

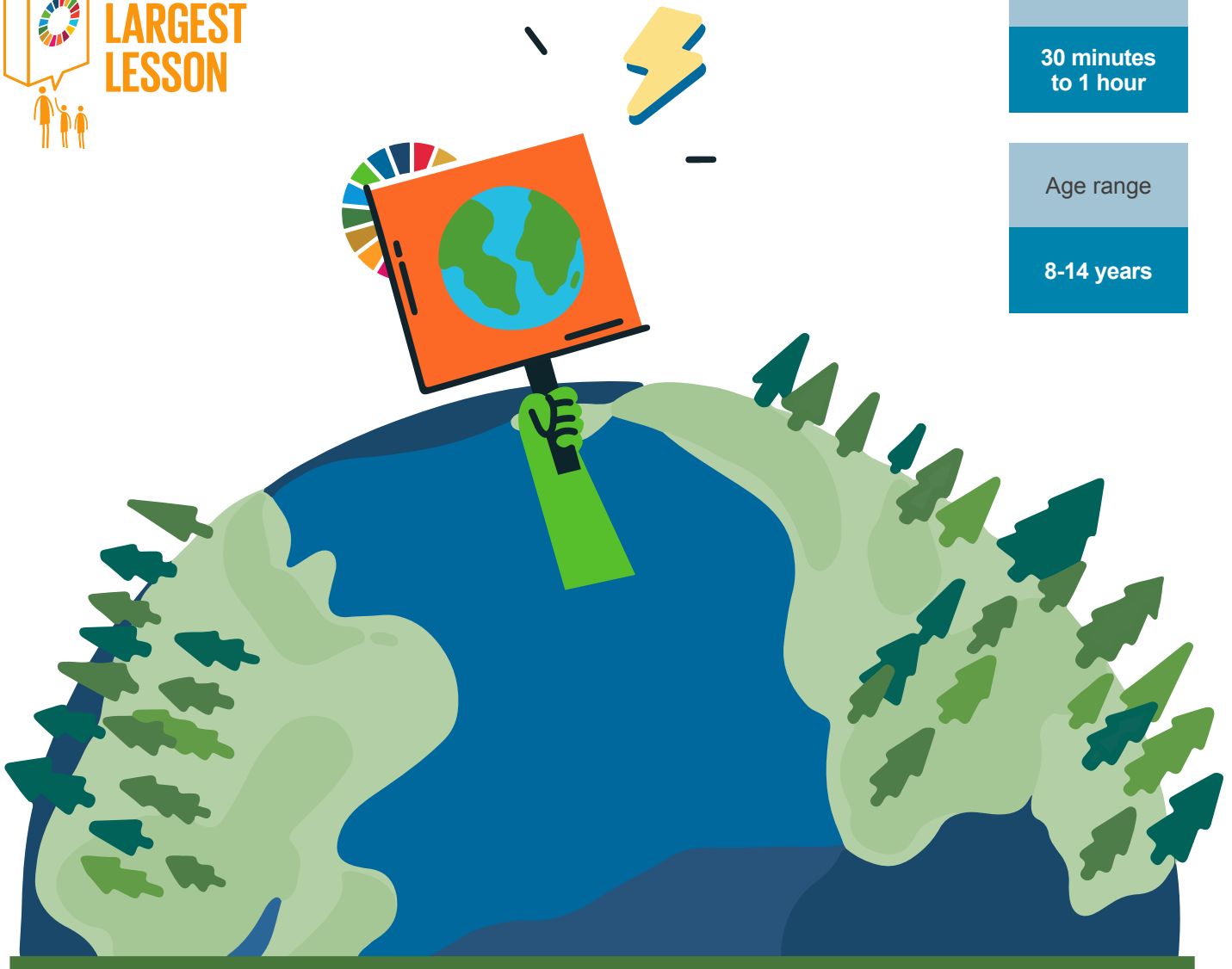


Total time

30 minutes
to 1 hour

Age range

8-14 years



Become a Climate Changemaker!



