Global learning & the new primary curriculum

The 2014 school year launches a new curriculum for maintained schools in England. This document provides information and ideas for exploring global learning in the new primary curriculum. You can find the recommended resources (and many more) on the Global Dimension website: globaldimension.org.uk

Core subjects at primary level are English, Maths and Science (featured on this page).

Foundation subjects are Art & Design, Computing, Design & Technology, Geography, History, a Language, Music and PE (pages 2 and 3).

In addition, all schools must make provision for PSHE, RE and a daily act of collective worship (page 3).

English

In the new English primary curriculum there is a focus on reading for pleasure. You could use stories from other countries or stories that touch on global issues. Have a look at our feature on Literature and global issues bit.ly/gdlit for some ideas. Or check out World Stories worldstories.org.uk or the Letterbox Library letterboxlibrary.com.

Spoken language is also emphasised, such as reciting poetry and taking part in debates. Take a look at our suggestions for World Poetry Day bit.ly/gdpoetry or our Debate for primary schools activity kit bit.ly/gddebate.

Maths

The maths curriculum aims to ensure that pupils "can solve problems by applying their mathematics to a variety of routine and non-routine problems with increasing sophistication".

Think about ways maths can be applied to a range of global issues. For example: comparing water use and access in different countries or exploring population trends. Useful resources include If the World Were a Village bit.ly/gdvillage; our Live Below the Line Maths resource bit.ly/gdlblmaths; and our Population: Seven billion people feature bit.ly/gd7billion.

Science

"Science has changed our lives and is vital to the world’s future prosperity, and all pupils should be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science."

There is an emphasis in the primary science curriculum on developing scientific vocabulary and communication, through discussion, for example - a great way to explore the pros and cons of scientific ideas. Working scientifically is also seen as very important.

Practical Action have a great range of interactive science challenges bit.ly/gdpasciencepri, which get pupils 'working scientifically'. They have also provided useful suggestions for exploring global learning through the science curriculum practicalaction.org/globallearninginscienceengland. Another useful resource for science is How We Make Stuff made2bmadeagain.org, which looks at the use of resources in manufacturing.
Art & Design

One of the aims of the art & design curriculum is that pupils “know about great artists, craft makers and designers, and understand the historical and cultural development of their art forms”. This provides an opportunity to learn about artists, arts and crafts from many cultures.

For some inspiration, take a look at the PARTicipate website octobergallery.co.uk/participate, which features five artists from Benin, Nigeria, Iraq, China and New Zealand with downloadable teaching packs on each one.

Design & Technology

One of the purposes of study for D&T is for pupils to “design and make products that solve real and relevant problems.” You could check out Practical Action’s D&T challenges here for some ideas: bit.ly/gdpadtpri. Lessons from Africa has some great examples of low-impact design for pupils to try out themselves sendacow.org.uk/lessonsfromafrica.

In cookery & nutrition, pupils should be taught to “understand where food comes from” (KS1) and “understand seasonality, and know where and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed” (KS2). Our website lists lots of resources about food and farming bit.ly/gdfoodpri, including a great photo teaching resource bit.ly/gdfoodphoto.

Geography

At Key Stage 2 pupils have the opportunity to explore geographical similarities and differences through studying a region in the UK, Europe and North or South America. They also explore physical and human geography such as trade links, settlement and land use, climate zones and resources.

The Geographical Association website has really useful information on resourcing the national curriculum for KS1-2: bit.ly/gancpri. There is also a wealth of primary geography resources listed on our database: bit.ly/gdgeogpri. CAFOD's El Salvador Geography pack has been developed especially for the new primary curriculum: bit.ly/gdcafodelsal. And the Brazil in the School website is also a good source of information and ideas: brazilintheschool.org.

Computing

“Information technology deals with applying computer systems to solve real-world problems.”

The new computing curriculum puts emphasis on pupils learning to create their own programs and other digital content such as animation, blogs and web projects. Global issues can offer a great source of inspiration for creative projects. And pupils can find it very motivating to potentially have a global audience for their work.

Our blog post on Creative use of film-making in global learning bit.ly/gdwfilm may give you some ideas. Also, check out Tim Berners-Lee’s Answers for young people about the World Wide Web and more... www.w3.org/People/Berners-Lee/Kids.html

History

Purposes of study for history include helping pupils to "gain a coherent knowledge and understanding of Britain’s past and that of the wider world" and “understand the complexity of people’s lives, the process of change, the diversity of societies and relationships between different groups, as well as their own identity and the challenges of their time”. At Key Stage 2 pupils should be taught about “the achievements of the earliest civilizations” as well as "a non-European society that provides contrasts with British history".

The Historical Association has some useful schemes of work for primary history bit.ly/hancpri (free to HA members; priced for non-members). There’s a great new British Museum website Teaching History with 100 Objects: teachinghistory100.org.

And check out the Romans Revealed website, which explores diversity in Roman Britain: romansrevealed.com.
Languages

Teaching a modern or ancient foreign language is now compulsory at Key Stage 2.

If your pupils are learning French or Spanish, you could take the opportunity to explore beyond Europe, using resources such as Take Mali bit.ly/gdtakemali, Hola Perú bit.ly/gdholaperu or Morocco – a learning journey earlystart.co.uk/morocco.htm. The World Stories website worldstories.org.uk is also a great languages resource. And Passeport Pour la Francophonie educationscotland.gov.uk/passeportfrancophone/ is worth a look (although written for the Scottish Primary Curriculum).

Music

The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils “perform, listen to, review and evaluate music across a range of historical periods, genres, styles and traditions.”

For inspiration, check out Oxfam’s Global music lesson plans bit.ly/oxfammusic or resources from Music for Change musicforchange.org/resources or Project Earth Rock projectearthrock.com.

As well as exploring music from different cultures you could encourage pupils to compose and sing songs about global issues they are passionate about.

Personal, social, health and economics education

The PSHE Association has produced a helpful PSHE education Programme of Study bit.ly/papshepos. Within this, the third theme, 'Living in the wider world – Economic wellbeing and being a responsible citizen' is the one that encompasses issues of rights and responsibilities, being a member of a diverse community, and protecting the environment.


Religious education

Our Global Calendar globaldimension.org.uk/calendar and hard copy Global Wallplanner bit.ly/globalwallplanner feature a range of religious festivals throughout the year to support teachers in teaching about different beliefs.

Find out more: visit the Global Dimension website globaldimension.org.uk for a wide range of teaching resources, features, news items and support on global learning.

Physical education

"Opportunities to compete in sport and other activities build character and help to embed values such as fairness and respect."

Sport and games provide great opportunities to explore issues of fairness and justice. Another 'global' option is to try out games from different countries: incultureparent.com/2012/09/five-fun-games-from-around-the-world/

Collective worship

Get inspired through our blog post on School assemblies - a golden opportunity for global learning bit.ly/gdwassem. Or take a browse through the primary assembly resources listed in our database: bit.ly/gdasspri.

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