



Chasing the Wind

Ecological Footprint

Timetable

Teacher: Lesson:

Group: SEN students:

Date: Support Staff:

Room:

Focus

In this activity students calculate their own ecological footprint, developing their understanding of sustainability.

Objectives

Students will learn about:

- The causes of ecological footprints, and how these can be reduced.

Outcomes

All students will be able to:

- Give examples of activities that have a large ecological footprint.
- Suggest ways of reducing the footprint impact of some everyday activities, e.g. travelling to work.

Most students will be able to:

- Explain how these activities are affecting the long term future of the Earth.

Some students will be able to:

- Apply their understanding of ecological footprints to global activities, e.g. trade.

Resources

- worksheet *Ecological Footprint* (one per student)
- access to Internet for research

Starter (10 mins)

Brainstorm with the whole class, some things that they do that affect the planet, for example travelling long distances in cars, importing food from far away etc. Do not attempt to produce a definitive, encyclopedic list, but simply make sure that students are clear about the kinds of ideas the worksheet is asking for in Question 1.



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Main (30 mins)

1. Divide the group into pairs and hand out the worksheet *Ecological Footprint*.
2. Give each pair five minutes to list the things that contribute to their ecological footprint. Encourage them to look for the big effects first.
3. Ask the members of the pair to share their ideas with each other and produce a combined list.
4. Move to the computers to visit websites that allow students to work out their ecological footprints. Each student should work out their own footprint.
5. Ask students to suggest changes they could make which would reduce their ecological footprint and then work these out using the online calculator. For example, which produces the biggest improvement in footprint size - walking to school instead of getting the bus or turning your heating down by 1°C?

Plenary (20 mins)

1. As a class summarise the most effective footprint-reduction ideas.
2. Students can then pick three ideas they are willing to carry through. It might be helpful if the teacher does the same!

Additional Information

The best website for the footprint calculation is www.footprint.wwf.org.uk.