

Dealing with Disasters

Lesson plan 1: Disasters - raising the issues

Age group: 11 - 14

Aims:

To encourage pupils to consider their own attitudes towards disasters and their causes.
 To encourage pupils to work together through discussion, argument, and compromise.
 This starter activity explores initial ideas about disasters (many of which may be based on inaccurate stereotypes). The ideas raised can be referred back to at a later date, when pupils have completed more work and can look more critically at their own attitudes.

What to do:

Print the **statements on disasters worksheet** (below) so that you have one sheet for each pair of pupils. In pairs, ask pupils to choose one statement that they agree with and one that they disagree with. Now ask them to share their choices and the reasons for them with another pair. Come together as a class and consider the following questions.

- Where do our attitudes and opinions about disasters come from?
- Where does most of the information we have about the world come from? Adults, TV, papers, friends . . . ?
- How can we get other sources of information?

Curriculum links:

England	Scotland	Wales
Citizenship/PSHE: -Effects of stereotyping; social and moral dilemmas. Geography: -Appreciate how people's values and attitudes including their own, affect ... issues. English: -Group discussion and interaction - contributions to groups; taking different views into account; sift, summarise and use the most important points.	Environmental Studies; Society: -Human-physical interactions. -Interaction of people with their environment. English: -Listening and talking in groups; talking about experiences, feelings and opinions; reading for information. PSD: - Social development.	Geography: -Appreciate how people's values and attitudes including their own, affect issues. English: -Group discussion/interaction; taking different views into account; sift, summarise and use the important points. PSE: -Critically evaluate others' viewpoints; empathise; make moral judgements and resolve dilemmas.

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Worksheet: Statements on disasters

The climate works against people in the South. Things will never change.

There are too many wars. Money is used to buy weapons rather than food.

Most of the wealth from the South has been taken by richer countries.

Their health is so poor that they cannot do much to help themselves.

People in the South expect too much from charity. They should help themselves.

Countries need to become self-sufficient, and not rely on others.

As a richer country, we should help others achieve the things they need.

There is enough food for everyone in the world. The problem is that it is not fairly shared out.

The biggest problem is the number of people in the world. There are too many to feed and clothe.