



Google Arts & Culture

Culture Meets Climate

Lesson plan
created with



Introduction

Culture Meets Climate

Join us as we learn about the impact climate change is having on our planet and how culture can contribute to saving the planet.

This lesson plan is designed to support you as you explore Google Arts & Culture stories related to the lesson topic. This lesson is suitable for anyone but is recommended for students aged 11-16 years.

You can complete the lesson on your own working at home, with a group of friends, or in your classroom. They are designed so that you can work through them at a pace that suits you.

If you get stuck, you can talk to a teacher or parent.

Throughout the lesson you will find tasks to complete and questions to answer, so when you reach the end, you will have used a range of skills to create something on your own that demonstrates your knowledge and understanding of the subject.

All you need to get started is any device with internet access.

Are you ready to learn more about the issues and some of the creative solutions to this important matter facing us today?

Things you'll need to complete this lesson.



Tablet, laptop or computer with access to the internet.



Paper, or a notebook, and pen to make notes as you go.



Drawing materials, such as coloring pens and pencils, paper etc.



Scissors, glue, scrap paper and general stationery items.



Art materials, specifically paints and brushes.



A printer would be beneficial but not necessary – why not draw instead?

Explore & Discover

Culture Meets Climate

What can you expect to learn?

The Earth is currently in a period of rapid climate change, with global temperatures rising. Climate change is disrupting ecosystems and poses risks to all life on Earth. In this lesson, you will gain an understanding of the issues surrounding climate change. You will explore how people are finding creative ways to raise awareness of the issues surrounding climate change, including the fashion industry, the arts and food science.

Activities to complete

1. Go on a virtual tour of places affected by climate change and write about it.
2. Use Google Experiments to explore how your diet can reduce your carbon footprint.
3. Learn about sustainable cooking and cook something from your fridge and pantry.
4. Design your own clothes from everyday junk or recycled materials.
5. Take part in the end of lesson quiz to test what you have learnt in this lesson.

Outcomes you will achieve

- Learn about climate change.
- Discover how climate change is having an effect on heritage sites around the world.
- See how art can be used to highlight the issues surrounding climate change.
- Discover more sustainable ways of feeding ourselves.
- Explore how fashion can become more sustainable.

Look out for the following tips which tell you what to do when during the lesson.



Key information to remember and to help guide you through the lesson.



Estimated time to complete a section or activity within the lesson.



Optional headphones to listen to videos and audio recordings.



Explore online content. Discover videos, stories, and zoom into pictures.



Activity - time to design, make or write something of your own.



Vocabulary

Words to look out for in the lesson

agriculture, AI, albedo effect, ancient, aquaculture, aquaponics, artificial, artist, bellwether, biodiversity, botanic, canal, canvas, complex, contemporary, deforestation, degradation, density, diet, drone, ecosystem, edible, electronics, engineer, erosion, evolution, fauna, filter, flora, flux, fragile, frequency, Gaia, gastronomy, geological, glacier, grasslands, harmony, heartbeat, herbaceous, heritage, humankind, ice shelf, iconic, impact, installation, lagoon, landscape, lens, machine learning, medium, microbe, microclimate, minerals, nutrient, nutrition, peatlands, perceptive, perennial, photography, plankton, pollinator, predator, preserve, professional, recycle, resilience, resolution, restoration, robot, satellite, savannahs, sculpture, seascape, seaweed, skull, specimen, sustainability, tectonic, temperate, terrestrial, urban, vertebrate, visionary, vitamins

Culture Meets Climate

Introduction

Temperatures are rising, weather patterns are changing, new pests and diseases are emerging, and the human population is increasing. This poses unprecedented risks to all life on Earth.

In this lesson, you will gain an understanding of the issues surrounding climate change and learn of some of the impacts it is having on our planet.

You will also explore how artists can raise awareness of the issues surrounding climate change and learn how adapting our eating habits can help support sustainability.

In the final part of this lesson, you will discover how fashion can contribute to saving the planet.



If you make notes on the stories you read, this will help you for the end of lesson quiz.



Floods affect people, a house almost submerged, family members on the roof and in a small coracle, Moniruzzaman Sazal / Climate Visuals Countdown 2020-07-16, United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26



[Analyses Reveal Record-Shattering Global Warm Temperatures in 2015, 2016, NASA](#)

What is this lesson about?

In this lesson, you will learn about climate change and discover how people are finding creative ways to raise awareness of the issues. To do this, we will take a virtual tour of different landscapes affected by climate change. We will look at how changes in your diet can help reduce your carbon footprint with the help of artificial intelligence. We will also explore how fashion can become more sustainable and challenge you to create your own clothes from everyday junk or recycled materials.



This lesson will take around 120 minutes.



[Sea turtle hatchlings, TAMAR Image Bank, 2010, TAMAR](#)

Climate Change



How do we know the climate is changing? What does it mean for us and other life forms? What can we do about it? Discover more in this chapter. But first you might like to [watch this animation](#), created for COP26.



This chapter will take around 30 minutes.



[Island Nation of Kiribati Affected by Climate Change, UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe, 2011, United Nations Association of Australia](#)

Climate Change

Explore why the rise of temperatures in the past 200 years is deeply connected with human activities.



