



FOR TEACHERS



LESSON PLAN

Comic Relief helps local community organisations and brilliant changemakers here in the UK and across the world. This includes supporting people who are impacted by the effects of climate change. So, for Red Nose Day this year we'd like pupils to have a think about one of the big issues facing the planet - from drought and desertification, food waste, or sustainable building - and then use their imagination to design something that helps to deal with one of these issues.

1. Start by playing the [Intro Video](#) to your class.
2. Ask your class if they've got ideas on how to help protect people and planet. Remind them that through play, their ideas can flow - ideas that matter and can change the world.
3. Decide whether you want the whole class to focus on one specific challenge from the three provided, or offer your students the opportunity to choose which they would like to attempt - [Drought and desertification](#), [Food Waste](#); or [Sustainable Building](#)
4. Play the video(s) that put a few more words to the challenge(s), print the chosen challenge fact sheet(s) and distribute these amongst the pupils to get them started.
5. Encourage children to be bold in their creations, not confining themselves to what they think is feasible. Their imaginations can go wild!
6. Allow at least 30 minutes of create time, using any materials you have available.
7. As the children are creating go around the classroom offering prompts to any that might be struggling:
 - A. If children are deviating from the topic, ask them to revisit the challenge fact sheet
 - B. If children are having difficulty getting started, remind them they can think as small as their neighbourhood, or as big as the entire globe – any contribution will have an impact.
8. Once time's up, ask the children to write a few lines on what they have created and place the designs together on a display table.
9. Invite whoever would like to, to share their creation with the class.
10. Feel free to share the ideas on your school's social media channels with the hashtag **#LEGOBuildtheChange #ComicRelief #RedNoseDay**

TIME NEEDED

45-60 minutes

SPACE NEEDED

Enough space to create, draw, build etc.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Projector screen, printed challenge fact sheets, and whatever medium your class is comfortable getting creative with (e.g. paper, card, cardboard, drawing, LEGO bricks, clay etc.)

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DESERTIFICATION

Play the video below to your classroom and distribute printed copies of the next page amongst your pupils.



FURTHER RESOURCES ON DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

1. [What Is Desertification? Causes, Effects, And Solutions: Earth.Org](#)
2. [Desertification, land degradation and drought: Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#)
3. [Drought \(who.int\)](#)
4. [UK and Global extreme events – Drought: Met Office](#)



DESERTIFICATION

Fei and his son Kai live in a small village in South Sudan, East Africa.

The planet is getting hotter, and less rain is falling, because of global warming. This makes it very hard to grow crops. To help his dad, Kai decides to find out more about how to help crops grow in dry places. Here is some information he found out:

FACTS

- There are lots of areas in East Africa where it doesn't rain very much. These are called drylands. There are drylands on every continent - in fact, they cover 40% of the Earth's surface. - A small change in climate has a big impact on the land.
- As temperatures get warmer, land becomes drier like a desert. This is called desertification.
- Very dry soil makes growing crops very difficult.

EXAMPLE SOLUTIONS

- **Boreholes:** There is water far below the Earth's surface. Drilling very deep holes into the soil can mean communities like Kai's can get to the water to drink and water their crops.
- **Tree Planting:** Trees hold the soil together and help to protect land from wind and rain. Planting walls of trees across big areas can help to keep the soil healthy and watered. Look up the Great Green Wall to see an incredible example of this!
- **Think Big:** It's really important to remember that choices you make in your local area can have a positive impact across the planet – even Kai's village! Actions as small as making your town greener are a great starting point to help make the world a better place for everyone!

CHALLENGE

Can you build something to help people fighting rising temperatures and desertification? It can either be something that helps fight rising temperatures directly, or something you can do where you live that will have a big impact across the world – up to you!

FOR TEACHERS



FOOD WASTE

Play the video below to your classroom and distribute printed copies of the next page amongst your pupils.



FURTHER RESOURCES ON FOOD WASTE

1. [Love Food Hate Waste / Preventing food waste](#)
2. [Food waste facts 2024: businesswaste.co.uk](#)
3. [Action on food waste: WRAP](#)
4. [10 ways to cut your food waste: BHF](#)



FOOD WASTE

Skip and Blu both live in Yorkshire, in the North of England.

Skip runs the school's Eco Club, and loves thinking about sustainability. Blu loves cooking and hopes to take over her parents' restaurant one day. They are working together on a Geography project and are thinking about ways to reduce food waste. Here is some information they found:

FACTS

- Food waste is food that we have thrown away instead of eating.
- 9.5 million tonnes of food is wasted in the UK each year.
- Two thirds of food wasted could have been eaten. The rest is made up of things like eggshells, bones and coffee grains.
- 70% of food waste comes from people's homes.
- Each year, the UK throws away enough edible food to fill Wembley Stadium 8 times.

EXAMPLE SOLUTIONS

- **Food Rescue:** groups like FoodSavers Network take food that is close to going out of date and share it with families who find it hard to buy food from the shops.
- **Composting:** Food that can't be eaten can be used to help your plants grow! Peels, eggshells and coffee grounds can be put into bins and left to turn into compost. We can then use compost to help grow plants including fruit and veg.
- **Recycling:** Some bits of food waste can be used to create new things. For example, orange peel can be turned into fabric to make t-shirts!

CHALLENGE

Can you build something to help reduce food waste in your local area? You can think of your home, your school, or even your entire town – you decide!

FOR TEACHERS

SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

Play the video below to your classroom and distribute printed copies of the next page amongst your pupils.



FURTHER RESOURCES ON SUSTAINABLE BUILDING

1. [What is a Green Building + 10 Sustainable Buildings: Iberdrola](#)
2. [The Economic and Social Benefits of Sustainable Buildings: Earth.Org](#)
3. [Sustainable buildings: UNEP - UN Environment Programme](#)
4. [Why Green Buildings? UKGBC](#)



SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

Jan and Ash are two sisters from London who think about the world in very different ways.

Jan is a dreamer, who sees the world as full of possibilities. Ash prefers to question everything. Jan has big ideas about how to make houses greener, but Ash has a lot of questions and wants more information to back up the ideas.

FACTS

- Sustainability is the idea that things should last for a long time, so that we don't have to use more materials and energy to replace them.
- Houses can be bad for biodiversity (the animals and plants living in an area). Buildings can destroy animal habitats and disrupt the lives of creatures living nearby.
- People can also be impacted by houses being built. Houses that aren't built using strong, sustainable materials can be expensive to run and bad for the local area.

EXAMPLE SOLUTIONS

- **Insulation:** A sustainable home should use energy in clever ways, to make sure it isn't bad for the environment. It should keep itself warm in the winter and stay cool in the summer. Some houses keep themselves warm using energy from wind, water and even the sun!
- **Recycling:** A sustainable home could do good things for nature - recycling bathwater to water the garden, or composting bits of food waste.
- **A real-life example:** Khulisa's Streetscapes programme in South Africa aims to help homeless people. Using recycled materials and energy from solar panels and wind turbines, Khulisa build houses that don't cost much money to run, so that people without much money can still have a house to live in.

CHALLENGE

Can you build a house that is good for people and our planet? Think about the materials you would use, what you would use to power the house, and the wildlife around you! You can choose to focus on your own home, or think bigger and try to solve a problem from around the world.