

Creating Futures

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Lesson 8

Climate change in our community role-play



Outline

Using role-play children explore a dilemma as to whether or not to extract oil from a recently found potential source.



Key Question: Who decides what happens about climate change?



Key points of learning relating to climate change

- **Decisions we make now impact on the future** and on people around the world.
- **Some groups have more power** in decision making than others.
- In making decisions, **caring for the environment** is often **challenged by other factors** like making money and dependence on fossil fuels.



Curriculum integration

	Strand	Strand Unit
Science	Environmental awareness and care	Caring for the environment Science and the environment Environmental awareness
Geography	Environmental awareness and care	Caring for the environment Environmental awareness
English	Developing cognitive abilities through language	Oral language
Art	Drawing	Making drawing
Drama	Drama to explore feelings, knowledge and ideas, leading to understanding	Exploring and making drama Reflecting on drama
SPHE	Myself and the wider world	Developing citizenship



Resources

- Action on Climate Change Pyramid, *one per group of three.*
- Scenario: 'Oil Found', *one per class.*
- Five Role Group Cards, *one role per group and a copy of the card for each group member.*
- Role Names, *cut up or written on labels, one per pupil.*



Other resources

Arts materials, labels.



LESSON PLAN

1. Children brainstorm actions they could take on climate change

Working in groups of three, children use the **Action on Climate Change Pyramid** to brainstorm different possible actions. They share their ideas.

2. Children begin their role-play, listening to the scenario and exploring their role

Children listen to the teacher read the scenario 'Oil Found'.

Children are divided into the five role groups, each group being given a different one of the five **Role Group Cards: Oil and Gas R Us, Amos' Family, Climate Change Experts, Local Residents and Government of Ireland**.

Working in the five groups, children read their Role Group Card.

Within their role groups, each child is given a **role name** on a label from the list provided.

3. Role groups explore their perspective on the scenario

From the perspective of their role:

Each role group discusses what they would like to happen. The group draws their preferred future.

Each role group discusses what they are worried might happen. The group draws the future they are worried about.

Each role group decide if they would choose to leave the oil or to extract it and plans their argument for or against extracting the oil.

4. Role groups present their pictures

Coming together as a class, the class imagines that they are at a stakeholder meeting with the teacher, in role, acting as chairperson and welcoming the different groups. In role, each group argues for their decision using their pictures.

Each role group member should make a separate point to support their argument.

The class votes on what should happen.

5. The class debriefs on the role-play using circle time

Coming out of their roles, removing all name badges, the children debrief on their thoughts and feelings during the role-play. This could be done during circle time.

Out of their roles, what decision would the class make in relation to the oil?

Class Discussion Questions

In reality, which of the groups would have most power in making this decision?

How can we help stop climate change?



LESSON PLAN (continued)

6. Children review their climate change learning wall

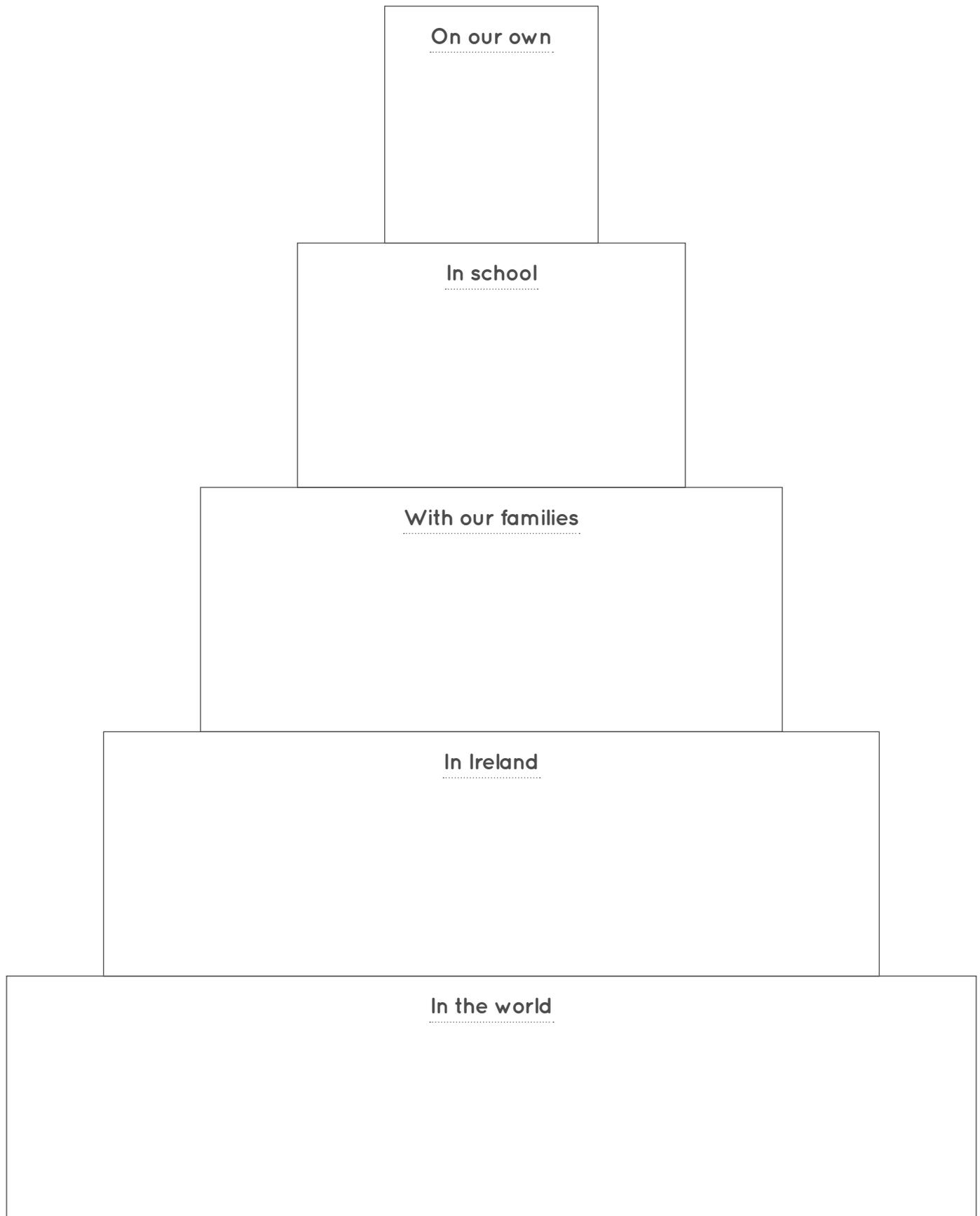
Can any questions now be answered?

