Erasmus+ project: Young Citizens of Europe – our future  
**Lesson Plan  
Will our Earth survive?**   
**Date**: 18 May 2016  
**School:** Koivusaaren koulu, Järvenpää  
**Teachers**: Gordana Maršić (teacher) and students Ana Ešegović,   
 Veronika Huber, Ivona Farago; OŠ Bartola Kašića, Vinkovci **Level**: pre-intermediate and above  
**Age:** 13-15  
**Topic:** environmental problems, climate change  
**Objectives:** to develop reading and speaking skills,to discuss environmental issues,  
 to deal with cause/effect relationship, to deal with problems and suggest  
 solutions  
**Key words:** environment, global warming, pollution, greenhouse effect, renewable,   
 non-renewable sources of energy  
**Activities:** reading, , speaking, listening, gap filling, writing   
**Outcomes:** Students will be able to understand important causes of environmental problems  
 and some solutions, explain why it is important to keep the environment  
 free of pollution  
**Materials needed/resources:** blackboard, chalk, computer, presentation with  
 photographs of clean and polluted nature, handouts for students, costume for   
 *Mother Earth*  
**Literature:** - Rob Nolasco WOW 2 , workbook, OUP  
 - Olinka Breka: Dip in 8, Školska k njiga  
 - Kristina Čajo Anđel, Ankica Knezović: New buillding bridges 8, Profil  
 - internet  
  
**Procedure**  
**1** 9 minutes   
Hello, my name is Ana. I come from Croatia. I will be your English teacher today.   
 My friends Veronika and Ivona will help me. We attend the 7th grade of primary   
schoool and we also learn German.  
the title of our Erasmus+ project is is „Young citizens of Europe – our future“. So, we   
will try to identify the worst problems of today's world and try to think of the solution.  
  
Global concerns in the 21st century  
Choose 3 worst problems the world faces today from the list   
 (or add your own ideas):  
- International terrorism  
- the refugee crisis  
-poverty and famine (hunger, economic situation)  
- climate change   
- natural disasters  
- pollution  
- overpopulation (the increasing global population)  
- dangerous diseases (infectious diseases, AIDS, ebola, ...)  
- wars (armed conflicts)   
- crime  
- nuclear weapons  
- drugs ( drug abuse)  
- new technology  
  
What did you choose?  
1.  
2.  
3.  
  
There have been many surveys and in all of them environmental problems worried   
about 50 % of people.   
Who or what causes environmental problems?  
Listen to Mother Earth carefully and try to write down the problems she will talk about:  
  
**Mother Earth ( a monologue):** 3 minutes  
(assistant shows photos of clean and polluted nature)

In the beginning, my children loved me. They truly did.They would laugh and play, calling me joyously to join them in their fun; never forgetting me, never forgetting I'm the only one

We were all so happy, so free.   
They asked for only what I could give them when they were young, and I asked for little in return. Perhaps, too little.

Then, as they grew older, they changed. They no longer seemed happy and began searching for more, wanting something else that I couldn't offer them. Nothing was good enough anymore. No longer did they cry out to me as they used to, wanting me to play their simple, gentle games.

It was almost as if I were being ignored.

Did I neglect them? Did I do something to make them turn away?

One dark night, they changed, they left the old ways behind. No more could I hold them and whisper lovingly into their ears. Those days were lost, never to be found again. I became a burden to them. I tried to change, I tried to give them what they wanted, but I guess I didn't understand. They no longer wanted what I had to offer them. They wanted more. So, they came back and took from within me, scarring me deeply, never letting my wounds heal.

But, with youthful blindness, they never saw my pain. They just kept taking and taking.  
I'm so weak, now...   
I have little more to give. But, still they hurt me.

I cry out in great sorrow, but I'm not heard!

I plead with my children...Please, stop all this pain!

Don't you love your mother anymore? Do you want to see her die?

I gave you, my children, a tree, you chopped it down.

I gave you a river, but you polluted it. I gave you the sky, but you blackened it with smoke from your never ceasing fires. Will nothing make you love me, again? I have given you the world, but you continue to destroy it.

Have you forgotten your Mother Earth?

