



## Climate Change and Art Activity

### OVERVIEW

Grades: 4-5 (ages 9-11)

Time: Approximately 45 minutes

This activity can accompany or support a climate change or environment primer (see Appendix A). The art activity will help the class visualize things that are important in the environment and why it is important for us, the land, and the animals.

#### Outline:

- Begin with a climate change primer to talk about the environment, climate, and weather.
- Introduce the activity.
- Brainstorm with the class.
- Complete the activity.
- Discuss the art the class created.

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### BRAINSTORM

Before beginning the art activity, have the class brainstorm things to draw that are related to climate change and the environment. Some ideas:

- Something that is important to the environment
- Something that is important to you (e.g., going camping on the land, having a clean playground)
- Your favourite Arctic animal
- A plant that you can find on the tundra
- Something you can do to protect the environment
- Something you like to do on the land
- Modes of transportation
- Humans
- Ice/ sea ice



## MATERIALS

- 8.5 x 11" pieces of paper for each student (regular or coloured)
- Markers, pencil crayons, or crayons
- Tape or glue
- 1 large piece of craft paper or a few pieces of Bristol board taped together

## ACTIVITY

1. Hand out materials – pencil crayons, markers, paper.
2. Have each student draw a picture of something that is important to the environment or climate change. If they need ideas, think back to the brainstorming activity.
3. Circulate, support, and listen as they explore ideas for their drawing.
4. Glue or tape the images all on one big piece of paper (such as Bristol board or a long sheet of Craft paper). Hang the paper in the classroom.

## DISCUSSION

Reflect on the art the group created.

- What did you draw and why did you draw it?
- Why is it important to the environment? What does it have to do with climate change?
- Which pictures do you like? Why?



## APPENDIX A

### **Climate Change Primer**

Note: This is included as a background reference. You may wish to supplement this information with additional resources, or topics (such as the Greenhouse Effect). Visit our website at [www.climatechangenunavut.ca/resources](http://www.climatechangenunavut.ca/resources) for additional climate change primers.

#### **Climate Change and the Environment**

- Who knows what the environment is?
    - o The environment is everything that is around you – all of the land, the plants, and the animals.
    - o What is something that you like about the environment? Or something that is important to you? Why is it important?
  - Weather
    - o Who is enjoying the weather today? What is it like outside today? The temperature, cloudiness, wind, and amount of rain or snow are all part of weather. Weather is a short-term thing. Maybe it will be sunny today but snowy tomorrow.
  - Climate
    - o What is climate? Climate is a bit different from weather. It is the weather over a long time, more than 30 years. So in Nunavut, we have an Arctic Tundra climate. This means that it is very dry and cold here, with lots of wind.
  - Who has heard about climate change before?
    - o Climate change is when the weather patterns, or climate, are different from normal.
  - Has anyone noticed any changes in the environment?
    - o So some changes that scientists and elders have been seeing include: changes in temperature (it might be warmer than usual), different weather patterns (like more storms or blizzards), or new plants and animals in the area.
    - o What else could happen if the climate or weather changes? It might be harder to do things like going hunting, fishing, or going camping in the summer.
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