



Opinion Check

Age group | 8+
Group size | 5+
Time | 30 minutes

Overview

This activity introduces the topic of climate change by exploring personal attitudes to the issue.

Objectives

- To introduce the topic of climate change
- To get an overview of the knowledge and attitudes of your group

Material

- Flipchart paper, markers
- Pens for everyone or little stickers (approximately 15 per person)
- Posters (appendix): Draw each poster onto a piece of flipchart paper and put them in different places, not too close to each other.

Step-by-step instructions

1. Explain that if they want to run a campaign, it is important that they know what knowledge their target group already has and what their attitudes are towards the topic. The very first step is to reflect on our own attitudes.
2. Ask them to answer the questions on the posters by putting a dot or sticker in the appropriate place. They should answer the questions by themselves and try not to take notice of what others have answered. Explain that no one will be judged or graded on their answers!
3. Have a look at the posters together. Are there any questions on which opinions differ very much? Do not give any judgement, but let the children discuss. Make clear that they should not judge anyone else, this is an introduction and it is okay if someone has never thought about climate change before or has never been given any information.

Tips for facilitators

This activity cannot stand alone but must be followed by activities exploring climate change facts. Otherwise questions will be left unanswered.

Appendix: Posters

Do you agree or disagree that the world's climate is changing? (Answers in a table: Agree strongly, agree slightly, disagree slightly, disagree strongly, unsure)

Do you think climate change is (write each sentence in a circle: Due entirely to human behaviour; Due mainly to human behaviour; I don't know; Due entirely to natural causes; Due mainly to natural causes)

How soon do you think the world and your country will be affected by climate change? Put a dot in each row.

(Table with two rows and six columns. **Rows:** My country; The world. **Columns:** Already affected by climate change; will be affected in the next five years; will be affected in the next 6-20 years; will be affected in the next 21-50 years; will be affected in more than 50 years; won't be affected at all)

How much do you think you will personally be affected by climate change? The further in the middle you place your sticker, the more you think you will be affected. (Big circle)

How does climate change make you feel? (Bubbles, each with one of the following words in it: Hopeful, Fearful, Unmotivated, Motivated, Negative, Positive, Frustrated, Enthused; participants can put as many dots as they like)

How often do you talk with your friends and family about climate change? (Speech bubbles around with the words: Never, Daily, Weekly, Fortnightly, Monthly, Every six months)

To what extent do you agree with the following statements: (Table with statements in rows, values in columns.

Values: Strongly disagree, disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree, strongly agree, unsure. **Statements:** Humans have the right to release into the atmosphere as much pollution as they wish; The effect of climate change on plants and animals is as important as its effect on humans; Humans will eventually be able to provide technological and scientific solutions to climate change; The possible consequences of climate change have been greatly exaggerated).