

TEACHER PACK

COP26

CLASSROOM RESOURCE

Bring COP26 to school: Guidance and everything you need to hold your own high quality UN-style summit with a class, tutor or year groups.



www.interclimate.org

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**Please do tell us
if you are able to
photograph or even
make a short film
of your conference
proceedings.
Thank you!**

COP26 COMES TO SCHOOL



In November 2021 the United Nations Climate Conference (COP26) is being hosted by the UK in Glasgow. This new COP26 in the Classroom resource brings a UN-style climate conference to your school and can be run in person or virtually. Student teams represent a range of countries and have to research, present and debate their country pledges and climate challenges, then collaborate to raise global ambition for action.

The three parts of the resource are detailed in Section 2. You'll see that the sequence of presentations can be used in lessons or with tutor or year groups. Up to date country briefings are included covering nations that are expected to play key roles in COP26 itself. At the end of their conference students are asked to say one climate action they will take. By posting their pledges on ICN's on-line Jamboard, we will know that your school has run a conference and your students will be part of a strong message ICN will convey to decision-makers about young people's own commitment to change.

Thanks go to...

Samantha Mackenzie-Smith, Head of Year at the Green School for Girls in Hounslow. Samantha requested and used our 2019 conference briefings across her Year 7 groups last year. Thanks to Samantha for sharing her lesson presentations, which have helped shape the power-points in this pack. See our 'Experience' section for an outline of how she approached it.

ICN team of associates, trustees and expert volunteers who have researched, written and developed the briefings this year.

Aims and timing of this resource

Our **overall aims** are that the COP26 Climate Conference classroom resource will:

Bring to life critical thinking about the global Climate Emergency

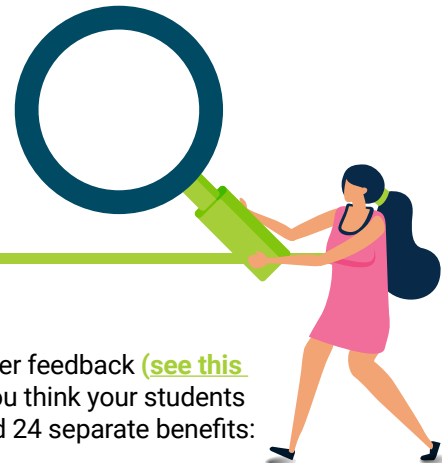
- Raising questions of responsibility for action, from international decisions makers through to home and school
- Putting focus on the perspectives of young people and vulnerable nations
- Offering insight into the processes of collaboration and collective effort needed to bring about change on an unprecedented scale.

Sit within school priorities and be accessible from Year 8

- Curriculum relevance for Geography; Environmental Science; PSHE; and STEM subject lessons
- Requiring students' independent learning and research and soft skills such as team work, public speaking and negotiating
- Flexibility for use as a sequence of lessons, during whole year days and cross school or tutor group programmes.

Provide further ways to engage with the build up to COP26 in 2021

- Young people's pledges for action will be compiled to show to decision-makers
- [Climate Action Survey](#) is available as a next step for student-led work in support of your school's own climate actions in 2021
- Further exciting COP26 opportunities will be shared with schools.



What are the learning benefits?

At the end of ICN's series of climate conferences in 2019, we asked for student and teacher feedback ([see this summary](#)). In response to an open question, "What skills and other learning benefits do you think your students developed through their preparation for an participation in the conference?" teachers cited 24 separate benefits:

1

Greater comprehension of global climate issues, new knowledge, awareness of COP & other countries

2

Research, analysis and interpretation and debating skills, conflict resolution skills and teamwork

3

Public speaking, articulation and oracy, justification and critical thinking skills

4

Understanding alternative viewpoints in a complex environment

5

Confidence, real world and 'cultural capital'

6

Awareness of the bigger picture and need to involve more students in school



Guide to what's included

There are three components to the resource:-

A) Teacher pack

This pack outlines the aims and details of the resource with links at the end for other useful sources of information.

B) Sequence of three presentations that culminate in the climate conference

Sessions may be run compactly over 3 lessons or spread over 6 lessons or used in a sequence of off-curriculum days. You may well have your own teaching programmes that this resource complements – there is no obligation to use any presentation that doesn't fit with your planning. Notes and film links accompany each of these session powerpoints:

