

Climate **Change**

Climate **Justice**

Student Activity Pack

1: Newspaper Front Page **2: Create Your Own Mural**



Activity One: Newspaper Front Page

The media play an important role in bringing the issue of climate change and climate justice to the attention of the Irish public. It is important that the message contained in newspaper articles, TV reports and radio spots are accurate, informative and easy to understand. A report that is inaccurate or misleading can do irreparable damage to a message or campaign.

Instructions

Choice One

Read through the information on Ethiopia (page three and four) and use it to write an article for the front page of an Irish newspaper. Any other research that you find relevant should also be used. Use the newspaper template on page two for this activity. All elements of the newspaper must be completed (name, headline, adverts, etc.). All the information concerns Ethiopia in general, or the case study community in Sebeya, Tigray, in northern Ethiopia. The article must explain to an Irish audience how climate change is affecting Ethiopia, and convince the readers that they should take action to help the communities in Ethiopia to adapt to the problems associated with climate change. This help may take any form, for example: fundraising, lobbying, or protesting.

Choice Two

If access to ICT is available, use appropriate software to produce a newspaper front page containing all of the elements in the template. Design the front page however you wish!

Choice Three

Create a newspaper front page yourself as an art project.

Go to the photo gallery on the Trócaire website (trocaire.org/education/lent2015) for some photos that you might use as part of your newspaper front page.

Price

Name of Newspaper

Date

Headline for Newspaper

Possible picture
relating to article

Article

Article

Adverts

Adverts

Ethiopia Information Sheet

General information on Ethiopia:

- Ethiopia has no coastline, it is a landlocked country
- It has borders with Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan
- Ras Dejen is Ethiopia's highest point at 4533m
- The population of Ethiopia is around 90 million people
- Over 80 languages are spoken in Ethiopia
- The official language is Amharic (29%)
- The main spoken language is Oromo (33%)
- GDP per capita is around \$1,300
- Average life expectancy is 60 years
- 85% of all workers are engaged in agriculture
- Ethiopia experiences a tropical monsoon climate, but with regional variations due to land elevation
- Ethiopia suffers from environmental problems such as deforestation, overgrazing, soil erosion, desertification and water shortages
- The persistent lack of rainfall is a major factor in rural poverty. Drought has become more frequent and severe throughout the country over the past decade
- The capital of Ethiopia is Addis Ababa, with almost 4 million inhabitants
- An estimated 30% of the Ethiopian population live below the poverty line
- Ethiopia currently hosts over 500,000 refugees from neighbouring countries

Specific information on Tigray:

- Mekele is the capital city of the state of Tigray
- Tigray is located at the northern tip of Ethiopia, on the border with Eritrea and Sudan
- 83% of the population of Tigray are farmers
- Relations between Ethiopia and Eritrea remain tense due to a continuing dispute over the border between the two countries
- Erosion, deforestation and over-grazing during the last two centuries have left the region with dry and treeless plains, hills and plateau

Case Study: Sebeya, Tigray, Ethiopia



Ali Weldeanenia and his family, Sebeya, Tigray, Northern Ethiopia.

Rain is a memorable event for Ali. He can tell you on what day it is due this year and when it fell last year. This isn't hard to remember. Last year it rained on just three days in his village. "We are always in drought," he says. "There is a scarcity of rainfall, a scarcity of water. As a result of the drought there isn't much crop production. The second problem is with livestock feed. My cattle have only wooden sticks to eat." "We are worried that the cattle will die," adds his wife, Taemu. "They are very thin, so it isn't even worth trying to sell them." The rainfall was much better when I was younger, but it's getting worse and worse, we are frustrated. Maybe it's from God."

"Climate change is attacking here in Sebeya. Years ago Sebeya was very green and swampy. Now it's dry. There's no water at all. Before we got crops from the land. Now, we get none. But the land is very fertile. If people had irrigation, it would change their life."

Fr. Solomon Beyene Tesfayohannes, parish priest of the Catholic Holy Trinity parish, Sebeya.



Ali and his family are one of 50 households soon to join the Enda Timket irrigation scheme being built in 2014 by local organisation, Adigrat Diocesan Catholic Secretariat (ADCS) with support from Trócaire. When there is rain, Ali has one harvest a year that lasts up to three months. This system will enable him to have three harvests. ADCS have set up other irrigation projects in the area with financial support from Trócaire.

Kashi Assefa Mhari (50) stands on his land at the irrigation site in Lehama village, Tigray, north Ethiopia, developed by Trócaire partner ADCS (Adigrat Diocese Catholic Secretariat) with support from Trócaire.



Activity Two: Climate Justice Mural

Graffiti and murals are sometimes used to express an opinion or to make a call to action. The 'International Wall' on the Falls Road in Belfast is one such place where murals are used to highlight issues and raise awareness. The most effective murals will show the issue clearly, whilst at the same time be thought provoking and engaging. The mural you see below is from the wall in Belfast, asking those who view it not just to think about climate change, but to also consider the issue of climate justice.



Instructions

Task One

In small groups, use the following questions to explore how effective you think the mural is at raising the following issues:

- Global impacts of climate change
- The inequality of how climate change affects the developed and developing world
- What is our 'carbon footprint' and how can we reduce it
- Time is being wasted when it comes to taking action on the issue of climate change/justice

Choice Two

Create your own mural which highlights climate change and climate justice in both the Global North (developed world) and the Global South (developing world). This mural could be on an appropriate wall in your school, or as a personal piece of artwork. Try to include the above points when planning the content of your mural.