

# Global Education events

## Environmental challenge

Plan a big event with other schools. Have young people make statements about why the environment is important to people around the world. Invite students to take part in activities like the "Water Relay" in the *Kids Who Care Teacher's Guide*. Invent new activities which focus on common environmental problems. Kids and/or community members from other cultures can represent different countries. Your event can include international music and international food.

Environmental challenge: Propose an environmentally friendly lifestyle change to the students at your school (use less electricity, less water, produce less garbage, etc.). Research how much the kids at your school and their families use, then propose a percentage reduction during one month. Challenge other schools to do the same.



Students may find it difficult to reduce their energy consumption, but many people around the world use far fewer resources than the average North American. Design a display to show the different levels of resources used by people around the world. What are some of the solutions to North Americans' over-consumption? Can you think of some things your school could do to reduce energy use/waste, etc?

## Invite a storyteller from another culture to perform at your school

First Nations associations have people who may be available to speak on their culture, history, and their connection to the natural environment. You might also invite a speaker from an environmental group or an international development agency active on environmental issues. Feel free to tell these people what topics you would like them to focus on for the presentation. They will probably appreciate learning about what most interests students at your school. Find out in advance what kind of equipment they require and have it ready for them (slide projector, VCR, etc.). Describe to them the room in which they will speak so that they can prepare their presentation before arriving at your school or community centre.

## Make your events international

When your school holds its yearly science fair or public speaking contest, award a special prize to the student who has the best exhibit on how international environmental issues are linked, or the best speech on a theme related to global education.

## Life in a box

Put together a "time capsule" or box with everyday items representing the lives of the young people in your school. Choose things that represent the issues that are important to you. Students can add stories, favourite books, photos of their families, their thoughts on what they would like the future to be like, etc. You can contact a school in another country, and ask them to prepare and send a similar box for your school.

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## One world mural

Over the course of a week, have events and announcements related to global education. Each day, read a quote about how and why people can take action to make their community – and the world – a better place. Now ask students to make their own statements. Have every student in the school write something, add a picture, drawing, etc. to as many pieces of bristol board (or roll of poster paper) as required. Display in the school lobby during Development Week (first week in February) or a World Day that appeals to students.

## Environmental awards

Find out more about what young people overseas are doing to protect their environment. (Projects like those profiled in the “Kids Who Care” video are good examples.) Design a special award to tell these young people why you admire their efforts. Send this to them (over the Internet, if possible). Ask their teacher to make a special

presentation to the kids, and send your school photos/comments/a report from the event.

## Follow up to Rio

Young people made their own declaration at the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil). Find out what’s happened since by contacting the United Nations or visiting their website. Discuss the young people’s declaration with your class and choose an area you’d like to work on. Contact others involved in this issue (oceans, the ozone layer, etc.)

## Do it yourself

Write a newsletter/design a magazine about your explorations in global education. Feature another country/culture and have students research, write and interview on related topics.

Design a website for your school. Invite students at other schools to exchange information about their lives, their school, their country. Challenge students at your school to contact as many young people/schools overseas as possible.

# Evaluate your Project

Look back at your original brainstorming list. Were there ideas that you thought were not possible that you would now like to try? Maybe your group’s project was too big, and you didn’t get time to do everything you planned. That’s okay. It’s a lesson you learned for next time.

One way to measure what you learned is to write a letter at the beginning of the project. Everyone puts down a few sentences about how he or she hopes the project will turn out. Put the letter in a sealed envelope, and give it to your teacher to keep until your project is completed. When you are discussing how the project went, open the letter and look at whether the project met your expectations. Were things similar to or different from the

way you thought they would be? Why?/Why not?

Or, when your group meets after the event or project is completed, have each person take a turn saying one thing he or she especially liked, and giving one suggestion for what to improve the next time.

To find out what other people thought, take a survey or put a suggestion box in the main office and ask people to drop off their comments.

**Did you reach your goal?** There are many ways to think about this. Even if you didn’t do exactly what you planned, you may have learned a lot for next time. That’s good!

