

Going Global in the Outdoors

What is it all about?

Educating for sustainable human development, thinking globally and acting locally whilst using philosophical enquiry and experiential learning, is this working towards a possible utopia or just mumbo jumbo*? Well hopefully it is an area that will move away from the later and towards the former as these are all areas that CDEC (Cumbria development Education Centre) will try to tackle in our new project Going Global in the Outdoors.

** Noun: mumbo jumbo 'mmbow' jmbow. Language that is unnecessarily difficult to understand. A state of confusion; ritual accompanied by complicated and purposeless activity that obscures and confuses.*

**KS2
children
work
out thier
needs
versus
wants to
survive in
the forest**

by
Anthea
Stevenson

Why the outdoors?

Going Global in the Outdoors is a three year project which aims to work with Outdoor Educators to create a programme that tackles some of these 'big ideas' What have these issues got to do with the outdoors you question, everything is our answer. We are realists we don't expect to change things over night but we are asking people to care, to make a connection to each other and the world that they live in. The outdoor educators can provide an often fresh experience in which they can do this.

What is our experience so far?

For the last few years CDEC has been working with Forest Enterprise to bring some of these big issues to programmes in the forest. It worked together with key stage two and three teachers to formulate an outdoor session and associated resources that could be used in schools. One of the priorities for the planning team was that both the session and resources should be transferable to any location, as although the project was initiated in Cumbria for

Cumbrian schools it is now available nationally. Both projects use the environment as a vehicle for involving children in global issues and use the methodologies of philosophy for children and critical skills.

- The key stage two programme 'A survival pack for future citizens' focuses on needs versus wants and the global impact of our decisions in relation to these. It emphasises the importance of responsible individuals making informed decisions.
- The key stage three project 'Exploring Values' looks at our values in relation to the environment trying to understand and empathise with other peoples perspectives and through this resolving conflict. The students are encouraged to do this via role play in a variety of environments. They end with a mini enquiry.

One of the teachers on the planning team eloquently summarised the philosophy behind the programme

Outdoor
Education &
Field Studies



Will consumerism override their desire to make wise choices? Opportunity to use tokens earned to buy goods for their shelters.

The middle of the session they regroup and refocus using Tai Chi to draw energy from the earth



KS3 exploring values, students visit different sites in a star orienteering exercise, in role they discuss the value of each site to them. They have a number of statements and must choose which one they agree with.



One of the sites - mixed woodland

*'I see the essence of this message is not just contained within the area of human pragmatism but rather appeals to the area of spirituality concerned with compassion, care and consideration which I feel is the cornerstone of any program designed to raise awareness.. Restricting the area of education to that of prohibition or threats of doom and disaster do little to avert a crisis. **It is easy to say don't drop litter and not that successful- but to make people not want to drop litter is the valuable and permanent solution.** I think this is what we have tried to do in the KS3 program of Study and is the reason I wanted to be part of such a study.'*

Stuart Bates Treloar – Dowdales Secondary School

What next

The Going global in the outdoors project will kick off with an initial working party at Low Bank Ground Outdoor Centre, Coniston on Friday 25th November 2005.

The aim of the initial working party is to provide an enjoyable and interactive day which will hopefully inspire and motivate attendees to join us in the future with our project. As with the previous projects the end product is in the hands of the planning team

Those who wish to be involved after the initial working party will be invited to join us sharing their knowledge and experience and therefore contributing to the success of this project. ■

Authors Notes

Anthea Stevenson trained as a teacher of Outdoor Education and Environmental Science. She has worked in the field for the last seven years leading and writing experiential programmes for both children and adults. She became involved with CDEC through their partnership with Grizedale Forest and will support the planning team in the forthcoming Going Global in the Outdoors project.

If anyone would like further information on past or present CDEC project or would like to book a place on the initial working party please contact CDEC on 015394 30231/30236 or email us at cdec@ucsm.ac.uk

Photos

All submitted by the author. Schools photographed: North Walney, Ormsgill and George Romney.