

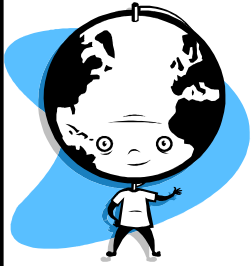
Compass Directions

'Compass - Development Education in the Primary School', hosted by Comhlámh and funded by Irish Aid, is a not for profit alliance of organisations and individuals, established in 1996, to promote and support opportunities for development education in the primary education system so as to contribute to justice, equality and sustainable development at local and global levels.

Theme: Sustainable Development

Compass Directions is compiled and edited by Lizzie Downes.

June 2008



Welcome!

This issue of Compass Directions comes a bit later than planned but will hopefully provide a few useful ideas for the remaining summer weeks before school holidays. The theme is Sustainable Development and this issue looks at some of the key concepts and ideas, and provides some suggestions for incorporating ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) into the primary classroom environment. Please get in touch if you have any feedback on this newsletter or ideas for future issues. Contact lizzie@comhlamh.org or tel 01 4783490.

Lizzie



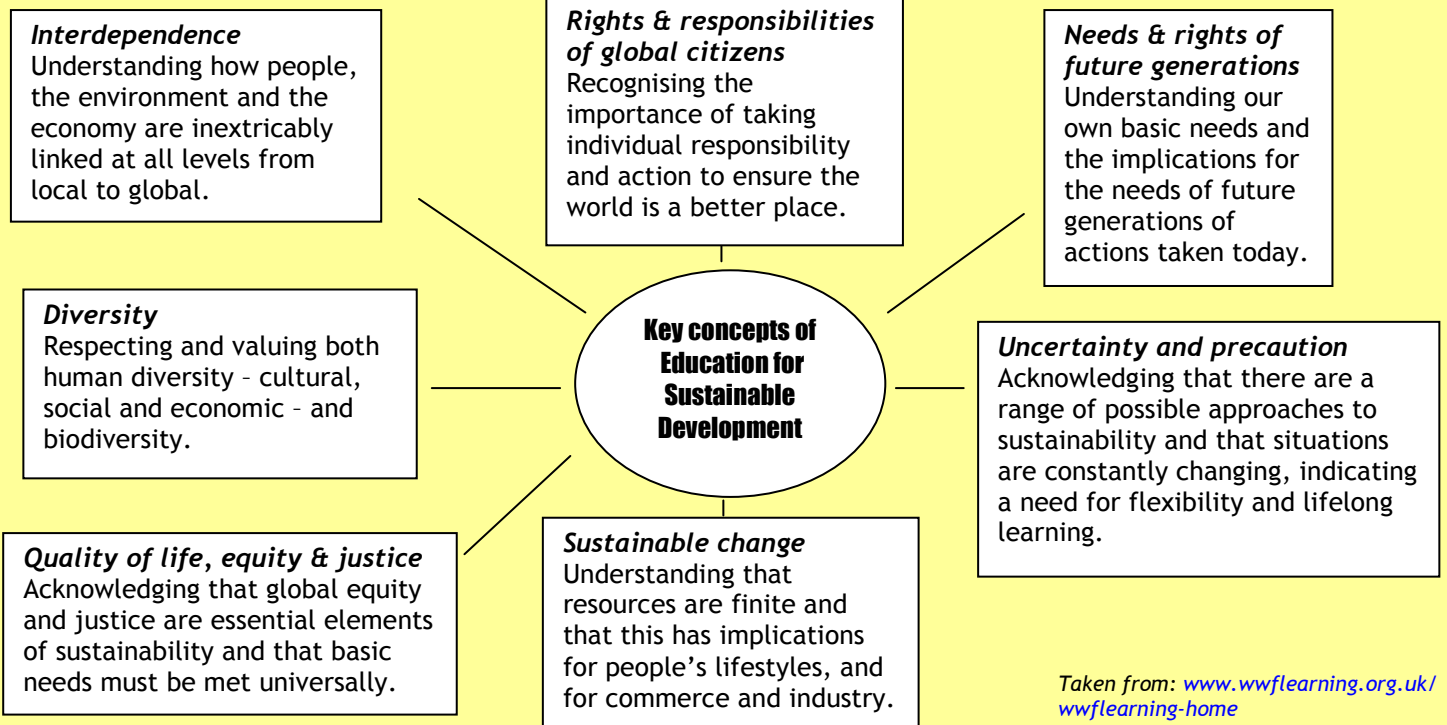
What is Sustainable Development

The concept of Sustainable Development was first promoted by the UN in The Brundtland Commission Report (1987), and is defined as "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

What is Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)?

