

2100 – A Waste Odyssey

Workshop description:

A fun workshop looking at how the rubbish we create now could cause a wide range of major environmental problems in the future. Students think about the preventative measures that we should currently be working on.

Summary of workshop:

- Matching activity with giant test tubes of rubbish.
- Jigsaw activity to show causes and consequences.
- Presentation to show environmental problems and solutions.

Time: 50mins – 1hr10mins

Number of students: 18-60

Suitable for years: 7-9

Misconceptions:

- Driving to a recycling centre uses lots of fuel so we are better off putting the rubbish in the bin.
- That there's no harm in buying lots of cheap plastic toys and electronic gadgets that soon break or only get used for a short time before we get bored and move on to the next thing.
- That climate change will make the UK's weather nicer.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the workshop pupils should be able to:

- Explain at least one way that the rubbish we throw away now could cause problems in the future.
- Give at least one action they can take to try and reduce the risk of future problems.

Vocabulary: KS3 – Landfill, incineration, methane, leachate, reduce, reuse, recycle.

Resources:

Projector and laptop or memory stick.
 Giant test tubes each containing a different type of rubbish.
 Jigsaw pieces.
 Jigsaw sheet.
 Duct tape and drawing pins.
 Notice board (supplied by school).

Duration

2 mins
 (5 mins)
 5 mins
 3 mins
 12-15 mins
 3-6 mins
 7 mins
 18-22 mins
 (5 mins)

Teaching and Learning activities:

Introduce myself and what we will be doing in this workshop.
(optional - get students to think about what they would like the future to be like)
 Presentation showing where our rubbish ends up at the moment.
 Explain activity, hand out test tubes and worksheets.
 Matching up activity; students work in teams to work out which test tube of rubbish could cause which problem in the future.
 Go through the answers, hand out the jigsaw pieces and explain how to complete the jigsaw.
 Jigsaw activity; students work in teams to decide which of their 7 jigsaw pieces are needed to make up the complete class jigsaw.
 Explain the jigsaw to the whole class using a presentation to illustrate how the rubbish could cause problems in the future and the actions that the students can take now to try and prevent further damage to the environment.
(optional - Look back at the comments that students made at the beginning of the session, do they think their vision could be a reality if we carry on as we are?)