[Unique ice cave formation, Jeffrey Kieffer, The United Nations](#)

Effects of Climate Change

Discover how climate change is affecting the natural world.



[Coral reef restoration on coast of Banaira, 2017, The United Nations](#)

Ecosystems

Learn how the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration aims to help prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.



Informing climate action around the world, United Nations Climate Change Conference COP26

Climate Change

Is the Climate Really Changing?

Climate change refers to the change in temperature and weather patterns in a region over a long period of time. Human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas, are the main driver of climate change.

There is clear evidence to suggest that climate change is happening. Measurements indicate that the average temperature at the Earth's surface has risen by about 1°C since the late 1800s. What is most concerning is that the majority of the increase has occurred since the 1970s with all ten of the warmest years on record, in the United Kingdom, occurring since 1990.

So what's the big deal? One degree may sound like a small amount, but even the smallest change in temperature can correspond to enormous changes in the environment. For example, at the end of the last ice age, when much of the Earth was covered by more than 3,000 feet of ice, the average temperatures were only five to nine degrees cooler than today.

Click on the 'Explore' button to find out why the rise of temperatures in the past 200 years is deeply connected with human activities.



[Explore](#)

Effects of Climate Change

How is it affecting the natural world?

Climate change can make weather patterns less predictable making it difficult to maintain and grow crops. Climate change has also been connected with the increase in severity and frequency of extreme weather events resulting in catastrophic storms, droughts, and even floods.

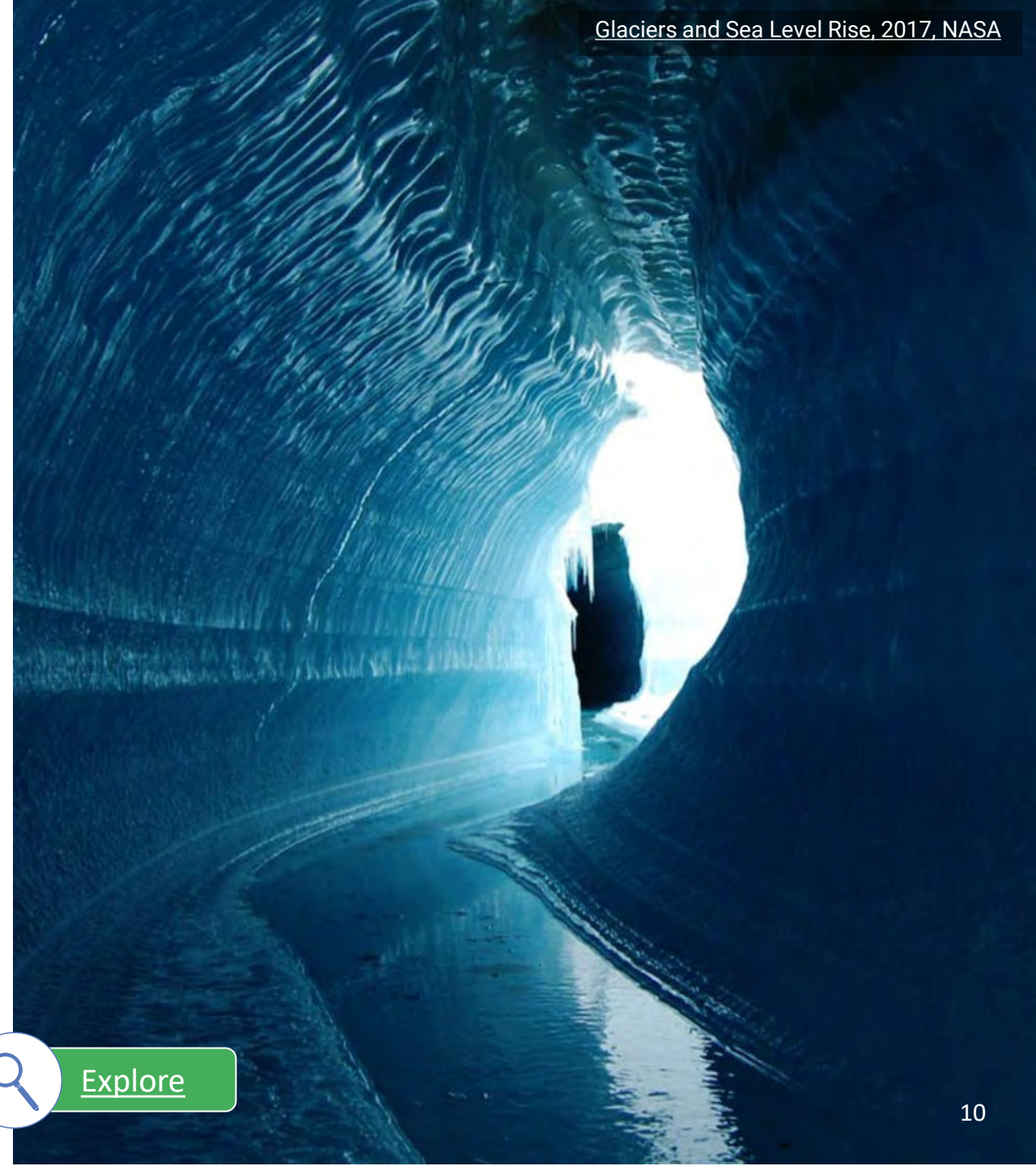
In polar regions, rising global temperatures are causing ice sheets and glaciers to melt at an accelerated rate. This is contributing to a rise in sea levels and loss of shoreline due to increased flooding and erosion.