ESD or Education for Sustainable Development is education which promotes the development of the knowledge, skills, understanding, values and actions required to create a sustainable world, which ensures environmental protection and conservation, promotes social equity and encourages economic sustainability. The concept of ESD developed largely from environmental education, which has sought to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviours in people to care for their environment. The aim of ESD is to enable people to make decisions and carry out actions to improve our quality of life without compromising the planet. It also aims to integrate the values inherent in SD into all aspects and levels of learning.

Taken from Nevin, E. (2008) *Education and Sustainable Development. Policy and Practice, A Development Education Review*. pp49-62



What is the Decade for Education for Sustainable Development (DESD)?

At the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in December 2002, the United Nations proclaimed the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, 2005- 2014(DESD), designating UNESCO as the lead agency to promote and implement the Decade. The goal of the UN Decade is to move society towards sustainable development, by providing a framework for global action.

Taken from <http://www.desd.org/>



**Summer workshops for Primary Schools
for 5th and 6th classes 3rd – 20th June 2008**
Bring the world into your classroom!

..... by bringing your class to take part in the Summer Primary

Schools programme in the new Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre in O'Connell Street Dublin.

Schools are invited to bring 5th and 6th class groups to the Centre from 3rd - 20th June to participate in facilitated workshops on global issues.

Visits, which are free of charge, include: activities to explore the links between our lives and the lives of people in other parts of the world; quiz and games; interactive multimedia exhibition on the work of Irish Aid around the world; how protecting the environment can help to improve the lives of people in poor countries; music and crafts from Kenya.

The Summer Primary Schools programme is specially designed for pupils aged 10 to 12 years and will be relevant for the Development and Aid Strand of the SESE, Geography curriculum. It will be highly participative and is designed to be as enjoyable as possible.

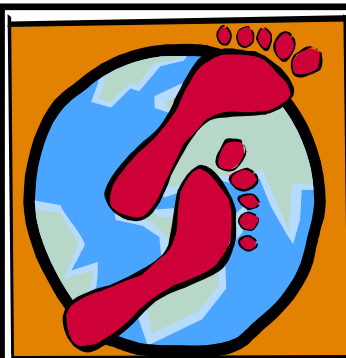
Primary School Visits will take 1 hour and 30 minutes and will take place at 10.00 and 12.00 each day from Monday to Friday, starting on June 3rd (Tuesday) and finishing on June 20th. Classes of 30 need to be accompanied by 2 adults, including one teacher. For enquiries phone Barbara Wilson on 01-8546923. To book your visit send an email to liguori.cooney@dfa.ie with the following details:

Name of school:	Name of teacher:
Class:	Number of pupils:
Number of accompanying adults:	Preferred date and time:
Mobile number of teacher:	

Irish Aid is the Irish Government's programme of assistance to developing countries. It is working with governments and people in developing countries to build a better and safer world in which all children can enjoy a healthy and happy childhood and look forward to a bright future.



Try this at school ...



**Ecological Footprint –
What does it mean?**

Sustainability means making sure that people live within the limits of nature, now and in the future. We need to know to what extent we are using and polluting the environment and what the limits of this use and abuse of the environment are. By

calculating our 'Ecological Footprint' we can measure the impact each person has on the planet. Everything we do is included in the calculation: what we eat, how we travel, what we buy, and the type of house we live in. A footprint represents the area of productive land and water required to satisfy the needs of a particular population at a particular standard of living.

