



Climate change is happening; young people have the right to be informed

Wicked Weather Watch (WWW) is an exciting new charity that provides clarity for young people about the issue of climate change and global warming. WWW wants children to have access to unbiased information and to be able to get involved.

WWW will bring the issue of climate change to life for children and teachers by drawing on the personal experience of Arctic explorers, such as David Hempleman-Adams, and others who have seen for themselves how climate change is affecting the people and wildlife of the Arctic.

WWW focuses on the Arctic to highlight the effects of climate change at both local and global level. Climate change is faster and more severe in the Arctic than in almost anywhere else globally but climate change in the Arctic affects everyone. We will help children and young people to look at how climate change impacts our planet and our own lives and what steps we can all take to reduce our footprint on the planet.



“If ever there were a cause which should unite us all, old or young, rich or poor, climate change must be it.”

Kofi Annan, Chair of The Kofi Annan Foundation and The Elders



Climate Change in the Classroom

Climate change is a rich topic to explore in the classroom. WWW offers a unique insight to the topic, providing resources for lessons and assemblies as well as links to people who have visited the Arctic who can give personal accounts directly to students.

WWW will help young people to answer questions such as "what is the difference between climate change and global warming" and "what can I do to conserve our planet and halt climate change?" by providing teachers with up to date and innovative materials that can be used to meet KS1 and KS2 curricula.

We want young people to feel fully informed about climate change through their schools. Our longer-term goals are to link schools in the UK with those in the Arctic and develop a fully interactive website to be a portal for children and teachers with information, resources and games in a child-friendly format.

WWW is linking up with the **Polar Ocean Challenge** (see box below). In summer / autumn 2016 students and teachers will be able to follow the **Polar Ocean Challenge**, an historic 'Last of the Firsts' expedition to be the first British sailing yacht to circumnavigate the North Pole in one Arctic summer season.

Led by local explorer David Hempleman-Adams, and with a crew that includes 14 year old Ben, the Polar Ocean Challenge will send information and data on temperatures, extent of sea ice and personal testimony that can be used to initiate conversations in schools and at home about climate change.



David Hempleman-Adams aboard 'Northabout'

The Polar Ocean Challenge: History in the Making

The Polar Ocean Challenge is truly an historic expedition, one that has simply not been possible in the past, but made possible now by climate change and its immense impact on the northern ice cap. The level of global warming is increasing the number of ice-free months in the North East Passage and will open up the Arctic Ocean, leading to one last great challenge; for the first time ever it may be possible for a small committed team to undertake one continuous expedition, to cover 13,500 nautical miles and sail around the Arctic Ocean in one season.

(<http://polarocean.co.uk>)



WWW offer to schools

Exploring climate change in the classroom with WWW will help children identify how and why places change in terms of climate, and how and why they may change in the future. The aim is to develop skills such as decision-making and problem solving (for example what measures are needed to reduce energy and the ways in which living things and the environment need protection); establishing links between cause and effect; and analysing basic evidence to draw their own conclusions.

WWW will offer practical solutions about looking after the school environment and how children and their families can tackle climate change. Resources will be participatory, using games and other appropriate teaching techniques.

Sign up to WWW and join in the conversation on climate change:

- Track the Polar Ocean Challenge online and interact with the crew as they sail around the Arctic Ocean through submitting questions to them. Where possible these will be answered – via a live audio link-up, and all questions will be answered on the WWW website
- Follow Ben’s progress, a 14 year old crew member, via his blog and read about his adventures in our monthly newsletter
- Access videos, photos and updates from the expedition including hearing from people who live in the Arctic and how their lives are impacted by climate change
- Access data such as weather forecasts, temperature readings and ice reports
- Make use of the WWW Assembly pack to introduce the topic of climate change and the Polar Ocean Challenge, as well as ready-made lessons plans looking at understanding climate change in the Arctic, linking climate change in the Arctic to what is happening across the rest of the world, and looking at what you can do to combat climate change in school and at home.
- Find out more on our website, including a virtual tour of the yacht - ‘Northabout’ – and links to further resources including how schools can work with WWW as part of being an Eco school



In the long-term WWW will develop materials that can be used to explore climate change on key occasions such as World Ocean’s Day, World Environment Day and Climate week.

Links to the national curriculum

WWW will initially provide materials relating to KS1 and KS2 curriculum. Lesson plans will be cross-curricular, with clear learning outcomes relating in particular to geography, science, English and maths. We are keen to develop all materials with the input of teachers and pupils to ensure they are exciting, relevant and easy for children to understand. While the materials will use data and geographical information there will be a large focus on the people and wildlife of the Arctic, such as polar bears, which we know will appeal to primary school children. Examples of possible lessons would be:

- Lesson 1 – understanding climate change in the Arctic: Map basic temperature readings against historical data, maps of ice coverage. Draw own conclusions about changes in climate and any impact on the Arctic.



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- Lesson 2 - global climate change: linking climate change in the Arctic to what is happening globally. Developing narratives around different real life situations.
 - Lesson 3 – what you can do to combat climate change: Recycling, turning off power, burning fuels, walking to school, what can be done around the school.

Why get involved?

Many people consider climate change and global warming the greatest environmental challenges facing the world today. The consequences of climate change are not a distant issue, it's the lives of our children and grandchildren, the future generation - today's students will be tasked with managing tomorrow's climate change impact.

Global temperatures – currently the highest on record - are expected to increase further. Climate experts predict we could easily see global temperature rise more than 4°C this century if things don't change. The Arctic plays a special role in the global climate. Arctic temperatures are increasing at about twice the rate of the rest of the world. Permafrost is melting, glaciers are receding, and sea ice is disappearing. Weather patterns and ecosystems are changing more quickly than many people and species can adapt. The amount of ice that covers the Arctic Ocean during the summer has been shrinking affecting the many Arctic animals such as polar bears, seals, walruses, and seabirds, who depend on the sea's biological productivity and sea ice for their survival. But changes in the Arctic will not only affect local people (nearly four million people live in the Arctic region) and ecosystems but also the rest of the world.

It is imperative that the young people of today are informed about climate change, are able to put the vast amount of information and opinions into context and to find and understand the answers themselves. Climate change can be highly conceptual – WWW brings this issue to life, making learning real and relevant by connecting to the world beyond the classroom. Ben, our young crew member will provide a young voice, a peer to connect with, making the learning experience all the more compelling.

How to get involved

We would be delighted to run an assembly at your school to introduce Wicked Weather Watch and the Polar Ocean Challenge or schools can use the Assembly Pack and other resources by signing up on the WWW website. Schools and individuals can also sign up to follow the POC in real-time as it makes it's voyage around the North Pole.

For more information please contact Gill Johnson - info@wickedweatherwatch.org.uk

or Vicky Oram-Ahern - schools@wickedweatherwatch.org.uk

