

Art, design & technology

School mural

Ask pupils to design and produce a mural or large-scale painting around the theme of climate change and the local environment. Working in teams, pupils design different elements and each develop a more stylised drawing. These can then be photocopied on to acetate and projected

onto a large background so that a composite design can be organised. Pupils should also consider where it might be placed and how it fits into its setting. If painted on plywood, it can be fixed on batons to a wall and easily maintained or changed.

Sculptures and mosaics

Create a sculpture or mosaic from recycled materials such as bottle tops, drinks cans and egg boxes, to represent an environment issue. Pupils could communicate their impressions of their local environment and the effects climate change may have. Introduce them to similar works that might inspire them. tinyurl.com/35sv84

Design your own clothes

Pupils design their own fashion items from recycled materials and old clothes. Then an eco-fashion show could be held with a catwalk, music etc. This could then be performed to parents and would be a great opportunity to share the outcomes of their green day.

For more information, click on ecofashion at www.stepin.org

Walk around the school

Examine the building's materials. Do they benefit or harm the environment? Perhaps there are older and newer parts of the school that could be compared and contrasted. List the materials that make up these structures (eg concrete, brick, stone, wood, glass etc) and ask pupils to think about whether they have a positive or negative affect on the environment. Are they made of renewable resources or environmentally friendly materials? Have any new and innovative materials been used? How do these materials affect

the way the building works in terms of it being heated and cooled or how much light it allows in?

Design an environmentally friendly building

Discuss ways that buildings can be powered with alternative energy sources. Consider different ways a building needs energy such as lighting, heating, ventilation, insulation and water usage. How could existing buildings be adapted to be more energy efficient and use different types of energy sources such

as solar power, wind turbines, harvesting rainwater or using biomass fuels. Perhaps ask a local architect to come into school to talk about how buildings are powered and how they can be designed to be greener. Older pupils could start to develop 3D models of their designs. tinyurl.com/2nptyv

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