Nations that are not able to support the lifestyles of their people, with the environmental resources they have are said to be "running an ecological deficit", in other words these countries have an impact on the environment that is not sustainable.

Taken from Oberman, R. (2006) What on Earth is Sustainable Development? Eco-Unesco



Graphic from: <http://www.epa.ie/Catulator/Catulator.htm>

Calculating your Ecological Footprint

Check your impact on the environment by playing the Catulator game.

The "Catulator" is the latest in cat technology for humans to calculate the impacts they have on the environment. It is designed for primary school children aged 8-12 years. The Catulator can be downloaded or used online.

For more information on ecological footprints visit:
<http://www.antaisce.org/natural-environment/ecological-footprint>

Teacher Professional Development

ECO-UNESCO's Introduction to Sustainable Development FETAC (L5)

ECO-UNESCO, Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation, is now taking bookings for an 'Introduction to Sustainable Development' evening course running from 24th September to 17th December 2008 in Dublin city centre. The course equips participants with a nationally recognised qualification (FETAC level 5) and is aimed at teachers, youth leaders, community leaders or anyone working with young people who are interested in learning about sustainable development. Over 10 weeks, participants will study sustainable development through case studies and practical activities. The course looks at sustainable communities and the links between society, economy and the environment.

For further information and bookings contact:

Sorcha O'Brien
Education & Training Officer
Ph: 01 6625491 / Fax: 01 6625493
E-mail: training@ecounesco.ie
Website: www.ecounesco.ie

ECO-UNESCO's 'What is Education for Sustainable Development?'

ECO-UNESCO, Ireland's environmental education and youth organisation, is running a one-day training on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) on June 5th and September 11th 2008. ESD is a new vision of education that seeks to empower people to assume responsibility for creating a sustainable future. It deals with the connections between environmental, social and economic issues, both at a local and global scale. By the end of this course participants will be able to understand the core principles of sustainable development. They will learn practical activities that will help them to integrate ESD into their work with young people.

For further information and bookings contact:

Eimear McNally
Youth for Sustainable Development Coordinator
ECO-UNESCO
26, Clare Street, Dublin 2
Tel. 01 662 5491
Email ysd@ecounesco.ie
Website: www.ecounesco.ie



Resources for the Classroom

- Below are some useful resources you can use with your students in your classroom.
- What on Earth is Sustainable Development?**
This learning resource looks at what "Sustainable Development" actually means and how it relates to us all both locally and globally. This pack includes activities, games, case studies and facts to stimulate young people to think about what a global sustainable society would look like. For more information, please contact ECO-UNESCO on 01 6625491 or info@ecounesco.ie.
- Ellen, Eoin and the Great Rubbish Adventure**
This book aims to raise awareness about the environment amongst young children (5-8 year olds) and to support teachers to introduce environmental education in class activities. The book was designed in a large format (A3) to enable teachers/leaders to use it as a tool for group activities in class. For more information, please contact ECO-UNESCO on 01 6625491 or info@ecounesco.ie.



In the news...

The recent Burmese cyclone and Chinese earthquake, and the extensive media coverage which ensued bring

- clear challenges to the primary teacher in terms of tackling such complex issues sensitively. The following resource aims to assist teachers in exploring these issues in the classroom:
http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/dealing_disasters/
- Oxfam's site for teachers contains guidance on teaching about disasters. This resource features detailed background information, case study material, and lesson plans to help tackle these questions in your classroom. Activities cover floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and famine, and there is detailed case study material. Suitable for upper primary.



Untangling the Web

Below is a list of useful websites that look at sustainable development

<http://www.wwflearning.org.uk/wwflearning-home/lfs-programme/esd/>

WWF's site has a comprehensive what, why and how section on everything to do with Sustainable Development for primary schools.

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/>

The official UN division for Sustainable Development provides a range of information and links on the subject.

<http://www.ecounesco.ie/>

Ireland's environmental education (and youth) organization provides a range of programmes and services including training and resources for teachers on environmental issues.

