

ACTIVITY 3: WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

– THE STATE OF OUR PLANET NEWS REPORT

AIM: Young people explore climate change concerns and different perspectives on how climate change affects children, through community interviews.

Preparation

- Become familiar with the interview tips to lead young people in development of the questionnaire.
- Consider if there may be any young people in the group without an adult to interview and match them with an adult to interview or pair them with another young person.

Facilitator Materials & Resources

- Activity PowerPoint 3:
What do people think about climate change?
- Activity PowerPoint 3:
Slides 4 & 5 - Interview tips

Participant Materials

- Writing paper and pen to draft interview and record answers
- Community member or trusted adult to interview (in person or by telephone)
- Smart phone to record video or audio for young people choosing this option for output



A swollen river that's close to flooding in the UK. Source: Pixabay

FACILITATOR INTRODUCTION

In this activity, young people will explore why acting on climate change is important through engaging in climate conversations with community members with expertise around different areas of rights or climate. Information gathered from interviews can be presented as a piece of journalism – as a podcast, video interview or a written feature based on access to tech and interest of participants.

If community members are not accessible due to remote learning or other circumstances, young people can conduct climate conversations with older family members or trusted adults. Young people can complete this activity alone or in pairs.

Note: It is important to be aware that questions in this activity and future activities may prompt discussion around natural disaster and climate-induced migration. Please be aware if any young person in your class may have experienced a natural disaster. Facilitators must also be aware of their role in safeguarding and protecting young people as they complete this activity, ensuring that young people aren't on their own with adults outside of the school/ youth group.

ACTIVITY 3: WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

– THE STATE OF OUR PLANET NEWS REPORT

Part 1: Select interviewee and prepare interview

1. Explain to young people that, to understand the many aspects of climate change and to explore solutions to protect our planet and build a better future, it is important to understand different perspectives of what people think about climate change, and what they think can be done.
2. Think about a few areas of climate change linked to children’s rights that you would like to understand more about. For ideas, think back to the presentations you made in Activity 2.
3. Based on the areas of interest selected, encourage young people to identify who in their community might be able to talk to them about that topic. For example, a young person interested in exploring how pollution affects child health might identify talking to a pediatrician; those wanting to discuss the importance of young people learning about climate science may talk to a headteacher or local authority education lead; a young person concerned about what fashion companies are doing to combat climate change may interview the owner of a sustainable fashion label or owner of the local high street boutique that sells fairly produced clothing; or a young person may interview an environmentalist or science researcher to explore the impacts on climate that have happened as a result of the world pausing due to the coronavirus pandemic. Or they could talk to a member of their family or trusted adult about their experiences of a changing climate over their lifetime.
4. After identifying potential interviewees, young people should determine the type of interview they want to complete (recorded, video, written, in person or online), prepare the questions they will ask in the interview, and invite their potential interviewee for a conversation. Be sure to include “What is the state of our planet related to [their area of expertise]?”
5. Introduce young people to the interview tips, pointing out the third tip about perspective taking, reminding that the aim of this activity is to learn about the perspectives and concerns of others. Address any questions or concerns young people may have about sensitivities that may come up in their own interviews.



Young people learning about their rights. © Unicef/Dawe

ACTIVITY 3: WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE?

– THE STATE OF OUR PLANET NEWS REPORT

Part 2: Conduct the interview and present your news report

1. Using the interview tips and the interview questions prepared for their topic, young people will conduct their interviews. If activities are being conducted remotely at home and/or young people do not have access to community leaders, young people can interview family members or trusted adults to whom they do have access.
2. Following the interview, young people should review all of the information they obtained and determine how they will tell the story. What is the most important information? What supporting details should be included?
3. Provide a platform for each of the young people to share their news report. This could be a gallery, through a school portal, or an opportunity for each group to present their work in person or remotely. If you are going to share the interviews in any place that can be accessed publicly, make sure that young people have obtained permission. (You can use the Unicef consent form provided).
4. Debrief the activity, asking young people to discuss what they learned. Did the person they interviewed share anything new or interesting they had not thought of before? Did anyone interview a person who had a difference of opinion on climate change? If so, how did they manage this and what did they learn?