Learning outcomes

- Learners reflect on why learning about the climate and environmental crisis helps to take action for it
- Learners write a message explaining why they think it's important every child has the opportunity to learn about the climate crisis
- Learners can voice their opinions and write a persuasive letter

Note to educators:

World's Largest Lesson believes learning is the first step to action. The following activity is part of Climate Changemakers- a campaign for children and young people aged 8+ to express their views on climate and environmental education and why it is their right to access it. In their own words, children can reflect on why climate education matters to them and what difference it would make if it was universally available. It's a quick and tangible action that children can take to support the Global Goals. Find out more at www.changemakerswill.org

Step 1: Begin by having a short class discussion on what learning means to the class. Show Global Goal 4 Quality Education. Ask learners – *what skills should this Global Goal equip you with?* Share

Appendix 1 with learners and explain that this is a resource that they can use throughout the activity to help write down ideas for their final Climate Changemaker message.

Step 2: Youth climate activists from around the world believe that everyone should have the opportunity to learn about the Climate Crisis to understand best how they can help. Share **Appendix 2** with learners, giving them time to independently read and discuss what the activists have to say.

Step 3: Ask learners to discuss in small groups – *Why should we learn about the climate and environmental crisis? How might it help us to take action for our planet?* Collect ideas as a class. Share **Appendix 3** with learners, a short summary from climate activist Mitzi Jonelle Tan, about why climate education is so important for every child.

Step 4: Next ask learners to discuss why in 2021, climate education is something they should advocate for. *Why is it so important to do this now?* Share **Appendix 4** with them, a short summary of ideas from Joe Brindle, a climate activist from the UK.

Step 5: After discussing why climate education is important and why we should ask for it right now, invite learners to brainstorm - *who they could send their Climate Changemakers message to? Who decides what children in their community or country learns?* Spend some time allowing students to do research if needed.

Step 6: Create a “Steps to Success” with learners about what they could include in their messages to persuade the reader e.g. Facts, *using emotive language, power of repetition*

Step 7: Learners begin to write their Climate Changemakers message, referring to their notes in Appendix 1 to help them shape their messages.

Step 8: If they feel comfortable to, invite a few learners to read their messages aloud. Are there any ideas from messages they've heard that they could also include in their own letter?

Step 9: Allow time for redrafting and edits. Invite children to refer to the Steps to Success criteria – is there anything they could do to improve their Climate Changemakers message?

Step 10: Send Climate Changemaker messages to their chosen person or share them with us at World's Largest Lesson to amplify their impact!

Email us lesson@project-everyone.org
Find us on Twitter [@TheWorldsLesson](https://twitter.com/TheWorldsLesson),
Facebook [@TheWorldsLargestLesson](https://www.facebook.com/TheWorldsLargestLesson) or
on Instagram [@TheWorldsLesson](https://www.instagram.com/TheWorldsLesson)

Extended learning: Climate Changemaker Quiz!

Everyone can be a Climate Changemaker – find out how your skills can help by answering the Quiz questions in **Appendix 6!**

Appendix 1 Student note-taking template

Use the boxes below to collect notes and ideas of what to write about in your Climate Changemaker message.

Why is learning about the climate crisis important to you?



Why does this learning need to happen now in 2021? Why is it so urgent?



Who do you want to send your Climate Changemaker message too?

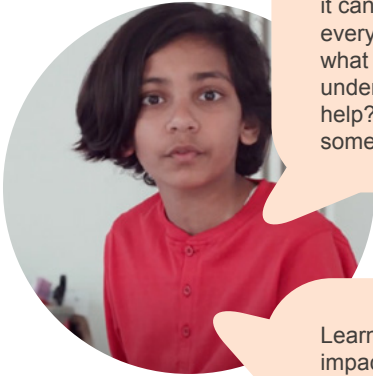


Appendix 2 Hearing from Youth Climate Activists

Follow Krrish below as he travels virtually around the world, meeting different youth activists and understanding what they first learnt about the climate crisis and how this propelled them into action.