What are the worst environmental problems?  
- pollution ( water is polluted by oil spills, industrial waste)  
- deforestation ( we cut down forests, they produce oxygen)  
- climate change ( floods, droughts, storms,...)  
- public health issues (diseases)  
- global warming (result of human activities, burning of fossil fuels, Global   
 warming leads to melting of polar ice caps,   
 sea level will rise)  
- loss of biodiversity ( animals and plants die out, we kill them, destroy their  
 natural habitat,...)  
- acid rains  
- hole in the ozone layer ( it protects us from sun's harmful rays)  
- overpopulation ( shortage of food, water)  
- waste disposal ( we produce too much waste, we should learn about   
 the 3 Rs: reduce, reuse, recycle,  
 we should separate the rubbish)  
- genetic engineering (genetically modified plants)  
Can we do anything to make the situation better?  
  
  
  
  
  
  
**2**  20 minutes  
  
Now, read the text carefully **Will our Earth survive?** Since life first appeared on the Earth four billion years ago, there have been tremendous changes. In the past people used to live in harmony with nature, they were taking from it only what they really needed.   
 Nowadays we need lots of energy every day. There are millions of factories and cars on our planet. They cause air pollution. Pollution is making temeratures on the Earth higher. We call this „the greenhouse effect“. It is caused by exhaust fumes, mostly carbon dioxide.The temeperature of the Earth has increased and the polar ice caps started melting, which will cause the rise of sea level all over the world. It is all caused by burning fossil fuels. They are non-renewable and we will run out of them some day.   
Scientists also connect global warming with the climate change and the growing number of natural disasters.   
 A rapidly increasing population is one of the causes of social and environmental problems. The population growth brings the problem of consumption. Rich countries produce lots of garbage, pollute the air, water and land. They also cut down forests, which are an important source of oxygen, for farming and housing and thus destroy natural habitats of numerous plant and animal species, which are in danger of becoming extinct.   
In some countries people starve and do not have enough clean drinking water.   
 But luckily, there are renewable sources of energy: biomass, geothermal energy, water, wind, solar energy and technologies are ready to be used. They won't pollute the Earth and will never run out.   
 Will our Earth survive?  
  
Now, I'll ask you some questions about the text:  
How are energy sources divided? (two groups: renewable and non-renewable)  
Which sources of energy are renewable? (biomass, geothermal energy, water,  
 wind, solar energy)  
Which sources of energy are non-renewable? (Fossil fuels – oil, coal, gas,...)  
Is nuclear energy renewable or not? Is it dangerous?  
Do we need all animal and plant species or not?   
Why are they important?  
Can we feed the whole population of the world? (distribute food evenly,...)   
Which part of the text do you agree with?  
Is there anything that you do not agree with?  
  
**3** 9 minutes  
We'll do some vocabulary exercises:   
  
Match the words in the two columns:  
solar habitat  
global dioxide  
greenhouse fumes  
natural of energy  
carbon warming  
exhaust effect  
fossil energy  
sources fuels  
  
  
Replace the definitions in the brackets with the words in the box that have the same meaning:  
***starvation, devastated, droughts, earthquakes, afford,   
diseases, carefree, shortages, famine, increase***1.Every day there are more and more floods, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(long periods of   
 *weather without rain*), hurricanes, tornadoes and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*violent*   
 *shaking of the earth's surface*) because of climate changes in the world.   
2. Millions of people die of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*eating almost nothing*) in Africa  
 because of poor weather conditions which cause food and water\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
 (*not enough*).  
3. New Orleans was particularly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*destroyed*) by hurricane  
 Katrina in 2005.  
4. A lot of people in Africa die of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*illnesses*) like AIDS because   
 they can't \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*be able to buy or pay for*) expensive drugs.   
5. Today it is difficult to feel \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*not worrying about anything*)  
 when we travel because of terrorism.  
6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*hunger*) is still a big problem in developing countries  
 and unfortunately, it will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*grow*) in the future.  
  
  
  
  
  
 **4**  4 minutes  
  
**Mahatma Gandhi said:   
„You must be the change you wish to see in the world“.**   
(it means that you must act if you want to change something and   
not wait for someone else to do something and save the planet)  
  
Can we do anything to make the situation better?  
What can we start doing right now?  
Write sentences starting with **I will.....** or **I will not...**  
  
Here are some suggestions (or you can use your own ideas):  
leave the tap running while brushing teeth  
turn off the light when I leave the room  
reuse an old plastic bag  
take my bag to the shop  
separate the rubbish  
throw plastic bottles  
walk more  
use my bike more often  
use biodegradable products  
use refillable pens  
join an environmental organisation  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Thank you for your attention and work. I hope that we will start changing our habits for the better.