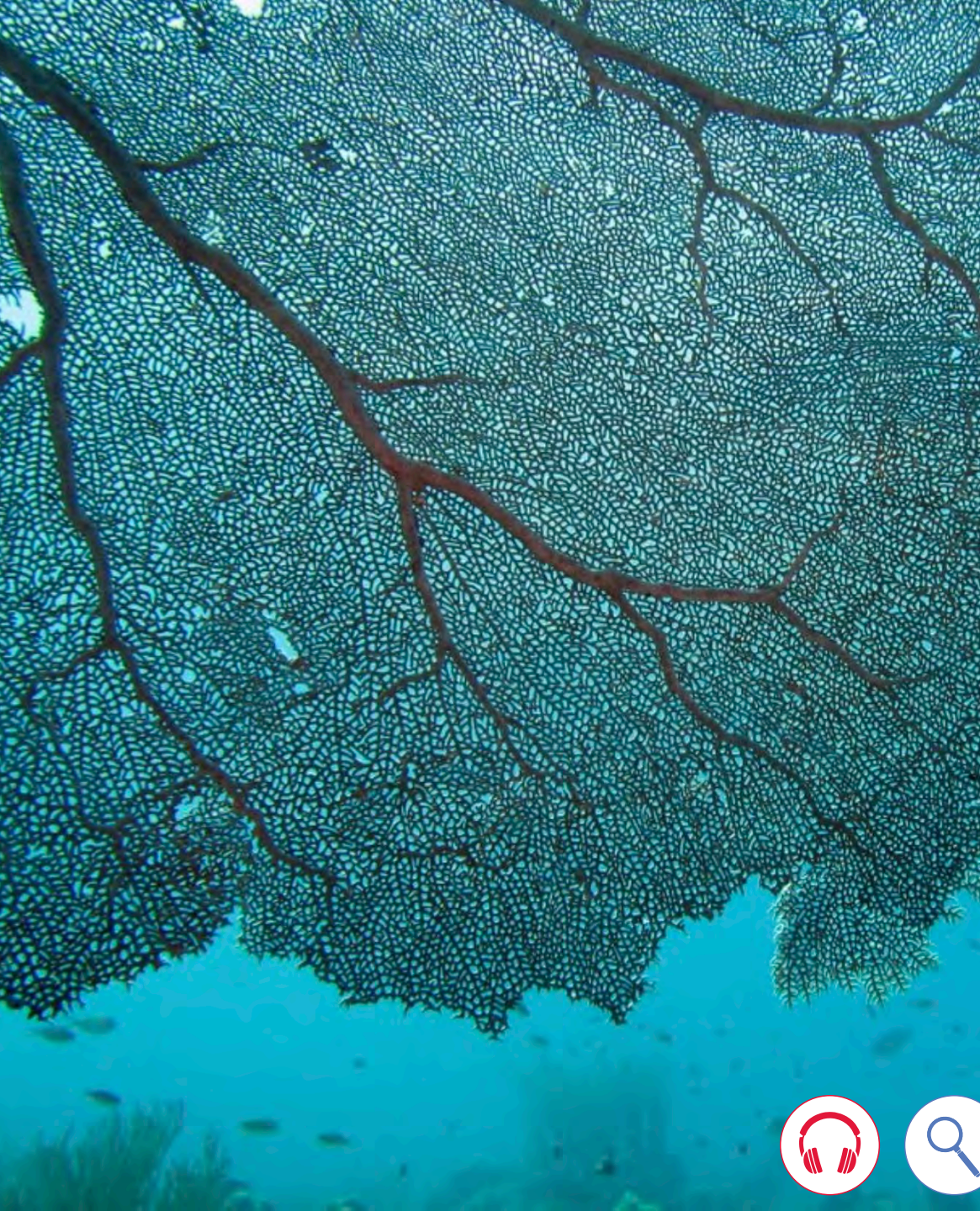
So, why does this all matter? Climate change has significant implications on how we go about our daily lives, including how we eat, how we live, and how we travel. Floods and droughts, caused by extreme weather events, can affect food supplies which, in turn, can increase food prices. Rising temperatures can lead to more diseases and rising sea levels could potentially displace hundreds of millions of people. As temperatures continue to rise, climate change threatens every aspect of life on Earth.

Click on 'Explore' to find out how climate change is affecting the natural world.



Explore





Coral reef restoration on coast of Banaira, 2017, The United Nations

Ecosystem Restoration

United Nations (UN) Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030

Ecosystems support all life on Earth. The healthier our ecosystems are, the healthier the planet and its people will be. Healthy ecosystems clean our water, purify our air, maintain our soil, and regulate the climate.

The UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) aims to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems on every continent and in every ocean. It's a global rallying cry to heal our planet by protecting ecosystems that are still in good shape, halting degradation everywhere it occurs, and reversing degradation wherever possible.

Click 'Explore' to find out how the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration challenges everyone to massively scale up restoration efforts that breathe new life into our degraded ecosystems.



[Explore](#)



Activity 1

Describe What You See



Select one of these virtual tours ([Antarctica](#), [Croatia](#), [Nigeria](#), or [Mexico](#)). Explore your chosen destination and then think about how you will write about what you've seen. You are to write to a friend describing what you see.



Before you start writing, consider what you see so you can describe it clearly.

- What can you see as you move around the virtual tour?
- Be specific in describing what you see; try to avoid a general description. Sometimes the tiny detail, well explained, will give a good idea of where you are.
- Consider the risk to this landscape that Climate Change would bring. In your view what specific Climate Change impact could do the most damage to the landscape you see.

How much you write is up to you, although it is recommended that you limit yourself to 100-200 words. Of course, you are welcome to spend longer if this activity inspires you.



[Thurston Island, 2017, NASA](#)





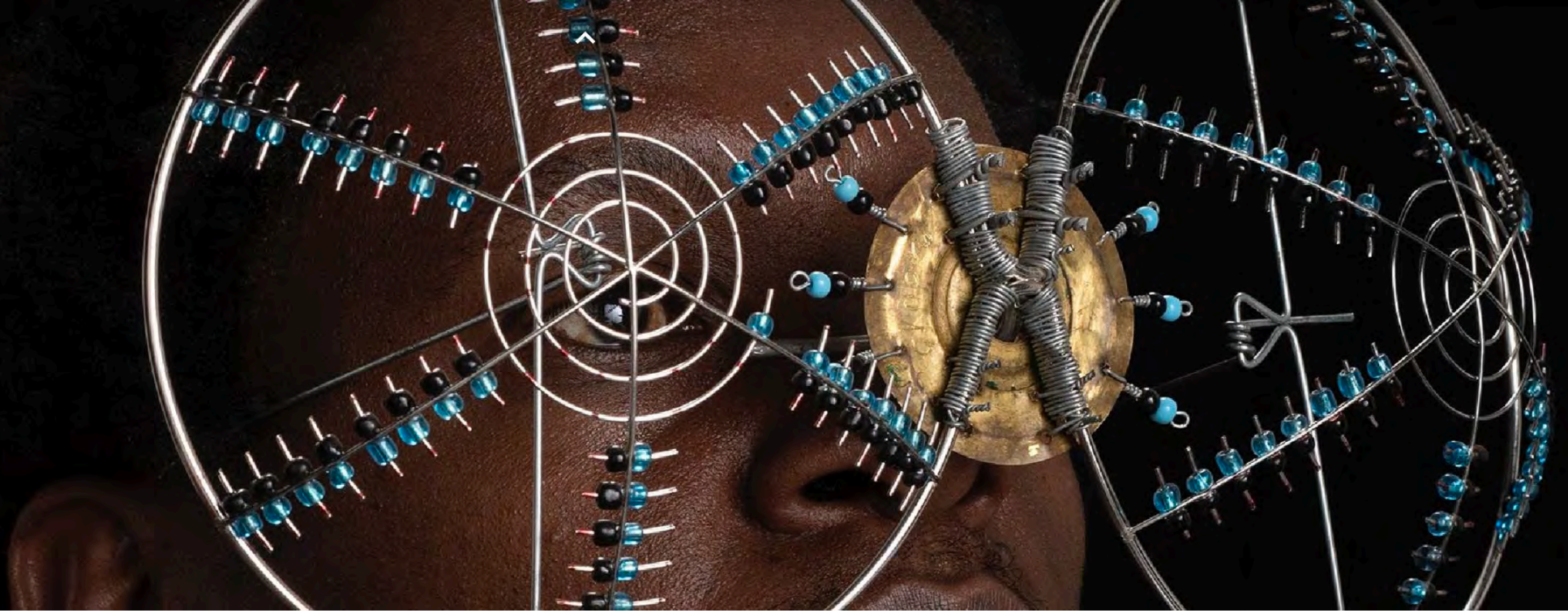
Climate change is having a huge impact on cultural heritage sites around the world.

Changes in global temperatures are causing more extreme weather events and contributing to the increase in frequency and severity of droughts, floods, and, wild fires. This can affect the structural stability of historic buildings and cause irreparable damage brought on by erosion and decay.

Click on the 'Explore' button to discover the iconic sites around the world being destroyed by a changing environment and how heritage professionals are working hard to adapt to the impacts caused by climate change.

[Explore](#)





Macho Nne Dutch Mask, 2019, Cyrus Kabiru, African Artists' Foundation

Artists and Climate Change



How is art helping to raise awareness about climate change? Can art create an emotional connection with the issue? Can art show the effects in a more accessible way? Discover some of the creative ways in which [artists are raising awareness of climate change](#).