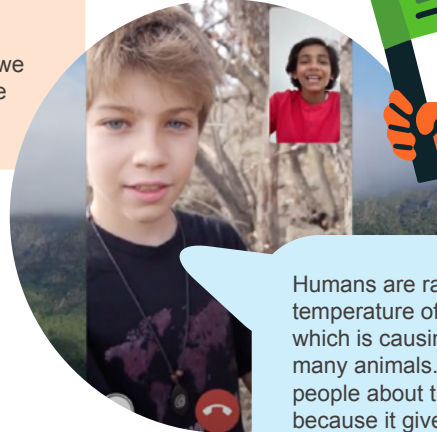


Hello, my name is **Krrish** and I'm from the UK. I've been thinking about climate change and the climate crisis. It's such a huge problem, it can be hard to get your head around. With everything going on in the world right now, what can we even do about it? How do we understand what's going on? And how can we help? Actually, my friend in Chile might have some good ideas. Buenas dias **Dante!**



Learning about how we're impacting our planet is crucial. Especially when we're creating all kinds of problems for it.

Humans are raising the temperature of our planet, which is causing problems for many animals. I love teaching people about these creatures because it gives us the knowledge to protect them.



Did you know that all the plastic that was ever created still exists! As soon as I learnt that, I knew I had to do something! We depend on our oceans to live and breathe, that's why together with my sister we started organizing clean-ups, mobilising the masses and running Educational workshops and working with governments. Today our island home of Bali has banned single-use plastic bags.



Impressive right! Learning what others are doing is great and we can do it too! Other places are also experiencing the effects of climate change right now. **Take Adenike's story....**



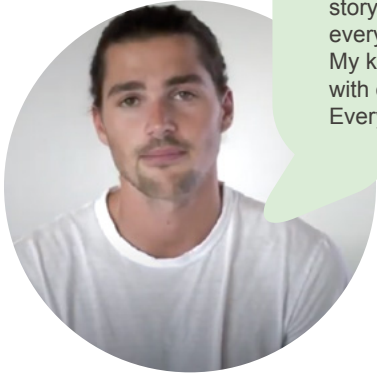
Nigeria is especially vulnerable to the climate change crisis and this crisis is happening right now. People need to understand how urgent this is and find ways to stop it.

So, getting accurate information out there is crucial! And now so many people have a mobile phone

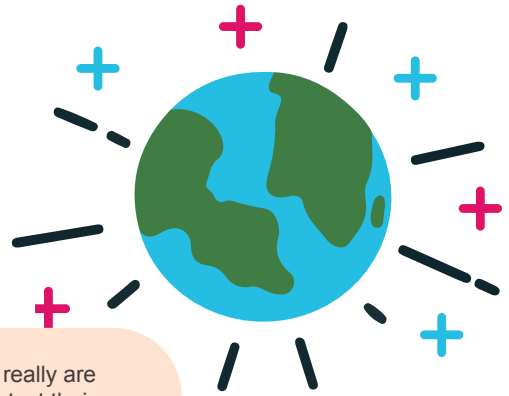
It's easy for people to find out how to help! Let's go to **Jack** in the UK, he can tell us more.



Appendix 2 Hearing from Youth Climate Activists



I've learnt from tonnes of different people, all around the world, and used film as a way to tell their climate change story. This is an issue that affects everyone, even if it's not obvious. My knowledge means I'm working with others to protect people's rights. Everyone can take part.



So, people really are trying to protect their home from climate change. Anyway, next we're speaking to **Helena**. What she's done is amazing!



My home is here in the Amazon. I've learnt to speak on behalf of this forest. Protect it and give a voice to the people who live here.



Now we hear from **Nkosi** in Zimbabwe...



When I learnt about the science behind climate change, I realised more people needed to know more about it too, so I became the leader of my environmental club.



