



Climate Action Week Handout

Student voices: Global stories of climate action and hope

At our Climate Action Week sessions our International Climate Change Education Ambassador talked with passionate students from across the globe, about how climate change education inspired their journey from awareness to action.

Talking about climate change is one of the most powerful things we can do. This resource is packed full of ideas to keep the conversation going, so together we can make change happen.

Resource A: Reflections on the session

This notes page, on the next page, is for teachers to support students to reflect on the impacts of climate change using our Climate Action Week 'student voices' sessions as stimulus.

Please scan (or click on) the QR code below to share a recording of the 'student voices' session with your class.



While watching, students can use the template to make notes on what they learn from the student discussion.

After watching, they can use these notes to structure their ideas for a discussion in pairs, groups or as a whole class:

- Which countries are the students from?
- What are the experiences of climate change in each country?
- How has the students' education prepared them for climate action?
- What impact have the students' actions had on their school and community, and also on themselves?

There is a section in the student notes titled 'Vocabulary'. Students can use this space to record any words or terms they find significant or would like to learn more about.



Resource B: Texts to foster care and curiosity about our planet

Our Education Futures Manager, Laura Kahwati, has put together a list of texts that foster care and

curiosity about the planet. She has chosen a selection of books, videos and websites to explore, but there is a wide range of material available.

These resources span various age groups and contexts, so – as with any material – it is important to review each one to make sure it is suitable for you, your colleagues, or your students.

Resource C: Getting Started with Climate Change Education (for teachers)

If you are a teacher, you might also find it useful to read and share our interactive guide, Getting Started With Climate Change Education: <https://cambridge-community.org.uk/professional-development/gswcce/>



Resource A: Reflections on the session

As you watch the videos, use this page to help structure your notes.
Be ready to share your ideas at the end of the lesson.

Which countries are the students from?

What are the experiences of climate change in each country?
(Be prepared to talk about the differences and similarities)

How has the students' education prepared them for climate action?

What impact have the students' actions had on their school and community, and also on themselves?

Vocabulary:





Resource B: Texts to foster care and curiosity about our planet

Our Education Futures Manager, Laura Kahwati, recommends her top texts to help raise climate change awareness.

Laura's Top Twelve

We have put together a list of texts that can be shared with students in order to foster care and curiosity about the planet.

- 1. Eco-poetry by Pascale Petit** combines environmental awareness with vivid, child-friendly language that encourages young readers to connect emotionally and imaginatively with the natural world. www.pascalepetit.co.uk/tag/ecopoetry
- 2. Zakiya Mckenzie's accessible eco poetry** intertwines Caribbean heritage with British landscapes, offering a unique perspective that challenges traditional narratives in nature writing. <https://zakiyamckenzie.com>
- 3. Alex Wharton's accessible books and poems** for children foster environmental awareness and creativity. His works encourage children to connect with the natural world and express their thoughts and feelings through writing and performance: <https://alexwhartonpoet.co.uk/>
You can explore some of his poetry on YouTube, too: www.youtube.com/results?search_query=alex+wharton
- 4. When I heard the learn'd astronomer** – A beautiful poem by Walt Whitman on stepping outside of the theory and into nature, to observe it and feel it for yourself: <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/45479/when-i-heard-the-learn-d-astronomer>
- 5. Dear Mum: A letter to Mother Earth** – A highly engaging and brilliantly performed rap-style spoken-word poem, starting at 0:34. The performer personifies Earth as a mother: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qn08q_FH-aw
- 6. Ten love letters to the earth**, by a Vietnamese Buddhist monk and Zen master – These are letters, not poetry, but are very lyrical and beautiful in their expression, which can also encourage students to write their own letters: <https://emergencemagazine.org/essay/ten-love-letters-to-the-earth/>
- 7. Rise: from one island to another** – A poem written by two indigenous poets/activists linking climate-related glacier melting and sea-level rise. A powerful story of environmental justice. The website is available in different languages: <https://350.org/rise-from-one-island-to-another/>



- 8. Sam Illingworth's poetry** blends science and art to make complex environmental and scientific issues accessible and emotionally engaging, helping to develop climate literacy: <https://theconversation.com/how-poetry-can-help-address-the-climate-crisis-196081>
- 9. Eric Magrane's poetry** blends geography, ecology and art to provoke thoughtful reflection on our relationship with the Earth. This makes it a valuable classroom resource for fostering environmental literacy, creative expression and interdisciplinary thinking. <https://ericmagrane.com>
- 10. Kimberlie Hamilton – Rebel animals at risk**
A vibrantly illustrated book that uses real-life animal stories to spark empathy, curiosity and environmental awareness. Great for engaging children in conservation and cross-curricular learning: <https://jennybrownassociates.com/author/kimberlie-hamilton>
- 11. David Dixon – Leadership for sustainability: Saving the planet one school at a time** – Written by a former headteacher of 20 years and based on doctoral research. This book offers guidance to school leaders and teachers on how to transform sustainability in schools.
- 12. Mike Berners-Lee books: 'There is no planet B' and 'A climate of truth'** – Two books about climate change and the urgent need for environmental action. Berners-Lee argues that we must be honest as a society, change the way we live, and work together for a better future. www.cambridge.org/core/books/there-is-no-planet-b/IC152963CE739459C346D76B439A0272
www.cambridge.org/core/books/climate-of-truth/EDFDB984I983BI8DC6C3387525CCFIC