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Your World, My World Lesson plan 10: The futures tree

Age group: 4 - 7

Aims:

To help children to consider a simple environmental issue. To encourage children to think about their own wishes for the future.

What to do:

You will need:

- photo 9 from the photo gallery (in Power Point)
- a large plant, or a tree shape cut out of large sheets of paper
- pieces of paper cut into the shapes of leaves and threaded so that they can be hung up on the plant or pinned to the 'tree'
- the story of the trees of the future (below).

Talk with the children about why trees are important (they provide shade, wood for building and fuel, different fruits, homes for animals etc). Now explain to the children that they are going to hear a story about how one type of tree helped Cidinha's village. Read the story 'Trees of the Future' and show the photo of Cidinha cracking nuts.

Talk about how the babassu palm has helped people in Ludovico to have a better future. Talk about how Cidinha and the people in Ludovico depend on their environment. How do children in the class interact with their environment? What environmental issues do they care strongly about? Now give each child a leaf and ask them to write or draw something that they hope for for their environment in the future. Attach these wishes to the plant or 'tree' so that everyone can see.

Curriculum links:

England	Scotland	Wales
Citizenship/PSHE: - What improves and harms their local, natural and built environments and about some of the ways people look after them.	Environmental Studies, Social subjects: - Human-physical interactions - discuss ways in which they can care for resources and their environment.	PSE: - What improves and harms their local, natural and built environments and about some of the ways people look after them.
English: - Speaking and listening Group discussion and interaction. Geography: - Geographical enquiry Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development.	PSD: - Interpersonal relationships - begin to identify those values which are important to the home, school and community. English: - Listening in order to respond to texts.	English: - Speaking and listening Group discussion and interaction. Geography: - Geographical enquiry Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development.

Your World, My World Worksheet: The story of the trees of the future

I'm going to tell you about a very special type of tree and why it matters to Cidinha and the people of Lodovico village. The tree is called a babassu palm. People in the village often rest beneath the tree's shade and use its leaves to make their roofs. The nuts that grow on the palm are full of oil.

Before Cidinha was born, rich farmers tried to drive her family and their friends out of the village so that they could take over the land. They wanted to cut down the trees and open up the land so that they could farm cattle. Everyone was scared, but they stayed put and stayed together. They wanted to make their lives better. The babassu tree helped them do this.

Babassu nuts grew all around the village, and so people set up a factory which used oil from the nuts to make soap. They sold the soap and little by little began to be able to buy the things that they needed.

The babassu palm tree is part of Cidinha's future. She cracks about a hundred nuts every day - they're the size of apples, with very hard shells. The money she and her family get from nut cracking helps pay for her to go to school and to make her village a better place to live.