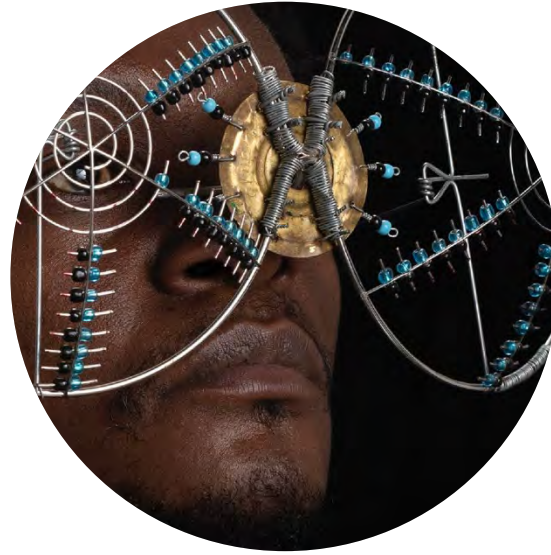
This chapter will take around 45 minutes.



[Cold Flux: Artwork Sample, Ben Cullen Williams, 2021.](#)

Cold Flux: Visualizing Ice Melt

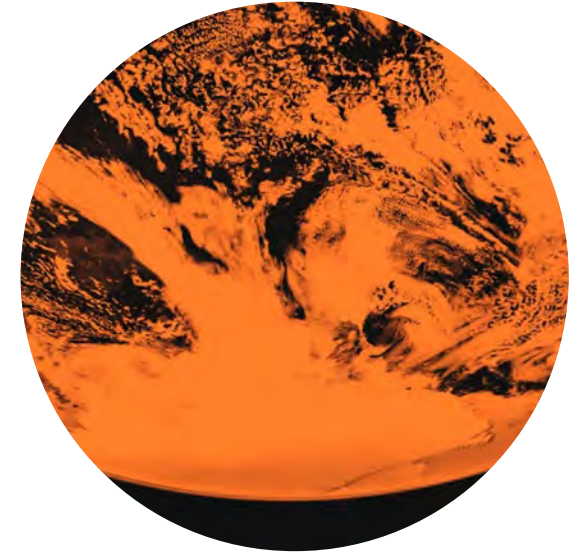
Learn how artist Ben Cullen Williams uses machine learning to highlight how our global ice caps are in peril.



[Macho Nne Dutch Mask, 2019, Cyrus Kabiru, African Artists' Foundation](#)

Giving Trash a Second Chance

Meet Cyrus Kabiru, the self-taught sculptor recycling discarded materials to create artworks.



[Heartbeat of the Earth hero image](#)

Heartbeat of the Earth

Discover Heartbeat of the Earth, a series of online artworks exploring the effects of climate change.



Cold Flux is a machine learning experiment which highlights how our global ice caps are in peril.

Click on 'Explore' to learn how artist Ben Cullen Williams uses artificial intelligence to question whether the melt is irreversible or if there is hope if we act now.

[Explore](#)



Cyrus Kabiru is a self-taught sculptor whose visionary practice reclaims trash and discarded electronics to create vibrant, future-oriented artworks.

Meet the artist giving trash a second chance and discover how art can help to make a real impact in times of crisis.

[Explore](#)



Discover Heartbeat of the Earth, a series of online artworks, created in collaboration between 10 artists, responding to and interpreting scientific climate data about rising sea levels, acidifying oceans, and more.

[Explore](#)



Activity 2

Climate Change Impact



You may need help from your parents or teacher with this activity



With global temperatures rising, what will we lose and what will remain?

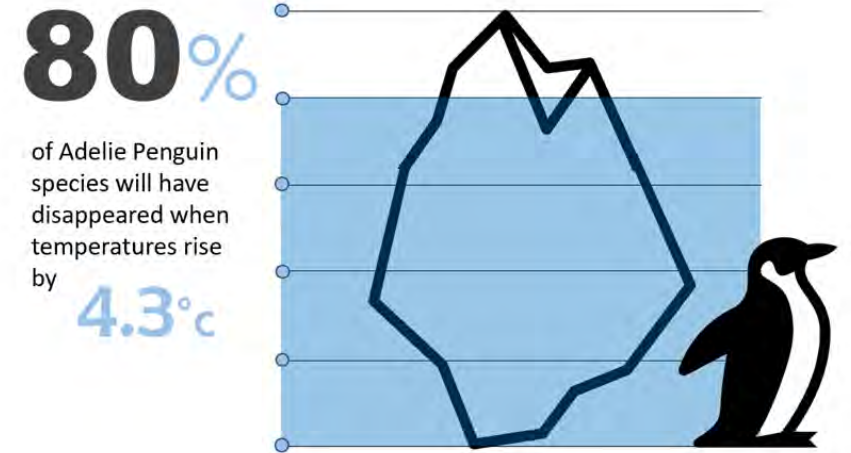


Click on this [link](#) to access the climate change impact filter Google Experiment. Read the instructions carefully then launch the experiment to explore how global rising temperatures impact the survival of different species and what this means for us and the planet.



Extra Challenge

Create a piece of artwork to share some of the results of your experiment. You could, for example, write a poem, compose a piece of music, record a video, or create an infographic. Share your finished artwork online or even as part of an exhibition in your school.