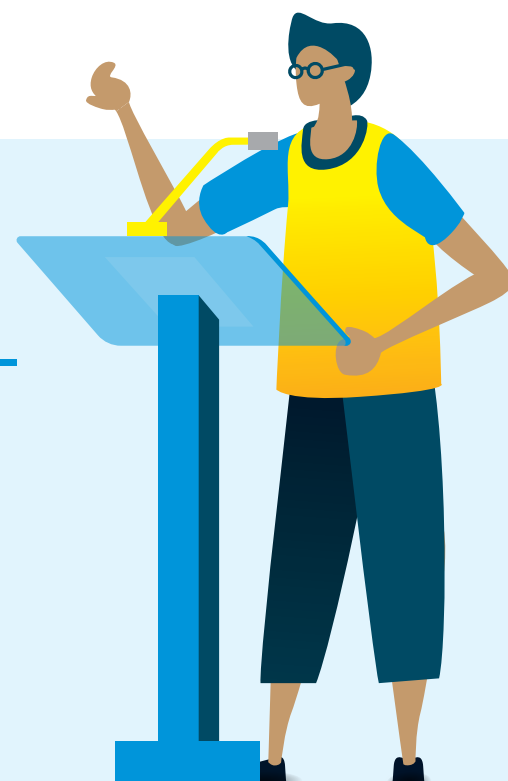
- 1 **The Climate Crisis** which poses 6 questions for students to critically discuss the Climate Emergency
- 2 **From Paris to Glasgow** outlines these vital stages of UN decision making and sets out the country roles
- 3 **COP26 comes to school** guides you and your students through your UN-style climate conference in school.

C) Student pack

- 1 **COP26 Overview Briefing** to be used alongside sessions 2 and 3 as it includes background information and statistics, as well as a summary of all country positions. Potential collaborations are offered on the final page.
- 2 **Country Briefings** from which to select your conference delegations. 12 to 14 countries may be the ideal number for your conference: each opening speech will take 1-2 minutes and all countries will undoubtedly want to contribute to the debate and put forward collaborations. Select from across the four headers in the table below so that a range of perspectives is represented. Smaller countries such as Bhutan may well suit less confident groups.
- 3 **On-line Jamboard** on which to post students' own pledges for climate action as a result of the conference.

Country Briefings available for your conference

Least Developed & Climate Vulnerable	Political group BRIC	Other Emerging Economies	Industrialised nations
Bangladesh	Brazil	Chile	Australia
Bhutan	China	Ethiopia	Canada
Malawi	India	Gabon	European Union
Marshall Islands	Russian Federation	Indonesia	Japan
Uganda		Kenya	United Kingdom
		Saudi Arabia	USA



Note about the session content

Throughout the sessions you will see that we have suggested critical questions as stimuli for discussions and negotiations.

In Set 1. *The Climate Crisis* space has been created after each question for class discussions, anticipating that you will use your own preferred participative methodologies. The inputs we have provided for each question can be used to support critical thinking and are by no means definitive.

The team has viewed many related films and, in the notes, has included a small number under each of the questions. We'll ask at the end in the feedback if any were used or were particularly useful.

Timings for the conference itself are given as an indication only. Needless to say, time will be tight!

Experience from:

The Green School for Girls, Hounslow

Shared by Samantha Mackenzie-Smith, Head of Year 8

I held mini conferences in each class. We watched a part of last year's COP and replicated it with the Chair/President etc.

The students absolutely loved it and actually wanted to stay over lunchtime to continue their debates. In my feedback questionnaire at the end of term, most said that the COP was the best part of the whole term.

- It was useful to show a clip of the actual COP in action
- Students were divided into mixed ability groups and countries were allocated according to the groups
- The 3 questions in the country briefings task really helped with differentiation
- Each student had a sheet to fill in key points while they listened to each opening speech by the country delegations (US got the bulk!)
- Lessons were only an hour long and it would have been good to have a longer session for the conference itself.



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We look forward to seeing your students' own climate pledges and hope they gain lots of skills, and enjoyment, from this new COP26 Classroom Resource.

Other useful sources of information

Whilst ICN strives to provide only links to useful and ethical websites, we have no control over their content and the links do not imply a recommendation for all the content found on these sites.

United Nations (UN) and other international bodies

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	https://unfccc.int/ Follow on Twitter: @UNFCCC
COP26	https://www.ukcop26.org/
Climate Action Tracker	https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	https://www.ipcc.ch/

Background

BBC – Our Planet Matters: Climate change explained (short film)	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/science-environment-51129250
NASA	https://climate.nasa.gov/ https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/global-temperature/
UK Government	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/climate-change-explained#history
UNFCCC	https://unfccc.int/resource/bigpicture/

Cities, Energy, Forests & food, Oceans

Cities

C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group	https://www.c40.org/
Global Covenant of Mayors	https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/

Energy

International Energy Agency	https://www.iea.org/reports/key-world-energy-statistics-2020
REN21	https://www.ren21.net/reports/cities-global-status-report/city-show-case/

Forests

Global Forest Watch	https://www.globalforestwatch.org/
Size of Wales	https://sizeofwales.org.uk/projects/projects/
WWF	http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/forests/climate_change_and_forest/

Oceans

NASA	https://climate.nasa.gov/news/2598/nasa-mit-study-evaluates-efficiency-of-oceans-as-heat-sink-atmospheric-gases-sponge/
UN Ocean Conference	https://oceanconference.un.org/OceanAction

Climate Finance

Climate Investment Fund	https://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/country
Green Climate Fund	https://www.greenclimate.fund/home