

Climate Emergency: SOS Shipping

Background

Children and young people across the world have been demanding that their voices be heard - and that those in positions of power take real action to tackle the climate emergency.

In London, from 7 May, representatives from almost all the world's countries are meeting to discuss whether one of the world's most polluting industries, global shipping, will cut its emissions before 2030. Some nations are keen to see urgent action, as they are already suffering climate change impacts. Other delegations are more interested in industry profits. Countries such as the US, Saudi Arabia and Brazil are expected to try and block climate action.

We need to open up these secretive, industry-dominated negotiations to the voices of those most affected by climate change, including younger generations. We're inviting children and young people to have their say in a simple visual way, writing messages on origami boats which will be delivered to over 1000 delegates from around the world.

Learning activity ideas for making origami boats for IMO delegates

The activities here assume that students already know the basics of fossil fuel burning contributing to climate change. There is a very simple introductory video for children [here](#) and some more resources on NASA's [Climate Kids](#) website.

With children and young people becoming ever more aware of the climate crisis, teachers may want to cover the issue in more detail first. You might find children's author Megan Herbert's [advice on how to talk to children about climate change](#) useful.

Pre-activity

Check labels on some of your clothes at home - where were they produced? Many of our clothes have come a long way, for example from Cambodia (over 8100km away) or Bangladesh (over 6700km away).

Most of the clothes we wear in this country come on ships.

Question to discuss: What else might be carried on ships?

E.g. food, computers, tablets and phones, toys

Building materials such as steel, and fuels like coal and oil are also carried on ships – in fact 90% of world trade is carried by sea.

There are over 50,000 ships carrying goods around the world, and many of them are huge - up to 400m long (about 4 football pitches)

[Here](#) are a few pictures of different types of ships that give an idea of the scale.

Question to discuss: What sort of environmental problems might the shipping industry cause?

(maybe prompt by thinking about environmental problems caused by cars in our cities)

E.g. air pollution, climate change, water pollution

Ships' engines burn oil which is much thicker and heavier than petrol which we use in cars.

Air pollution is a real health problem for people who live near ports, particularly in poorer countries, contributing to many thousands of deaths each year.

The shipping industry also has a big impact on climate change. If shipping were a country it would be the sixth greatest climate polluter.

What's happening at the IMO meeting in May 2019 and why is it important

(see sheet)

Possible additional discussion

As well as making ships cleaner and greener, an obvious topic which might come up is whether it's a good idea to be shipping so much around the world. We could fix things rather than buying new, and buy more of our food and goods closer to home. There are obvious benefits to this, but of course we cannot produce everything here (coffee and bananas for example).

Making boats

See sheet for details, and you can also check out the [video](#) explaining how to make a basic paper boat.

Send boats (to arrive by 3 May) to:

Campaign against Climate Change, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX

Do include your contact details (or email info@campaigncc.org) if you would like updates from the event.

Web resources urls:

Worksheet:

https://www.campaigncc.org/sites/data/files/sites/data/files/Docs/sos_shipping_activity_0.pdf

How to make a boat: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BM6G_QLxkCE

Pictures of ships:

https://www.campaigncc.org/sites/data/files/sites/data/files/Docs/shipping_pictures.pdf

Climate Kids (NASA): <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/menu/energy/>

Video for children – climate change message from Antarctica <https://youtu.be/931drXJDqT4>

How to talk to kids about climate change <https://blog.usejournal.com/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-climate-change-3465079793f1>

www.campaigncc.org/shipping_sos