[Seaweed capsules filled with sauces and drinks, Notpla, Museum of Engineering Innovation](#)

Food and Sustainability

Discover the climate impact of what we eat and find out how technology can step in and help substitute heavy polluters such as plastics.



This chapter will take around 60 minutes.



[Soil - Jill Clapperton, Rhizoterra and Jill Clapperton, 2021, Soil Heroes](#)

What we eat

Discover how our food choices can have a positive or negative impact on the environment.



[Seaweed based plastic, Notpla, Museum of Engineering Innovation](#)

Biodegradable Plastic

Explore how pioneers are finding ways to make more sustainable plastics.



[Water and Soil, Jurgita Vas, 2021, Soil Heroes](#)

Maintaining Balance

Learn about the importance of soil and how it can help us in extreme weather events.



What we eat

How much of global greenhouse gas emissions come from food?

Approximately 35-37% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from food production. The carbon footprint of what we eat surpasses transportation (19%) and shelter (17%).

Animal-based foods produce roughly twice the emissions of plant-based ones with the biggest offender being Beef which produces around 60kg of greenhouse gas emissions per kg of food. Compare this to nuts which on average produce around 0.3kg of greenhouse gas emissions per kg of food. In fact, some climate researchers believe that switching to plant-based diets is the single most important thing an individual can do to impact climate change.

Changing your diet can make a big difference to your personal carbon footprint, from saving water to reducing pollution. Just a few small changes can have a huge impact on climate change.

Click on 'Explore' to find out how we can help to reduce our carbon footprint by making simple changes to our diet.



View [this story](#) which explores ways to conserve food at home rather than throw it away.



Read the descriptions and listen to the videos. Then write down 5 things you could do conserve food at home.



[Explore](#)



Activity 3

Thinking About What You Eat



You may need help from your parents or teacher with this activity



Click on this [link](#) to access the Google Experiment on what we eat.



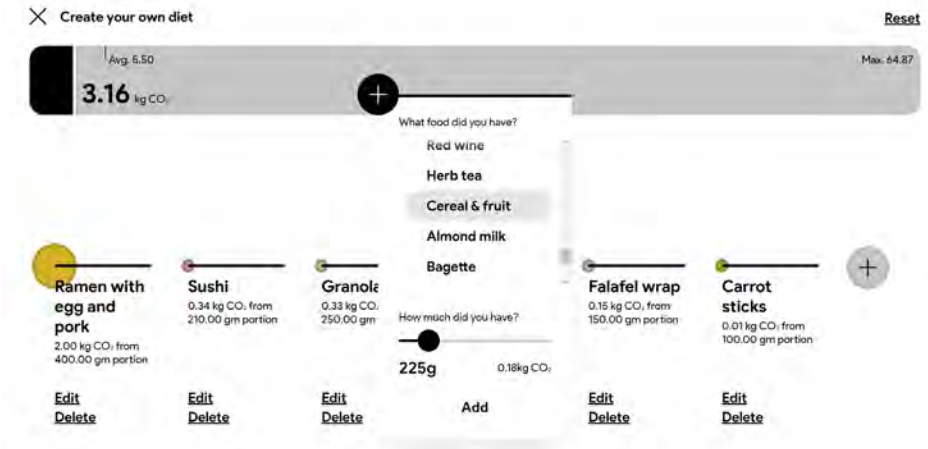
Watch the video which provides a background to this experiment. Read the instructions carefully. Then launch the experiment to create your own diet.



Extra Challenge

Take time to reflect on the results of your experiment and discuss with friends, family or classmates the different ways you could reduce your carbon footprint by making simple changes to your diet. When discussing the possibilities, consider:

- How will it impact your personal health, finances, etc.
- Aside from the environment, what other impacts could your changes possibly make?
- What's the smallest change that could make a big difference?



What We Eat, Google Arts & Culture



10 to 15-minute activity

Biodegradable Plastic

Making Packaging Disappear

Plastic waste, or plastic pollution, is a huge problem affecting our planet. Every year, millions of tons of plastic waste escapes into the oceans and plastics dumped in landfill can take several centuries to decompose. This can have an adverse affect on wildlife, habitats, and humans which is why tackling this problem is vital for the future of our planet and all its inhabitants.

There are many ways to make plastic more sustainable – from replacing petroleum-based products with more renewable materials such as plant-based materials, to reducing energy needed for manufacturing and creating materials that are compostable or otherwise biodegradable.

Click on the 'Explore' button to discover how one pioneering company is leading the way by using engineering to fight our plastics pollution problem.



Read [this story](#) about overconsumption and waste.



Why is plastic packaging harmful to our environment? In which areas of your lifestyle could you decide to make use of environmentally friendly packaging?



Explore

Edible bioplastic sachet to reduce single-use plastic, Notpla, Museum of Engineering Innovation





Water: Droughts, Floods, and Balance

Climate change is expected to result in more frequent heavy rainstorms and more frequent periods of drought. As floods and droughts become more common, farmers, scientists, and conservationists are looking for ways to combat the effects of our ever changing climate change. One solution to combating climate change starts with healthy soil.