It's amazing what people like you can do. Get to know your planet, it's a pretty special place! Because learning is the first step to doing.



Hello! I am Mitzi Jonelle Tan, a climate justice activist based in Manila, Philippines.

I became an activist in 2017, when I was able to talk to indigenous leaders from our country and learn about the challenges they face as a community because of the climate crisis.

I realised then that I had to join the fight for our planet and for our lives.

Why do we need climate education?

I learned about the climate crisis in school but there was a disconnect between what I was being taught in the classroom and what I saw happening to people where I live.

My education didn't look at the social justice issues of climate change at all.

How can we take action and work together if everyone is not equally informed about what is happening?

The only way to do this is to make sure that everyone gets empowering and relevant climate and ecological education in their school curriculum. It is our right as young people to learn about the climate crisis.

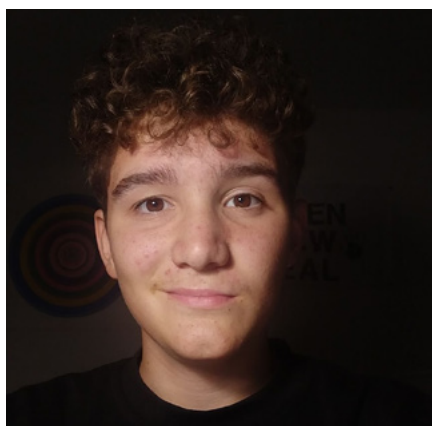
A lot of countries promised to implement learning about it by committing to the Paris Agreement and the Global Goals.

We need to see this happen in every country around the world. What would it mean if we all did learn? What would happen?

Imagine what we could all do if we were all empowered by knowledge.



Appendix 4 Why do we need to ask for climate education now?



Climate Activist Joe Brindle explains why asking for climate education is an urgent issue.

Hello, my name is Joe Brindle and I am from the UK.

I am the founder of a campaign to try and get climate and environmental education onto our school curriculums. I work with other young people from across the country who are doing the same thing.

When people ask me why the issue of climate change is so urgent right now, I tell them people across the world are already being hurt by the effects of climate change and if we don't act soon, it is only going to get worse.

If you want to help, then now is the time to do it. In November 2021, in Glasgow, Scotland, a meeting of global leaders is going to happen.

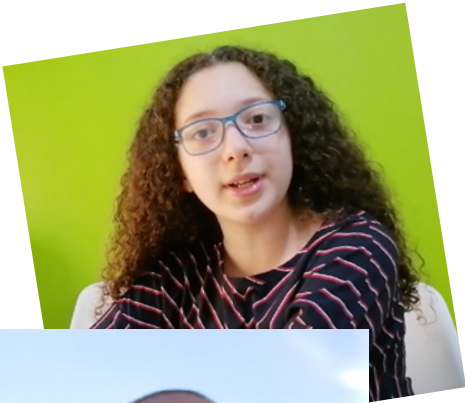
This meeting is called COP 26 and it is where countries talk about and agree on the ways that they are going to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Making sure that everyone understands the climate crisis through education is part of these talks. So now is the time to have your say and speak up.

All of us have an opportunity to not only influence climate education in our country but also across the world.



Appendix 5 Student inspiration



Children everywhere are seeing things they think are wrong, speaking up and asking for change. Read these stories for inspiration and imagine what your Climate Changemakers message could do!

Dharma: Hi everyone – my name is Dharma. I'm a climate activist from Jordan who really cares about the Global Goals. Growing up, sometimes people ask me "Why are you worrying about this stuff now? You're just a kid – what difference can you really make?" But I show them that kids everywhere, just like you and me, are taking action for the Global Goals and creating a better world.

Dharma: A kid in Tanzania wrote a letter to the President of the United States asking for help to get clean water to her community. And she succeeded.

Eva: "To my fellow young people, we should rise up and make ourselves heard. I am just one girl, but my voice matters"

Dharma: Another stood up for what he believed in and spoke out against his public-school administration, demanding that they didn't close his school.

