world.
- Pupils gain an understanding that different countries will be affected differently by climate change. In particular, poorer, less developed countries will find it harder to cope with the effects.
- Pupils gain awareness of their own role in climate change and investigate their responsibilities towards the environment.
- Pupils investigate action they can take locally to fight climate change.

Climate Facts

- As a result of human activity, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has increased by 30% in the last 200 years.
- Increased levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases trap more heat from the sun, causing the planet to warm, which is affecting climates in unpredictable ways.
- The weather in the UK is changing. The 10 warmest years on record have happened since 1997. Sea levels around UK have risen 10 cm in the last century. More extreme weather events are happening including more frequent floods and droughts.
- Ethiopia is already suffering from the effects of climate change. 85% of Ethiopians rely on agriculture for food and for their livelihoods, which means they are extremely vulnerable to climate change.
- A three-year, ongoing drought in the south of Ethiopia has left millions dependent on food aid. The number of Ethiopians dependent on food aid to feed themselves is estimated to be growing by half a million every year.
- Drought is not currently a major problem in the most populated areas of Ethiopia, but less predictable weather patterns are making it harder for farmers to plant and harvest their crops at the right time, decreasing crop quantities.