



A2 ACTIVITIES TO REVEAL HIDDEN ISSUES

Raising awareness of environmental change



Why use this activity?

This activity can help spread an important message to a whole community. It can be helpful to encourage people to think and reflect about *how* the environment around them is changing, *why* it is changing, and whether there is anything they can do to help *protect* it.



A brief description

Five people are asked five questions. They are then encouraged to ask the same questions of five other people, who in turn are encouraged to ask five others.



What to do

- Copy the five questions below, and the instructions beneath them, onto five pieces of paper (ie you will write the same thing five times). *Or you could carry out this exercise by speaking, asking people to remember the five questions – without writing anything down.*
- Ask five people the five questions. You could ask them individually, or all together at the same time. Allow people time to think about the answers before they reply. Explain that these questions are part of an activity encouraging people to think about the environment. Assure them that their answers won't be written down or repeated! Allow people to talk for as long as they want to.
- Once you've asked the questions, give the person one of the pieces of paper with the questions written on it. Ask them to follow the instructions in the box and ask the questions to five other people.



A2 RAISING AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

- The aim is for as many people as possible in the community to be asked the questions. Could you ask some people to visit the school, others the clinic, others the market, others local businesses and others their extended families?

Suggested questions (please change as appropriate to suit your context):

1. What do you appreciate about the environment (things such as the land, water, trees, plants and animals) in which you live?
2. How is the environment around you changing?
3. In what ways are people in your community helping to protect the environment?
4. Are there ways in which people are acting to harm the environment?
5. What are *you* going to commit to doing differently from now on to help the environment?

Please take this list of questions, and copy them out five times on five separate pieces of paper. Please choose five people to put these questions to. Explain that these questions are part of an activity encouraging people to think about the environment. Assure them that their answers won't be written down or repeated! Allow people to talk for as long as they want to. After asking the questions, please give the person the list of questions and these instructions and ask them to ask five more people.



Finding out more

- Tearfund (2009) Roots 13 – *Environmental sustainability*
http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/roots/environmental_sustainability/
- Tearfund (2010) Footsteps 82 – *Natural resources*
http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_81-90/footsteps_82/
- Tearfund (1994) Footsteps 20 – *Our environment*
http://tilz.tearfund.org/en/resources/publications/footsteps/footsteps_11-20/footsteps_20/

Related tools:

- A1 – Revealing climate change: information for facilitators [A1: *Climate & environment-1*]
- A1 – Revealing environmental degradation: information for facilitators [A1: *Climate & environment-2*]
- A2 – Slides and ladders – helping or harming the environment? [A2: *Climate & environment--3*]
- A2 – Linking climate change, environmental degradation, food, water and disasters [A2: *Climate & environment-4*]
- A2 – How is our environment changing? [A2: *Climate & environment-5*]
- A2 – Mapping our past, present and future environments [A2: *Climate & environment-6*]
- B – Caring for God's world (Bible study) [B: *Climate & environment-2*]
- B – Caring for our environment (Bible study) [B: *Climate & environment-3*]
- B – Stewardship of the land (Bible study) [B: *Climate & environment-4*]