Introduction

Today we are going to learn about a special kind of resource called a “commons”, specifically the climate.

A commons is a special kind of resource that belongs to everyone in a community. It is something that we all share and have equal access to. Examples of commons can include parks, libraries, and the air we breathe.

The climate is a shared resource that belongs to everyone on the planet, and we all have a responsibility to take care of it.

What different commons can you think of? Write or draw them in the box below.
1. Big Questions
   a. What is the climate?
   b. What are rights?
   c. What are responsibilities?

2. What’s the difference between these rights and responsibilities? What do they have in common?

Complete the diagram by putting the phrases below under the correct heading.

- clean air and water
- reduce waste
- be mindful of our impact on the planet
- natural resources
- campaign for change
- be aware of the impact of our actions
- conserve energy
- protect the environment
- a stable climate
- a healthy environment
Rights, Responsibilities, the Climate and Us

Think
Take a few minutes to think about any other rights we have to do with the climate.

Pair
Talk to a partner. Did you think of the same ideas?

Share
Discuss the different rights and responsibilities we have to our climate as a group

Going Forward
What changes do we need to make?

Create your own story/dialogue/play/film/comic
Use one of the prompts below, or think of your own

1. Jane and her friends learn about the impacts of climate change on their community and decide to take action by organizing a school-wide campaign to promote environmental awareness and responsibility.
2. When a major corporation announces plans to build a factory in their town, a group of students must navigate complex ethical and legal questions around their rights to clean air and water, and their responsibilities to protect the environment.

3. As a group of international exchange students explore a new country, they discover cultural differences in attitudes towards climate change and explore the role of individual and collective responsibility in addressing global environmental challenges.

Have you got an idea or an activity about the Climate that you want to share with the world?

Ask your teacher about Change Makers.
Rights, Responsibilities, the Climate and Us

A story/ song / dialogue
by

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