

Climate Café



Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Examine connections between themselves, climate change, and nature.
- Gain deeper insight into how climate change impacts humans.
- Explore their own feelings concerning climate change.



Method

Students explore the impact of climate change by role-playing a diverse group of individuals that have paused for lunch in the same café.



Materials

- [Activity cards](#)

Background

Climate Café is a noncompetitive, open-ended exercise designed to engage students in exploring the human impacts of climate change.

It employs a set of 27 cards depicting numerous interactions between humans, wildlife, and habitat, with underlying messages about climate change.

Their purpose is to prompt reactions, deepen insights, and stimulate creativity, while challenging students to find connections between human actions and changes in nature. As such, they can serve as a launching point for a wide range of games and activities, such as role-playing, storytelling and improvisation. The cards also lend themselves to invention and may inspire students to develop activities that suit their own interests and imaginations.



In Advance

- Print off and cut out a set of the 27 activity cards for each group of students.
- Optional: Laminate activity cards.
- Optional: Assign roles in advance and ask students to bring costumes to class for the activity.

For additional resources visit:

CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca/Education

Activity

1. Tell students that they are going to role-play a diverse group of individuals that have paused for lunch in the same café.
2. Divide students into groups of four to six.
3. Assign, or have each student select, roles that represents the different stakeholders they may find in their community. This could include:
 - Fishers, farmers, foresters and ranchers
 - Landowners and developers
 - Local business owners
 - Researchers and scientists
 - Members of local Indigenous groups
 - Recreationists
4. Provide each group with a set of activity cards. Tell students that although their set of activity cards depict specific situations, they may be interpreted in many ways.
5. Emphasize that students should:
 - Collaborate with each other.
 - Not interrupt others when they are speaking.
 - Be respectful when sharing and listening to each others' perspectives and opinions.
6. To start, one player will draw a card, lay it on the table, and describe the image from their point of view.
 - To help initiate discussion, encourage students to identify what aspects of the image stand out to them, and to reflect on how they may relate to their assumed roles.
 - Prompt students to discuss how climate change may impact the scene depicted.
7. A second student can then describe the same image from their perspective, followed by the other players in the group.
8. Inspired by the images on the cards, students should continue to converse and question one another on the subject of climate change as it relates to the images on the cards and to their own ways of life.
9. After everyone has had a chance to examine and discuss a few different cards, bring the entire group back together to debrief.
 - What effects could climate change have on peoples':
 - Jobs and livelihoods?
 - Hobbies and pastimes?
 - Histories and cultures?

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