

Plastics and our oceans - a toxic mix?

What is a Decision Making Exercise?

Decision making is an integral part of the enquiry process within Geography. It is part of a concept of Geography that views knowledge and understanding as fluid, partial, and selective. The process of decision making relies on the ability to effectively research a theme or topic, picking out evidence which supports or contradicts a particular viewpoint. Often, a range of options or strategies are offered so that a choice can be made as to which provides the best solution to a particular challenge or scenario. In practical terms, this involves background reading, group discussion, evidence gathering and persuasive presentation.

What skills will you need?

- a. The ability to work well in a team (interdependence)
- b. The ability to be resilient and creative in the face of a problem and to find a way to solve it
- c. The ability to research independently to gain a broad understanding of the issue
- d. The ability to analyse a range of resources to build a well-supported argument
- e. The ability to communicate your ideas passionately, clearly and succinctly to others

The evening itself...

- a. Upon arrival you will first get a presentation on the broad issue, how best to tackle decision making and then be presented with the options from which you have to pick
- b. You will then be provided with some additional resources and given an hour. In this time you will need to make a decision on the best way forward and to produce a supporting poster to help convey your argument
- c. Finally you will enter the presentation phase where you will make the most compelling argument you can to a rotating carousel of 3 judges. You will be judged on your argument and how well your poster presentation supports you. Your presentation to each judge lasts just a couple of minutes so you will need to be slick, concise and ensure you get to the point.
- d. Finally the scores will be totalled and the victorious team announced.
- e. Good luck!!

Geographical Context

Get the lowdown from Emily Penn on the global situation of plastic in our oceans

<http://www.emilypenn.co.uk/>

National Geographic recently published an entire issue around plastic in the oceans, see an extract here

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/06/plastic-planet-waste-pollution-trash-crisis/>

The journal *Nature* published this article in February 2018, all about how this contemporary issue impacts the governance of the oceans

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-03104-3>

Impacts of plastic in the oceans

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YFZS3Vh4lfI>

Have you ever thought about where your plastic ends up?

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/jun/29/if-you-drop-plastic-in-the-ocean-where-does-it-end-up>

Plastic Fantastic - Radio 4

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0b42z8k>