

SPEAKING OUT FOR THE PLANET

AIMS

- Discover other children's thoughts and concerns about climate change
- Express and share your thoughts and ideas about sustainable development
- Commit to making the environment a healthier, better place to live.
- Carry out a project from start to finish and participate in addressing an environmental issue that concerns you directly.

MATERIAL

- Videos:
<https://www.unicef.es/educa/biblioteca/video-s-cambio-climatico-infancia>
- Class mission notebook which can be downloaded from:
www.unicef.es/educa/1001proyectos

SUPPORT MATERIAL

- The Human Rights Education and Global Citizenship Handbook on Education, Climate Change and Children's Rights, available at www.unicef.es/educa

Before making a commitment to act in favour of the environment, it is important that the children in the class understand the problems caused by climate change and that they form a critical, well-informed opinion about it. They need to be given support to express their ideas freely. The aim of this activity is to raise their awareness about environmental issues around them and to help them design a group project that will enable them to act.

How to prepare the activity

Here are a few ideas:

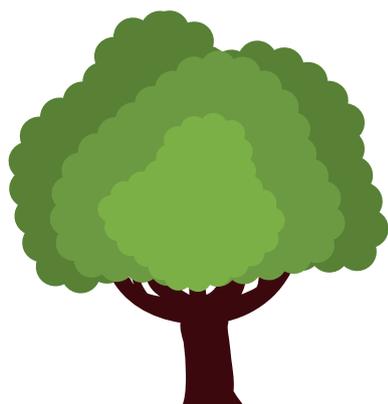
■ Your opinion counts

Show the class the videos 'Voices from the climate frontlines' and 'Climatizate' where children of different ages express their concerns about climate change and how to combat it. Discuss the videos in class without getting into whether the ideas are good or bad, instead highlight the fact that children have a right to be informed about issues that concern them and that they also have a right to form and express their opinion about these issues.

■ An example how young people can act to save the environment

The Wijsen sisters developed a project to stop the environmental destruction around them.

Melati and Isabel Wijsen's mission is to get rid of all the plastic bags that are polluting the sea around the island of Bali (Indonesia) where they live. Plastic bags can last for hundreds of years and are virtually indestructible. Despite this, many people use them and throw them away without a second thought, so they mostly end up in the ocean, polluting it and destroying the marine life, or in an incineration plant where they're burned, releasing toxic dioxins into the atmosphere.





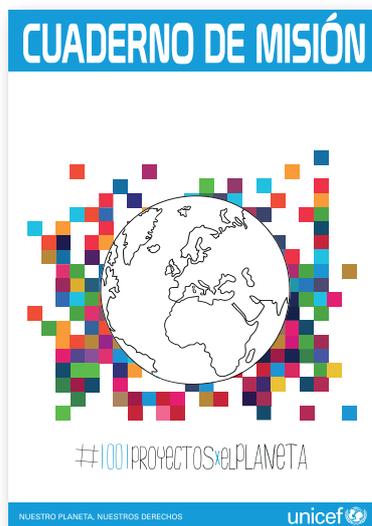
When the girls were 10 and 12 years old, they got their class to join them in signing petitions and cleaning beaches. They even went on strike until they eventually managed to convince the governor of Bali to ban plastic bags on the island. The ban will come into effect in 2018. They designed a sticker for local shops to put in the window saying that they don't provide plastic bags. 'Never let people tell you you are too young to understand', says Isabel. 'We're not saying it's easy. What we're saying is that it's worth the effort'.

At the moment, the Melati and Isabel are working on an educational booklet for primary school students which explains pollution and effective waste management and shows them how to make shopping bags out of biodegradable materials. 'Change is not possible without education', Melati says.

How to develop the activity

The class designs, plans, and executes an environmental project which can be carried out in the local environment and allows them to exercise their right to participation and a healthy environment. The class decides on a set of common goals and each pupil decides on individual objectives and responsibilities.

The mission notebook



Having watched the videos for inspiration, the pupils can start thinking up and working on a mission of their own. There is time during the first school term to divide the class into groups, decide on common goals and a working methodology and present the project on **November 20, Universal Children's Day**. However, if that is not possible, any other time of the year is also suitable.

The class mission notebook can be downloaded at:

www.unicef.es/educa/1001proyectos

Don't forget to share your class's project on

www.unicef.es/educa/blog or on social media using the hashtag #1001proyectosXelPlaneta so that other schools can see what you've been doing and use your project as inspiration to start a global change project of their own. We can change things if we do it together!

#1001proyectosXelPlaneta