

Annex 2: Change the Story.

Consequences Activity

This activity is not intended to prove cause and effect. It is designed to allow pupils to explore possible consequences of changes that have occurred in their local environment. It could also be used to explore the possible consequences of actions that the pupils think might help the environment.

This is best carried out as an activity for small groups of 3-6 pupils, though an initial example could be worked through by the whole class so that all understand the process.

Materials

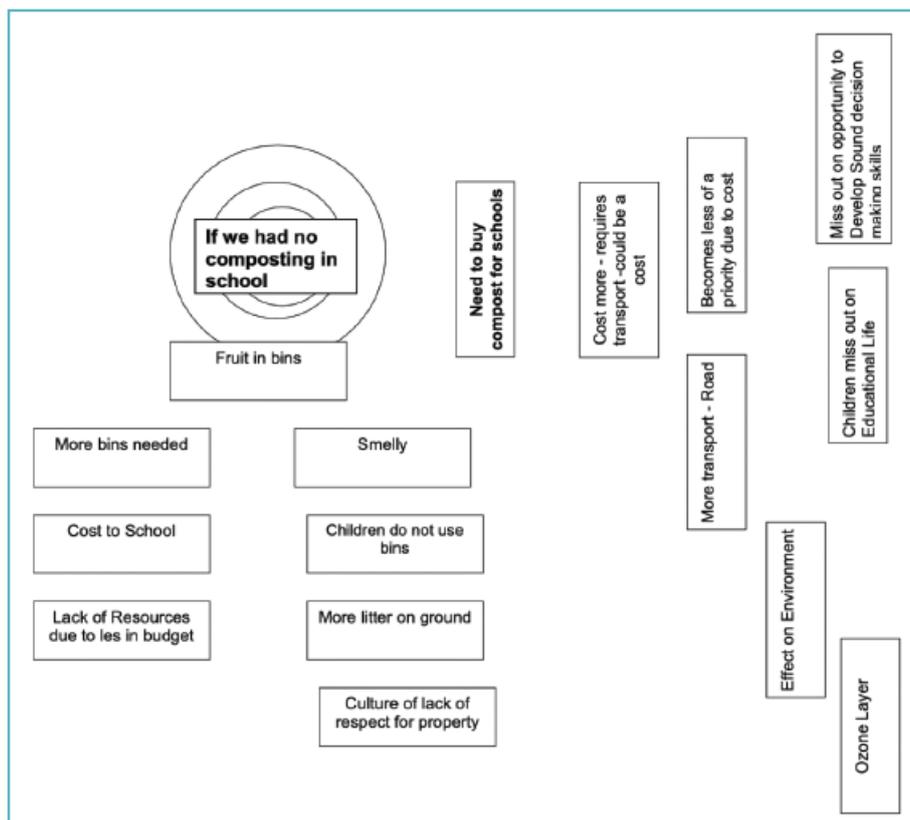
100+ small pieces of card (maybe 5cm x 7cm. You could use the reverse of out-of-date business cards, where an email address or phone number has changed).

Pencils or coloured felt pens.

Activity

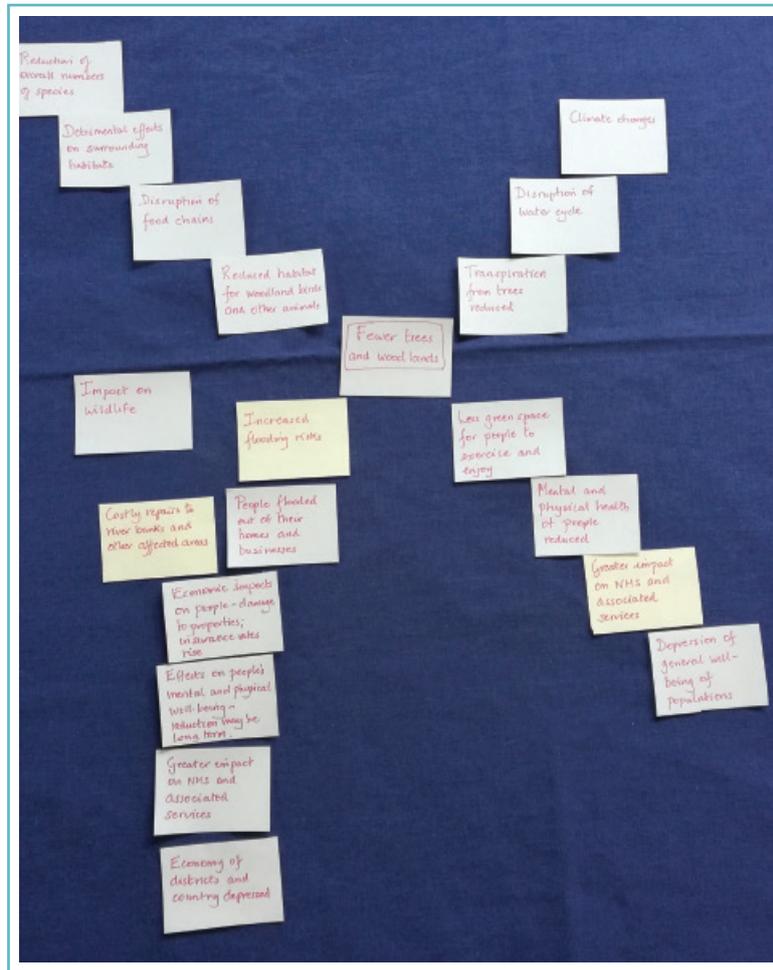
1. Start with one of the changes that have occurred in the local community or wider environment. Each group could explore a different change.
2. This change can be written on a small piece of card.
3. Then by discussion within the group, a direct consequence of this change might be identified and written on a card.
4. What in turn might this consequence lead to? Write it on a card.
5. There may be several different consequences so the chain of consequences can branch.
6. When a chain of consequences leads to a logical end, the group can return to the original change and think of other possible consequences. Each possible consequence could be pursued by a pair of pupils and the cards written and laid out in sequence.
7. Working in pairs or threes allows discussion, which is the main purpose of the exercise rather than proving a cause and effect. Although a degree of challenge and rigour is helpful, pupils should feel encouraged and supported rather than have their suggestions rejected.
8. At the end of the activity, if time permits, each consequence could be rated with a coloured dot e.g. Green = Very likely. Yellow = Possible. Red = possible but unlikely.
9. Make a record of the exercise by taking photographs of the cards laid out (see examples 1-3 below) or glue them in sequence on a large piece of paper.

1. Consequences activity – composting



Annex 2: Change the Story (continued).

2. Consequences activity – fewer trees and woodlands



3. Consequences activity – more cars

