

Makutano Junction

A Kenyan TV soap opera

Activity

Helping you develop the **Global Dimension** across the **curriculum**



6 Grow your own!

Description

- Class based activity exploring food and farming, and the benefits of environmentally and economically sustainable processes using examples of making silage and compost. Could lead on to practical work making a compost heap.

Aims

- To use clear language to communicate complex processes
- To look at environmental and economic benefits of composting and of silage
- To think about own environmental impact

What you need?

- Info sheet on composting and silage
- Large hoops and labels

Curriculum area/learning context

- English KS3 & 4 1.1: Competence
- Geography KS3: 1.6 Environmental interaction and sustainable development 1&2
- Science KS4: Knowledge Skills and Understanding
- Also of use for gardening clubs, or as part of Eco schools or sustainable schools activities.

Further details of how this activity meets requirements of the new Secondary Curriculum appear on the Curriculum Links table. For subjects outside the statutory curriculum, check your own exam board for their requirements. For general information on the Global Dimension across the curriculum, see www.globaldimension.org.uk

GLOBAL DIMENSION

Underlying the concept of a global dimension to the curriculum are **eight key concepts**. The following three are covered by this activity:



Citizenship – gaining the knowledge, skills and understanding necessary to become informed, active and responsible global citizens.



Sustainable Development – understanding the need to maintain and improve the quality of life now without damaging our planet for future generations.



Interdependence – understanding how people, places and environments are all inextricably interrelated and that events have repercussions on a global scale.

The other five key concepts which can be explored using other Makutano Junction activities are :

Social Justice

Diversity

Values and Perceptions

Conflict Resolution

Human Rights

Find out more: www.globaldimension.org.uk

What you do

- 1 Watch the episode/ story line where Pipi and Speedy get into silage making (Series 3, Episode 2, edited).
- 2 In groups, list the benefits of silage production. List any costs/ difficulties. List as many reasons as you can why Pipi and Speedy want to produce silage.
- 3 Try collectively to remember what the process is – what do they need, what do they have to do? Write out the instructions for making your own silage! Write out a brief flow chart of the process.
- 4 Ask the class to think of examples of any other sustainable agriculture or gardening practices they are aware of.
- 5 Now introduce the idea of composting, which will hopefully have come up in 4 above. In the same way as you looked at silage in Makutano, in groups list the benefits, the costs, and as many reasons as you can for composting. Sheet on composting will help with this.
- 6 Game with two hoops on the floor/ whiteboard (Venn diagram style) split into what can be composted and what can't. Composting Information Sheet provides pictures/ a list of various items, and the students have to decide which hoop they go into. If they can't be composted, think about other alternatives. If they disagree, put in the middle and discuss – there are differences of opinion.
- 6 Set the students a challenge of finding, over the next week, household items that can be re-used in some way. Put up a chart in the classroom depicting the items, and the different possible uses. For each, ask if it can be reused, recycled, refused, refilled, recharged etc.

Variations

This could develop into a longer piece of work on other uses for things, comparing what is thrown away here in the UK as opposed to what is thrown away in Kenya.

Top Tips

- Make the link between re-using and recycling, and silage and compost making.
- Encourage students to explore the economic benefits of environmentally sustainable practices - at home and at school.
- Stress that silage production is a big industry in the UK and has pros and cons.

Follow-up/ research questions

- Start your own compost heap as a class, for use in the school garden, and run activities for the younger members of the school educating them about what can be composted (the above game), what the benefits are, and how to persuade their families to compost rather than throw away!
- Do similar in cluster primary schools.
- Design and build a compost heap in D&T
- Research the differences between silage production on a small scale in Makutano Junction and on a bigger scale in the UK.

Useful Resources

http://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/organicgardening/compost_pf.ph
Compost Making

<http://www.makutano.org/issue.aspx?IssueID=8>
Silage Making

<http://www.riscwebsite.org.uk/education/pdf/growingupglobal.pdf>
Composting Activity - see p. 23 of Growing Up Global: Activity 5

TAKE ACTION

- Take home your `recipe` for compost, and the benefits, and persuade your family to reduce their waste, save money and improve their garden or window boxes by composting
- Most local authorities are giving away or subsidising compost bins – encourage your family to get one.
- Encourage your school to go for the eco-schools award or sustainable schools initiative
- Visit a local community garden and find out about other sustainable practices.
- Enter your fantastic, homemade compost–enriched school garden/ grounds into the local `town in Bloom` competition to get some publicity – make sure you tell them about the secrets of your success!