<http://www.epa.ie/downloads/pubs/other/education/primary/impactsandpollution/>

Environmental Protection Agency site with materials developed in close consultation with Irish primary schools. Downloadable resources divided into topic packs, e.g. air, waste, water - available in English or Irish.

<http://www.greenschoolsireland.org/>

An international environmental education programme and award scheme that promotes and acknowledges long-term, whole-school action for the environment.



Diary Dates

There are many days being recognised by the United Nations in this school term. Below are a few of the dates and some actions you can take to recognise them in your classroom. For a more detailed listing of UN dates please visit www.unac.org/en/news_events/un_days/international_days.asp



5 June - World Environment Day

World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the UN to focus worldwide attention on the importance of the environment and stimulate political attention and action. The event seeks to give a human face to environmental issues, empowering people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development, so that all nations and peoples enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

www.unep.org/wed/

United Nations Environment Programme has a special TUNZA site for children. TUNZA is a word in Kiswahilia (the common language of most East African countries) that means to "treat with care". The site provides information and tools on how to "treat Mother Earth with care" and how to Act for a better world. It explores in detail issues such as climate change, biodiversity, water, forests, urbanization, land and food etc.

<http://www.unep.org/tunza/children/>

Activity: Stamping on the Earth

Brainstorm with class all the things we use from the earth e.g. oxygen, fossil fuels, etc.; then some of the things we emit as waste e.g. methane, plastic. Ask each child to trace their own footprint, cut out the shape and then write inside their footprint all the things they take from nature and all the things they put into nature. Draw a large circle and stick all the footprints onto it. These footprints represent our impact on the earth.

Adapted from Activity 3, p.8. From Oberman, R. (2006) What on Earth is Sustainable Development? Eco-Unesco

" We do not inherit the earth
from our ancestors, we
borrow it from our children."

-Native American Proverb



20th June - World Refugee Day

On World Refugee day annually, countries worldwide are encouraged to undertake activities to highlight the situation of refugees as well as initiatives supporting them.

<http://www.unhcr.org/events.html>

Activity: Poems for Peace

One of the main reasons people are forced to leave their homes is conflict. Pupils could be encouraged to write a message, poem or prayer for peace. These could then be illustrated and displayed prominently on a dedicated Refugee Day noticeboard or on the school webpage or compiled and bound in book-form. A selection might also be read out in assembly time.

Adapted from "Global Communities: Learning About Refugee Issues", DFID

For more information visit the following websites:

<http://www.unhcr.org.uk/info/resources/teachtools.html> - this site has detailed lesson modules for integrating refugee themes across the curriculum.

<http://www.globaldimension.org.uk> - this site highlights a different theme each month. 'Refugees' was the hot topic for May. See its archive of 'top ten' sites for exploring a range of issues.



9th August - International Day of the World's Indigenous People

The International Day of the World's Indigenous People is observed as an opportunity to celebrate the rich contributions of indigenous peoples and their cultures to the human family. It is a chance to recognize the ongoing plight of many of the world's indigenous people and to work to protect their rights, languages and culture.

<http://www.betterworldcalendar.com/indigenousday.htm>

Activity: Begin to speak an indigenous language.

The Traveller Community is one of Ireland's oldest indigenous minority groups and an important part of intercultural Ireland. Travellers use a vocabulary called Cant which is spoken in an English grammatical structure. Build and illustrate a basic dictionary of Cant phrases and sentences and display them prominently in your school/classroom. Provide translations in other languages. For example:

Start with one Cant word in a sentence: Lakín [laki:n] - cailín - girl - chica - etc . Then use one or two Cant words in a sentence: I see the lakín. The lakín is in the gruppa. [The girl is in the shop].

Adapted from Can't lose Cant. For more grammatical information and an interesting look at Cant see Can't lose Cant. A book of Cant, the old language of Irish Traveller, by children in County Kildare, Ireland. Kids Own Publishing (2003).

Compass

The Compass project is hosted by Comhlámh and is part funded by Irish Aid. It includes participation from various NGOs and individuals committed to promoting development and intercultural education in the primary education system. For enquiries about Compass or feedback about this e-mag please contact lizzie@comhlamh.org.

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