Conversations About Global Learning

Global Learning is geography about the world, like we have learnt about Chichen Itza in Mexico, India and reading maps.

Child aged 10, UK

Global Learning is about comparing differences and similarities around the world.

Child aged 10, UK

Global Learning is all about understanding us – Humans – as we live, here and now on this amazing planet. It's about the most important questions and issues affecting everyone, wherever they are. And it's about using knowledge and learning to build a better future.

Simon Reeve, Author and TV presenter, UK

It matters because if you would like to go somewhere that you do not know about, you would need to study their language and cultures.

Child aged 10, Italy

Global Learning is so that people in the world can learn every country in the atlas.

Child aged 13, China

Global Learning should focus more on sustainability and current affairs because these are things that we can change and do something about.

Child aged 10, UK

I can be very happy if our School Partnership would continue forever.

Child aged 8, Malawi

To me it means learning about our world and how we live.

Child aged 12, UK

I think that global learning is not only learning about different countries and cities. I think it also means learning the perspective of people in other places and learning about other people’s way of life.

Child aged 12, Cuba

We can learn from the school in Kanthenga because people in Malawi might do things differently.

Child aged 9, UK

It's useful to learn about other countries as no two countries are the same.

Child aged 12, UK

Global Learning is about learning about our world and how we live.

Child aged 12, UK

Global Learning is all about sustainability and current affairs because these are things that we can change and do something about.

Child aged 10, UK

Have your say...
Conversations about Global Learning

Most schools aim to prepare pupils for their future in a rapidly changing world, and many pupils and their parents agree that this should be an important part of the curriculum for all. Global learning helps put this aim into practice by helping pupils investigate some of the big themes of the 21st Century, such as poverty and development, interdependence, globalisation and sustainability. The Global Learning Programme (GLP) is designed to improve the teaching of global learning and embed it in the whole curriculum, so supporting school improvement and raising standards. The programme helps pupils gain additional knowledge about the developing world, the causes of poverty and what can be done to reduce it, as well as the skills to interpret that knowledge and make their own judgements.

The GLP aims to:

- enable pupils to learn about the key themes of the Global Learning Programme and develop critical thinking.
- show the quotes from the front of the poster (also available to download free as a PowerPoint presentation at http://www.geography.org.uk/projects/globallearningprogramme/resources/) and ask pupils which ones they most agree or disagree with.
- use the Global Learning Programme sustainable living resource kit to investigate human rights and development issues.
- hold a class discussion on how their initial views of global learning have changed.
- use websites (www.glp-e.org.uk) to investigate key themes within global learning further.

Knowledge and understanding of:

- developing countries, their economies, histories and human geography.
- the basic elements of globalisation.
- the different ways to achieve global poverty reduction and development.
- the concepts of interdependence and sustainability.

Theme: Sustainability

- What do we mean by ‘sustainable’?
- How do we feel about where we live?
- Why should we care?
- How and why are places, people and environments linked?
- What will happen in future? What kind of future would we or others like to see?

Theme: Poverty and development

- What do we mean by:
  - needs and wants?
  - fairness?
  - quality of life?
- How do we know how poverty is measured?
- What kinds of poverty are there and how do you measure it?

Theme: Globalisation

- What is trade?
- How does trade affect people’s lives and places around the world?
- What benefits and problems does trade bring?

Theme: Developing countries

- What do we mean by developing countries?
- How are we interdependent locally, internationally and globally?
- Where is this place? What might it be like to live there?
- How is it similar to or different from other places or environments, and why?
- How and why do places change?
- What do we mean by a ‘developing country’? How are they similar or different?

Theme: Enquiry and critical thinking

- Which questions do I need to ask?
- Which are most useful?
- How will I find out?
- What arguments could I use? Which are the best arguments?
- Where is this information from and is it reliable? What is fact and opinion?
- Who should have a say and why?
- What do I think? What do other people think? Do I need to change my thinking?

Theme: Interdependence

- How are we interdependent locally, internationally and globally?
- Where is this place? What might it be like to live there?
- How is it similar to or different from other places or environments, and why?
- How and why do places change?
- What do we mean by a ‘developing country’? How are they similar or different?

How do we feel about where we live? Photo © Paula Owens.

How can we look after this place? Photo © Paula Owens.

How can we think critically? Photo © shutterstock/KPG Payless.

What do we mean by ‘sustainable’? Photo © Gemma Kent.

How do we feel about where we live? Photo © Gemma Kent.

What benefits and problems does trade bring? Photo © shutterstock/epSos.de.

What do we mean by development? Photo © Gemma Kent.