

KS2 – Sisay’s Story - Activity

KS2 Subjects:

Curriculum Links
English: Speaking 3a, 3b, 3f, Reading 3b, 3c, 3d, Writing 1a, 1b, 1c
Geography: 1a, 1c, 1d, 3a, 3d, 3g
Citizenship: 2a, 4a, 4b

Children investigate Sisay’s Story, ask questions and write a letter to the UN about Sisay’s experience.

Time: 50 mins

Objectives

- Children read and discuss Sisay’s story and answer questions
- Children reflect on Sisay’s story and its relation to their own lives
- Children take on the role of Sisay and write a letter about her experience

Instructions

- As a class, or in pairs, read Sisay’s Story (5 mins)
- Now discuss the following questions about Sisay’s Story (15 mins)
 - *What is the problem in the story? How does it make Sisay and her family feel? How has it changed their lives?*
 - *How does the story make you feel?*
 - *What activities emit CO2 and make climate change worse? (eg flying, driving, cutting down trees etc.)*
 - *What do you think the person in the story does to contribute to climate change? (Tell pupils that, on average, a person in the UK emits 33 times more CO2 each year than a person in Ethiopia. Discuss the differences in lifestyle that create this difference, mainly caused by use of fossil fuels).*
 - *Does the difference between what we do and what the person in the story does surprise you? Why?*
 - *Are there any solutions to Sisay’s problem? Are there any other solutions you can think of?*
 - *What can we do to help?*
 - *Are there any questions you would like to ask Sisay?*

Make it clear to pupils that Ethiopia is a big country (five times the size of UK). Sisay lives in a hot, low-lying area in the South. Your link school is in a more central area of mountains and lakes where it is cooler and wetter.

- Tell the class that every few years there is a big meeting about climate change which is attended by Governments from every country. At these meetings, the governments try to agree actions they will take to stop climate change. The meetings are organised by the United Nations (UN) an international organisation set up to help countries to work together for peace, better living standards and human rights. The UN Secretary-General, Ban-Ki Moon, is in charge of these meeting and tries to get everyone to agree.
- Tell the class they are going to imagine they are Sisay. Ask them to write a letter to Ban-Ki Moon, telling him about the problems you face because of climate change. Tell him why it is so important to stop climate change and ask him to make sure the countries come to an agreement to act.