Healthy soil is what underpins a healthy ecosystem and a healthy planet. Healthier soils can store more carbon and absorb more water which in-turn provides increased resilience to floods and droughts.

Click 'Explore' to learn about the importance of soil and how it can help us in extreme weather events such as flooding or drought.



[Explore](#)



[Fashion Revolution. Heather Knight, Global Fashion Agenda](#)

Fashion and Sustainability

How can fashion contribute to saving the planet? From reducing consumption to choosing innovative fabrics, the fashion industry can go from leading the crisis to leading the change. Find out more in this chapter.



This chapter will take around 30 minutes.

Fashion and Sustainability



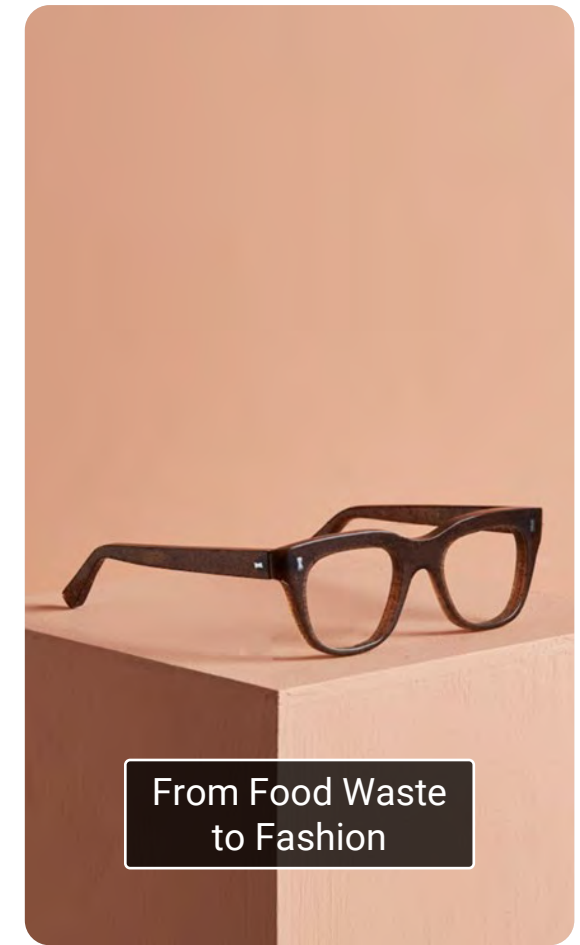
Colors of the Earth

[Bright reds and oranges dyed with madder.](#)
2017, Avani Society



Global Fashion Agenda

[\(re\)vision, \(re\)vision society, Global Fashion Agenda](#)



From Food Waste to Fashion

[Glasses made from potato bioplastics](#)
Chip[s] Board, Museum of Engineering Innovation



Discover the history of natural dyeing in India.

Consider what natural materials you can access to make natural dyes for your next activity.

[Explore](#)



Learn how the Global Fashion Agenda is working to make the fashion industry more sustainable.

[Explore](#)



Activity 4

Junk Kouture



Design your own clothes from everyday junk or recycled materials. You could design a top made of bottle caps or an outfit made entirely out of plastic bags - the only limit is your imagination!

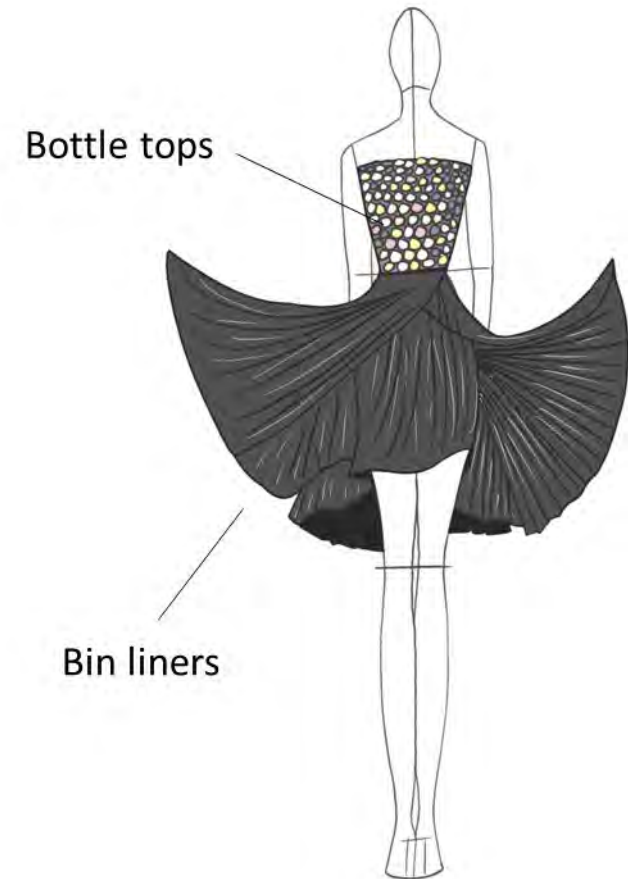
Sketch your ideas down on paper or use your favorite design package to create your junk-inspired garment. If you have the time and resources, you could even try to make your design.

