



What's going on this week?

The COP26 climate summit, one of the biggest ever world meetings on how to tackle climate change, is taking place between 31st October and 12th November 2021 and is being held in Glasgow. Prior to the summit, most countries set out their plans to reduce emissions. The Queen spoke out before the start of the event, saying she is irritated by the lack of progress on climate issues. The 95-year-old monarch spoke after the opening of the Senedd in Cardiff as she criticised those who "talk but don't do".

Main question:

What are the best ways to tackle climate change?

Listen, think, share

- Look at this week's poster. What do we think this week's story might be about? Explain that starting this week, and for the following 2 weeks, the COP26 climate summit, exploring what world leaders can do to tackle climate change is taking place in Glasgow. Share what you already know about climate change.
- Read the information about climate change and the COP26 summit found on the assembly resource. What kinds of decisions do you think might be reached at the event? Do you think more could or should be done?
- The man in the poster is Alok Sharma, who is the COP26 President; he is responsible for leading the summit. Discuss why you think the world leaders have decided to meet in person in this way. Do you think the summit is a good idea? Share what kind of things you think might be discussed at the event.
- Watch this week's useful video, which explores how you can take action against climate change. Talk through some of the small changes we can make in our own lives.

Reflection

Many people around the world are prepared to be part of the solution to climate change, but it's important for our leaders to make strong promises and keep them. If we work together, we can help shape a sustainable future.



KS1 Focus

Question:

What action can we take to help with climate change?

Listen, think, share

- Write 'climate change' on the board. Have you heard of this before? Do you know what climate change is?
- Explain that climate change is the changes happening to the pattern of weather conditions over a long period of time.
- Scientists have noticed that the Earth is warming up, which has changed the weather patterns. This has caused some places to get extreme weather conditions such as flood or drought.
- Many people want to make changes in their everyday lives to help tackle climate change. What do you think you could do?
- Look at resource 1, which shares some of the things you could do to help tackle climate change. Do you take any of these actions already? Is there anything that you don't do but you could?
- Think about what we mean by taking action. Discuss that we could do nothing to help with climate change and carry on with our lives but to take action means to do something about it. If everybody takes action, it will make a big difference.
- Do you think everybody understands or knows about the different actions we can take to help with climate change? Think about how raising awareness is important too!

Reflection

There are many different actions we can take, which will help climate change. We can all make little changes that could make a big difference!



KS2 Focus

Question:

How have other countries around the world tackled climate change?

Listen, think, share

- Climate change is a global issue. Our choices and actions can impact people living in different parts of the world. Most countries have set out plans to tackle climate change.
- Can you think of any changes the UK has already made to tackle climate change? Think about encouraging people to reuse shopping bags by introducing a charge, swapping plastic straws for paper ones, tree-planting schemes, etc.
- The Government has said emissions will be reduced by 2035 and will reach net zero by 2050, which means the country will absorb as much carbon dioxide (through things like tree planting) as it emits.
- Do you know of any other government plans to reduce emissions in the UK? E.g. increasing electric cars, changing our heating systems.
- Look at resource 2, which shares an update on some countries' aims and attempts to reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change. What do you think about each country? Do you think it is a country's responsibility or an individual's?
- Focus on the Philippines. Explain that they have suffered serious impacts from storms and typhoons caused by climate change but their historical carbon emissions are much lower than other countries. How do you feel about this?
- The COP26 climate summit provides an opportunity for world leaders to meet to discuss climate change. How important do you think this is?

Reflection

Climate change is affecting the world. Most countries have set targets to reduce carbon emissions, which will have a positive impact for us all.



KS2 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Give the children a world map to look at and explore. Remind them that our whole world is affected by climate change. Locate the UK and the countries found in resource 2 (Australia, Philippines, China).

- What is the EU? Can you locate it on the world map?

Explain the EU is a union between 27 European countries.

- Can you locate Europe on a world map?
- Can you find out which 27 countries are part of the EU and find them on the map?

Option 2: Ask the children to look at the carbon emissions table below.

- What does the information show?

Transport	Carbon emissions (kg per km)
Walk	0.00
Car	0.21
Bus	0.09
Train	0.06
Bike	0.00
Motorbike	0.10

Use it to complete the following:

- Which method of transport produces the most/least carbon emissions?
- Can you order the modes of transport from least carbon emissions to most?
- What is the difference in carbon emissions between using a car or a motorbike?
- If your journey was 10km, how many kg of carbon emissions would you add to the environment for each mode of transport?



KS1 Follow-up Ideas

Option 1: Ask the children to think about some of the things they can do to tackle climate change. Begin by creating a list of things they could do at home or school e.g recycle, walk instead of using the car, reuse items, turn off lights.

- Do you do any of these things already?
- Is there anything you don't do but you could try this week?

Explain that we could raise awareness of these things to encourage others to do them.

- How could we do this? A poster, make a video message, draw a picture, write a letter?

Raise awareness and share your message!

Option 2: Remind the children that planting trees is a great way to help tackle climate change.

- Can you see any trees when you look out of the window?
- What do they look like?
- What colour are their leaves?

Explain that this time of year is autumn so some trees begin to lose their leaves.

- Can you collect some autumn leaves that have fallen?

Use the leaves collected to either create a tree collage or for the children to look at so they can draw their own autumn leaf.

Challenge – think about what the leaves might look like in winter, spring and summer.



This Week's Useful Websites

This week's news story

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-58923924

This Week's Useful Videos

How you can get involved with COP26

www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/cop26

This Week's Virtual Assembly

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This Week's Useful Vocabulary

Climate change – changes in the Earth's climate, particularly increase in temperature caused by carbon dioxide.

The COP26 climate summit, exploring what world leaders can do to tackle **climate change**, is taking place in Glasgow.

Emissions – gases that are released into the atmosphere.

Prior to the summit, most countries set out their plans to reduce **emissions**.

Solution – the way to solve or deal with a problem.

Many people around the world are prepared to be part of the **solution** to climate change.

Summit – a meeting between heads of government.

The man in the poster is Alok Sharma, who is the COP26 President; he is responsible for leading the **summit**.

Sustainable – causing little or no damage to the environment.

If we work together, we can help shape a **sustainable** future.

Tackle – make determined efforts to deal with a difficult problem or task.

The COP26 climate summit, one of the biggest ever world meetings on how to **tackle** climate change, is taking place.