



CLIMATE SCIENCE

Recommended
classroom
resources

As young people increasingly engage with the issues the planet is facing due to changing climate, more and more supporting resources for schools are appearing and it can be difficult and time consuming to find the most appropriate ones to use. In this issue, PSTT Regional Mentor Ruth Shallcross asks three PSTT Fellows for their top recommendations for resources that support climate science education.



Angharad Pass

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I think the Changing Climates resources from **ThoughtBox** are really great. They take into consideration children's eco-anxiety and try to harness it to empower the children. These resources are part of the free suite of lessons that ThoughtBox provides for young people aged 5-18, and include differentiated lesson plans, schemes of work, teacher guides and parent guides for each key stage. They have everything you need to be able to start this discussion with your pupils.

For each age group, the materials share stories and videos, feature key information about climate change, and develop children's critical thinking and questioning

skills. They are organised in four areas: Immerse; Understand; Perspectives; and Empowerment. Each area builds on the children's understanding of climate change and equips them with practical tools to enable them to be part of the movement of change. The scheme considers their feeling and emotions, how they can support each other and build resilience, and with the exploration of new and innovative solutions and inventions that are helping to tackle the problem, it also brings hope.

There are many cross-curricular links to the UK national curricula and strong links to PSHE and to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) teaching and learning.

In the Climate Science section of previous issues of our newsletter, we have offered background knowledge, practical ideas and resources to support children to make informed decisions about looking after the planet, and guidance about helping children to manage eco-anxiety. [Click here to access these articles.](#)



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The **Practical Action** Challenges are one of my favourite resources to use when teaching Climate Science. They support children to explore a range of real-life scenarios around the world and to think about how science can help to develop suitable ways forward. Many of the STEM challenges bring to life the impact that climate change is having within a strong global context and open up the opportunities for great discussions and collaborative

work within the classroom. They are a fantastic vehicle for developing children’s empathy alongside learning science, something which I feel is vital when exploring this topic. Many of the challenges explicitly link to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, providing further opportunities for children to think about sustainable changes that can be made within school and home.

Practical ACTION



I recommend the weather and climate resources on the **Royal Society of Chemistry Education website**. There are lots of examples of experiments and lesson plans that can help to teach the weather/climate and support children’s scientific understanding. There are workshops for primary teachers, providing professional learning and giving ideas for practical experiments for using in their classrooms, e.g. exploring ideas about carbon dioxide. The resources also include webs of science

ideas and demonstration videos that can be used to support teachers to carry out the practical experiments in their classroom. The United Nations Climate Change Conference for 2021 (COP26) is being hosted in Glasgow in November. Dr Stephen Hendry, from the Royal Society of Chemistry, has put together a COP26 workshop and there will be further new climate and sustainability focused primary resources made available in the run up to this event, so keep an eye out for these.

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