Can any new knowledge about climate change be added to the wall?

Can any new questions be added?

Action on Climate Change Pyramid

What action can we take on climate change?



Scenario: Oil Found

A large amount of oil has been found below our school. It could be extracted, sold and used in transport, power stations, factories and homes. This would make lots of money and provide oil for people to use.

However, if it is used and burnt it will release carbon dioxide, adding to climate change. What should we do with the oil?

Role Group Cards



Cut out both cards

Role Group 1: Oil and Gas R Us

We are a very large company called Oil and Gas R Us. We extract and sell oil and gas. We think this site has the potential to be a world-class oil resource, providing a huge amount of oil to meet people's needs.

More drilling and testing is needed to see exactly how much oil there is at the site.

It is not yet known whether the oil can be got out by drilling or whether chemicals would need to be pumped into the ground to bring out the oil. Many people say that this process using chemicals contaminates local water supplies and damages the environment.

We say that we have been extracting oil at many sites for many years with great care for the environment and with limited impact on local communities.

We have cutting-edge technology to work out how much oil there is under the ground.

Extracting this oil would enable us to increase the amount we sell, making us one of the biggest oil companies in the world. We could make huge amounts of money. Extracting the oil could be a great opportunity for us.

Role Group 2: Amos' family, Tharaka-Nithi County, Kenya

We are a family living in Tharaka-Nithi County, Kenya.

Climate change is making things more difficult in Kenya. There have always been times of drought and times of flooding, but now these extreme weather events happen more often.

People are now starting to talk about climate change in Kenya and what has to be done about climate change. Although some people in Kenya do things which add to climate change, most people in Kenya emit a lot less carbon dioxide than those in countries like Ireland. Some people are talking about getting more energy without burning fossil fuels, for instance by using solar energy, and others are talking about how important it is to keep planting trees.

We have a farm where we used to grow lots of vegetables. We could eat these vegetables, and sell any left over at the market to make money. Because of climate change, the rain has not come at the same time as it used to, so it is more difficult to grow our vegetables. Amos' father has had to move to a town far away to find work to earn money. We all miss him very much when he is away.

Role Group Cards



Cut out both cards

Role Group 3: Climate Change Experts

Burning fossil fuels, like coal, oil and gas, releases carbon dioxide. This carbon dioxide adds to the greenhouse effect, causing the Earth's climate to change.

As a result of climate change, sea levels are rising. This impacts on people living beside the sea and puts some areas at risk of flooding.

People around the world are already experiencing the impact of climate change. Lots of people are experiencing more extreme weather events, like droughts and typhoons.

Climate change is affecting different animals and plants. Coral is very sensitive to changes in temperature and doesn't like seawater getting hotter. At the moment rice grows for many months of the year. As the earth gets hotter, it will not be able to grow for as many months. This could affect all the people that rely on it for food.

How we behave now impacts on climate change in the future. If we continue to burn fossil fuels as we do at the moment then temperatures will rise higher than if we reduce our use of fossil fuels.

There are alternatives to fossil fuels, like wind and solar energy. However at the moment we still rely heavily on fossil fuels for energy.

Role Group 4: Local Resident

Extracting the oil changes the local environment. You need to set up drilling rigs and pipelines which change how the area looks.

People in Ireland need energy to get electricity, drive our cars and run our factories. At the moment most of this energy comes from burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas.

The oil is highly valuable and some say it could really help the economy. The economy has been suffering recently and this could help the economy to recover.

Global oil prices have fallen dramatically in recent times.

There may be 100 billion barrels of oil at the site, which is a very significant amount of oil. At the moment Ireland is dependent on fossil fuels from other countries to get its energy. It is not clear yet how easy it is to get the oil out and how much it will cost.

The Government of Ireland has been meeting with other governments from all around the world and has said it will reduce its carbon dioxide emissions.

Role Group Cards



Cut out the card

Role Group 5: Government of Ireland

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Role Name Cards



Cut out the cards

Oil and Gas R Us

Chief Executive	Head of Finance	Head of Safety	Head of Business	Head of Marketing
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Amos' Family

Amos	Mum	Dad	Brother	Sister
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Climate Change Expert

Weather Expert	Oceans Expert	Arctic Expert	Farming Expert	Human Health Expert
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Local Residents

Head of the Neighbourhood Watch	Local Scout	Principal of a Local School	Member of the School Green Team	Mother and Local Sweet-Shop Keeper
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Government of Ireland

Taoiseach	Minister for Finance	Minister for Environment	Minister for Children	Minister for Transport
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