

# Introducing Climate Change: Past, Present, and Future

## Activity 1.1: Face the Music – The planet’s story

**Ages: 11–16**

### **Aim**

To explore the concepts of sustainable development and interdependence in a historical and global context.

### **What you need**

Access to the following Internet page

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get\\_involved/campaign/climate\\_change/face\\_the\\_music\\_animation.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/climate_change/face_the_music_animation.html) and the capacity to project Oxfam’s ‘Face the Music’ animation for viewing by the whole class.

### **What to do**

Display the term “Sustainable Development” on the board and hand out strips of paper to the students. They are to write down (anonymously) what they think the phrase means. Collect these in and read a few out. Then show the Oxfam video “Face the Music”

[http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get\\_involved/campaign/climate\\_change/face\\_the\\_music\\_animation.html](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/get_involved/campaign/climate_change/face_the_music_animation.html)

Does this help them with their definition?

Explain that this is one of those ideas that mean slightly different things to different people. So there’s not really one right answer. But the definition that has been used the most over the last 20 years is this one:

**‘Sustainable development means using the earth’s resources to meet human needs while also looking after the earth’s resources so that these needs can be met in the future.’**

Or to put it another way: how we develop our businesses, industry, homes and communities affects the environment, locally and globally but also what we do to the environment will affect our businesses, industry, homes and communities – both now and in the future. So we need to be careful!

Explain that in order to live sustainably we need to ensure that we do not use up resources so quickly that they cannot be replaced and we must also not damage the environment for future generations – as well as for people living today.

From here you might wish to run the animation again and lead into Activity 1.2, which encourages pupils to dig deeper into the issues raised.