



Saving Planet Earthly: Read Aloud

It's far from easy introducing young students to climate change... It's especially difficult to offer explanations that aren't overly pessimistic.

Pulling this off could be **crucial** though. That's because research suggests that 'doom and gloom' messages are poor at encouraging people to **alter** their behaviour in order to **reduce** their carbon footprints. Thankfully, ClimateScience's first children's book [Saving Planet Earthly](#) provides a **clear introduction** to the causes and consequences of climate change, as well as to the **solutions** at our disposal. The book even ends on an encouraging note that leaves readers feeling **inspired** and **empowered**.



In this activity, students take turns **reading** a page from the book so they can practise their reading, public speaking and note-taking skills.

Before you begin the activity, we encourage you to ask your students to think about how they would **define** climate change so you can establish a common working definition. For example, [NASA Climate kids](#) provides the following useful definitions:

“Climate change describes a change in the average conditions — such as temperature and rainfall — in a region over a long period of time. Global climate change refers to the average long-term changes over the entire Earth.”

We also recommend giving your students paper to take notes and telling them to keep their eyes peeled for key information about climate change. This information would help answer the following questions:

- What is it?
- What is causing it?
- What effects does it have?
- How can we slow it down or stop it altogether?
- Is it even possible to slow it down or stop it?

The class can take **notes** while working their way through the book. These should help them to answer the questions above and provide them with a **record** of any facts they've found particularly interesting. They can also draw up lists of new or confusing vocabulary items, and any questions they may have.



Teacher's Guide



Following any further discussion of the book's content, students' takeaways and any questions they may have, you might want to get each student to **write** their **favourite** fact, definition, solution, or personal initiative on a **sticky note** or small slip of paper. These can then be gathered together and displayed on a wall to prompt further discussions, ideas and questions in the future.

Once you've finished this, we also recommend checking out our **activity** about writing a letter to Thoko found under English Texts & Stories.

We welcome feedback and would be delighted to hear your thoughts on this activity. Feel free to send an email to schools@climatescience.org and we'll be sure to get back to you soon :)

