LESSON PLAN

UNDERSTANDING THE CONFERENCES OF PARTIES (COP)

12 to 14 years

30 minutes ▪ Extendable

Includes:

Teacher Notes

PowerPoint Presentation

Student Reference Sheets

EXPO CITY DUBAI

EXPO SCHOOL PROGRAMME

TEACHER NOTES

LESSON SUMMARY

This lesson and accompanying activities are designed to provide students with an understanding of COP28 and what the conference is attempting to achieve. Students will also gain a more conceptual understanding of climate change issues and how we are attempting to mitigate and adapt to contemporary issues.

EXPO CITY DUBAI CONNECTION

The 28th session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) will be hosted in the United Arab Emirates at Expo City Dubai.

COP28 will assess and drive progress on combating climate change, while sharing Expo City Dubai's objectives of achieving sustainability and enabling action towards climate security.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the history of the conference of parties (COP)
- Understand the significance of COP in the contemporary world
- Learn in more detail the themes of COP28

MATERIALS/ RESOURCES REQUIRED

- Internet access for video(s) and research purposes
- Individual devices or 3 devices with internet access (one for each group)

UNDERSTANDING COP CONFERENCE ACTIVITY (10-12 mins)

Watch the short video from COP26 in which Sir David Attenborough outlines the purpose of COP and the urgency for change, and answer the questions on slide 5.

Sir David Attenborough Speech at COP26 – David Attenborough, People's Advocate for #COP26, Address to World Leaders | Climate Action - YouTube

DECISION MAKING AT COP ACTIVITY (10-15 mins)

Divide students into three groups, where each group will focus on one COP achievement. Students can use the internet and the notes attached in the student reference sheets to find information about the Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol or the Warsaw International Mechanism.

Note: *If splitting groups based on academic ability, the Paris Agreement (group 2) may be more accessible for lower ability students.*

After a short period of research (10 minutes), each group should give a 2-minute speech to the rest of the class about what they have found.

Extension: *If time permits, you could extend this activity so that students create their own detailed presentation to deliver to the class, or form the basis of a longer research project.*

CONCLUSION (2-5 mins)

Students to consider the 5 statements below and decide if they are true or false based on what they have learned.

1. All countries must reach an agreement before the end of each COP conference — TRUE / FALSE
2. All countries are equally responsible for reducing their emissions or greenhouse gasses — TRUE / FALSE
3. Every COP focuses only on climate change — TRUE / FALSE
4. Our goal is to limit the average global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees — TRUE / FALSE
5. Developing nations expect to be supported by developed ones for loss and damages caused by climate change — TRUE / FALSE

Additional notes on these statements is below:

1. **FALSE**

Negotiations often continue for long after the COP conference. For an agreement to become legally binding, there is a 55/55 rule. This means that 55 approvals are needed from those countries which represent 55% of global emissions – if any of the larger developed nations do not approve, it fails.

For example, the Paris Agreement came into force after it met this target and got approval from 194 out of the 198 nations participating in the conference. However, the Paris agreement did not actually go into force until almost one year after COP21 had finished due to ongoing negotiations.

2. **FALSE**

Although the conferences aim to have every country reduce their emissions, it is acknowledged that developed countries hold the most responsibility for change as they produce the most emission. **55 Countries are responsible for 55% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions** (the USA responsible for around 25% of global emissions alone).

3. **TRUE**

COP is part of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change – every conference is focused on agreeing on ways to limit climate change and support the countries most affected.

4. **TRUE**

The target is 1.5 degrees, and it is widely understood that a temperature rise beyond 2 degrees would see irreversible change on Earth.

5. **TRUE**

During COP15, a financial commitment of $100 billion per year was made to support developing countries. Moreover, COP19 resulted in the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (**WIM**) to create a framework for how this works between countries, and it was further developed further at COP26 - where nations came close to agreeing to the 'Glasgow Finance Facility for Loss and Damage' to finalise actual financial responsibilities of nations.

However, to this date the support which developing nations receive is slow and frustrating for developing nations.

COP28

The final three slides look forward to COP28, Dubai, UAE. They give an overview of what to expect at the conference, as well as highlighting the four overarching themes of COP28.

The final slide introduces the leaders of this year's conference.