Extra Challenge

Start a campaign in your school or club which encourages others to donate, sell or upcycle their unwanted clothing instead of sending them to landfill. For example, you could plan a fashion show or swap shop. Create some marketing for your campaign and gather some volunteers to help turn your idea into reality. [This](#) guide to organising a jumble sale is a good place to start.



You may need help from your parents or teacher with this activity





Discover how engineers are turning potato peel into sustainable bioplastics for the fashion and interior design industries.

[Explore](#)



Discover four easy ways consumers can support sustainable fashion.

Explore





Quiz

Fill in the Blanks

See if you can recall what you have learned from this lesson. How many questions can you answer without going back through the pages.

1. Which country can you find Bagerhat, where the ancient city of mosques are at risk from flooding?
2. Lucian Matis created a gown inspired by a recent oil spill in the East China Sea. This was part of a collaboration between a designer and artisans from Omba Arts Trust. Can you name the countries where these people came from?
3. Using recycled materials as a fabric source is a good method of improving sustainability in the fashion industry. Can you name at least two materials that can be recycled in this way?
4. The UN's Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 includes 3 aims. ecosystems that are still in good shape. degradation everywhere it occurs, degradation wherever possible. *(Fill in the blanks)*
5. In terms of gastronomy, what does the word Aquaponics mean?
6. How many species of sea turtles are considered endangered?
7. Cyrus Kabiru is an artist that uses reclaimed items to create vibrant, future-oriented artworks. What types of trash items does he use?
8. What is the name of the leading global forum on fashion sustainability founded in 2016 and based in Denmark?
9. Notpla is a plastic-like material that can naturally biodegrade in weeks. What is it made from?
10. The 'Cold Flux' machine learning experiment is training on footage of what ice shelf in Antarctica?



[arcade game: Computer Quiz Nutting Associates, 1968, The Strong National Museum of Play](#)





[Fadiouth Island Salted Millet Couscous, Slow Food, 2014, Slow Food Foundation for Biodiversity - Ark of Taste](#)

Want to Learn More?



Now you've completed this lesson you may want to continue to find out more about where culture meets climate, [this](#) is a good place to start. If you want to learn more about the Ark of Taste, a project that preserve food and agricultural diversity, click [here](#).

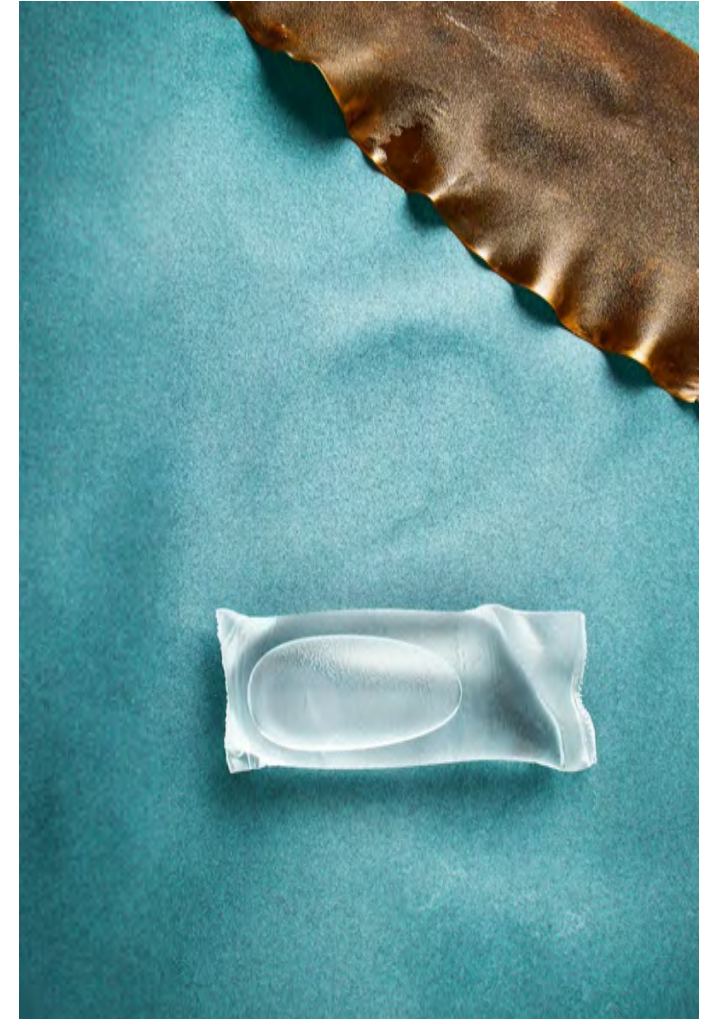


Quiz- Answers

End of Lesson Quiz

Here are the answers to the quiz. How did you do?

1. Bangladesh
2. Namibia, Canada
3. Polyester, cotton, wool, silk
4. PROTECT, HALT, REVERSE
5. Sustainable agriculture, and aquaculture - the breeding, raising and harvesting of seafood and aquatic plants
6. Seven
7. Electronics
8. Global Fashion Agenda
9. Brown Seaweed
10. Larsen-B



[Seaweed based plastic, Notpla, Museum of Engineering Innovation](#)