Aesean: You could be investing in these schools not closing them, you should be supporting these schools not closing them" – Education is our right, that is why we have to fight.

Dharma: A schoolgirl campaigned against Period Poverty and persuaded her government to change their policy.

Amika: "Everyone should get an education and if periods are holding us back we have a serious, serious problem."

Dharma: Children from all over the world are seeing things they think are wrong, speaking up and asking for change. You can make a start by writing a message asking for climate and environmental education. Imagine what your message could do?

Appendix 6 Climate Changemaker Quiz!

Everyone has the power to become a Climate Changemaker! To find out how to use your skills to help, choose one of the responses to the questions below. Then have a look to find out which type of Climate Changemaker you are!

1) We're facing a climate crisis but the idea of talking about it is....

- A) So exciting! The more people we can talk to about it, the faster we can help everyone understand
- B) Quite intimidating. If I have time to prepare beforehand then I'd feel more comfortable
- C) Fine because I believe your actions speak louder than your words
- D) Important but I'd prefer to listen to what other people have to say on the topic before I speak

2) Someone is challenging your views on climate change. How do you react?

- A) Confidently. I'm not afraid to have these types of conversations and know how to articulate my points
- B) By feeling nervous. But I know I can use my top three facts to back up my statements
- C) Calmly. I understand that not all people will have the same opinions as you
- D) By listening. Then ask why they have their views before explaining how my local community has been impacted by climate change

3) What excites me about taking climate action is....

- A) Using my voice. Having it heard and inspiring others to take action
- B) My creativity. Thinking about designing different innovations so I can solve climate problems
- C) Getting started! Knowing that there are behaviour changes I can begin doing right away to help
- D) Working together. Hearing from others and by working as a collective we can tackle this crisis together.

4) You want to learn more about the environmental and ecological crisis in your school. Do you....

- A) Ring your friends. Organise for all of you to go and speak to your headteacher tomorrow
- B) Spend time researching. To support your case, you look up what other schools are doing to learn about the climate crisis
- C) Educate yourself first. Then share what you've learnt with others
- D) Ask what others think. Then work together to put up posters around school to get more people involved

5) Learning about the climate and environmental crisis is an urgent issue because...

- A) Knowledge is power. Governments, businesses and individuals need to take immediate action!
- B) Systems need to change. By looking at and understanding the science we can then design innovations that help tackle the climate crisis
- C) Behaviour change is needed. Then as a society, we can make informed decisions about how to live our lives in harmony with nature
- D) Everyone's involved. If we know about the change that needs to happen, we can work together to demand decisions makers to turn this into action

Results!

Mostly A answers - Mobiliser

- You are a vocal and passionate climate changemaker, who is able to rally your friends, family and community to join you on your mission.
 - You enjoy speaking and educating people on the issues of climate change and are confident in your knowledge.
 - You're not afraid to hold people accountable and challenge them on issues that you feel strongly about.
-

Mostly B answers - Innovator

- You are a careful organiser and like paying attention to small details.
 - You aren't daunted by the challenge of climate change and like thinking about how we can turn ideas into solutions.
 - You like numbers, facts and data to make your argument, you're analytical and detail focused. Being the loudest voice in the room isn't necessarily your style, but your ideas and logical arguments might really change the world.
-

Mostly C answers – Champion

- You are determined and focused on your fight to achieve Global Goal 13!
 - You take your role seriously and take great pride in caring for the natural world around you.
 - You're a really self-motivated individual who believes change starts with you. That's why you like to spend time focusing on how you yourself can take action before trying to influence others.
-

Mostly D answers - Story-Teller

- You are an enthusiastic and empathetic story-teller, who believes in the power of stories and creativity to bring about change.
 - You try hard to listen to others before sharing your own opinion as you believe it is important to consider everyone's perspectives.
 - You think carefully and considerately on how you can best use your skills to help tackle the climate crisis and believe that it is by working together that we will bring about radical change.
-