

LOVING EARTH PROJECT : Caring for the world we love

WORKSHOP SUGGESTION FOR SCHOOLS OR YOUTH GROUPS

Materials required:

- A3 paper - thick white cartridge paper is ideal.
- Drawing materials: coloured crayons, pastels are ideal.
(Paints or collage materials could also be used to develop the artwork further)
- Something to write notes on and with.

You will also need table and chairs for people to sit and draw or write at.

TIME: about an hour but very flexible, depending on ages and size of group. This could be done as part of a bigger project, perhaps after more detailed work has already been done.

The project could later be developed in different ways; developing the artwork, research and actions, making textile panels for the Loving Earth Project travelling exhibition, writing poems etc.

1 INTRODUCTION: Reminder/input about the topic. (See overleaf for an example)

2 REFLECTION: Settle down and think quietly about these questions:

- **Is there something, someone or somewhere that you know and love which is endangered by environmental break-down?**

For example, it could be the whole Amazon Rainforest, or it could be one the people there, or a specific creature. Spend a few minutes (eyes closed) thinking about what is wonderful about this,

- **How does your lifestyle contribute to that threat?**

You may need to do some research to find out more about this. There are some suggestions at <http://lovingearth-project.uk/getting-started/>

Do you eat or use things that result from this activity or encourage it? Do you know others who do?

What could you do, or are you doing, to help reduce that threat?

What steps have you already taken? Imagine the biggest, most radical change that could be made to safeguard the future and reduce the threat . How could you help make that happen? What's the tiniest thing you could do? It might be to find out more!

Could you change something about what you eat, or buy? Could you support a campaign or write to someone? What might make a difference? Talk to other people about your concerns. If they too are worried, can you work together ?

3 ACTIVITY : Now make a picture to illustrate your response. It could be an image of what you love, or about something you will do.

Take your A3 paper, and mark a square equal to the short side. This is where to make your picture .

In the rectangle by the side, write a title and a few words about:

- what you love and how it's threatened
- something that you do that contributes to the problem
- something that you are going to reduce the threat.

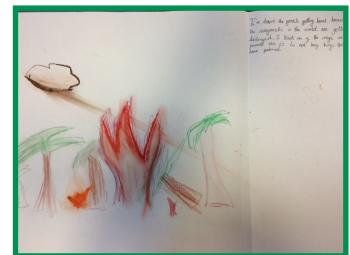
Don't forget to do what you have said you would do!

Please send your contributions to us, to join many others for display :

Loving Earth Project, % FWCC, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ or a local contact if you have one.

Please put your name and contact details,(or those of the group) on the back.

Contributions may appear on our website as well as at a display, but always anonymously. In sending us your contributions you are agreeing to this, and that the Loving Earth Project will have copyright (jointly with the makers)



More information about the project and links to find out more about our impact on the environment and what we can do about it are at lovingearth-project.uk

Enquiries : lovingearthproject@gmail.com.

Notes for introduction to THE AMAZON RAINFOREST as a topic

These would need to be adapted to the age group and context.

What being destroyed?

Fires - for cattle ranching (Brazil is the biggest exporter of beef in the world - most goes to China)
- soybean planting (mostly for cattlefeed)
- oil palm plantations (small at present - but plans to increase hugely.
Indonesia and Malaysia are the biggest producers at present, with similar problems of reducing biodiversity in forests)

Water Intensive farming of monocultures require fertiliser which pollutes water.
mining and industrial processes upstream also pollute the water downstream

How does it impact on the environment?

Biodiversity (*what does this word mean?*) :

Destruction of ancient forest dramatically decreasing biodiversity. Extinction of species. Plants, animals. (Which?) Indigenous peoples. Loss of knowledge too.

Climate

CO2 - fires themselves destructive and create CO2
- Long term release of CO2 and trees not capturing it.
- Cattle farming is very bad for global warming as cattle emit lots of methane, which very bad for global warming. Exporting it creates even more damage due to fuel use.
Pesticides and fertiliser cause further damage ongoing. Unsustainable agriculture.

These affect us all, and we contribute in other ways of course.

What can we do?

Learn more about the issues and talk to people about it all - including your family and friend

Support campaigns to protect the Amazon - eg WWF but also specific projects
Join them, raise funds for them

Write to people with influence: eg MPs. Trade deals are happening all the time. CEOs of the big companies that buy the products

- Ask UK Government to ban imports of beef from Brazil and soya-fed beef from elsewhere, and to discourage soya-fed beef production here. (Also to put concrete measures in place urgently to support the United Nations recommendations on climate and biodiversity)
- Similarly ask for ban on unsustainable palm oil
- Ask Supermarkets to stop stocking products with palm oil in them, especially if it's not from not sustainable sources.

What we eat and buy

- Avoid eating beef (especially beef that is not local and grass-fed). Eat less or no beef. (Check out healthy vegetarian diets)
- Avoid eating /buying things with palm oil in them biscuits, chocolate, soap, ice cream, margarine, unless you know it's sustainable palm oil. (If it doesn't say it's from sustainable sources, it probably isn't)
- NB the GIKI phone app can tell you whether products are made sustainably.

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More generally

Talk to other people about your concerns and what you are thinking of doing.
Reduce our own carbon footprint (travel, heat, eating, stuff...) , rewild/look after nature, plant trees

Making a textile panel and writing something about it to join the Loving Earth Project display, is a good way to get more people thinking about this, and doing something.

