

# Global Warming Parachute Game

This activity demonstrates the effect of fossil fuel use on global warming and the finite nature of fossil fuels using a massively simplified system.

## Equipment required:

- Parachute
- Bucket / tub full of ball pool balls (could substitute blocks, Lego, counters, coins etc.) ~ approx. 3 or 4 per person
- Individual tubs (if using something spherical)
- List of questions - can use your own questions but you need to ensure you ask things that will apply to no more than a third of the class at a time (or the 'tent' collapses) and are activities that produce greenhouse gases

## How it works:

- Explain that global warming is the heating of the Earth's surface which is caused by a build-up of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. These gases stop the Sun's heat from escaping back out. One of the main sources of greenhouse gases is from the burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas to make electricity and heat. Fossil fuels will not last forever, although these are made naturally, we use them at a rate far higher than they are produced. E.g. it takes millions of years for the Earth to naturally produce oil and we are using it up in hundreds of years, the Earth cannot keep up with us.
- All the children go under the parachute and sit on the edge of it creating a 'tent' (it is important that they maintain the 'tent', or the heat produced will escape and defeat the object of the exercise)
- Read a question from the list, any child that it applies to runs in to the centre and takes a ball / block etc from the tub (these represent our use of fossil fuels) and brings it back to their space
- Continue until the tub in the centre is empty (the fossil fuels have run out)
- Ask the children to explain what has happened to the environment inside the parachute - it will have become warmer (as we use fossil fuels greenhouse gases are produced, creating global warming)
- Ask the children if they can think of any other impacts of global warming
- Ask the children to think of changes they could make to reduce their fossil fuel use

## Example questions:

- Who came to school in a car?
- Who has flown to America?
- Who has been to London on a train?
- Who watched Strictly Come dancing on Saturday?
- Who played on their Xbox for 2 hours yesterday?
- Who didn't finish their lunch?
- Who has the heating on at home instead of wearing a jumper?
- Who left the light on in their bedroom when they came to school today?
- Who didn't turn their tablet off last time they used it?
- Who played on their phone while they still had the TV on?