



World AIMS Global Learning Lesson Plan

Subject: General/Geography/STEM	Topic : Natural Disasters	Time: 55-60 minutes
Context: The purpose of this activity is to encourage students to think about what they would do if their home was destroyed in a natural disaster. What would be the consequences of this? Both immediately and in the long term? This session works well as a one off activity or as part of a disaster day workshop. Please ensure that students are suitably dressed for this activity as it can get muddy and wet. Ideally the shelters should be erected in an outdoor location.		
Learning Objectives: To develop empathy and understanding To develop team work and time management skills To explore some of the consequences of a natural disaster		
Setting the scene: Explain to the students that during a like a Tsunami or Typhoon, one of the biggest issues is providing people with safe shelter after the disaster. The students will be given thirty minutes to work as a team to create a shelter big enough for the entire group to 'live' in after the disaster. They need to think about designing a shelter that will withstand any further bad weather etc. Can students think of areas of the world where people have recently been forced into such situations?	Time 10 minutes	
Activity 1: Students will need to allow time to plan the shelter. Where will they build it? How it stand? How will it be supported? Allow students thirty minutes to build their shelters. Make it clear that they must complete the shelter in this time. Everybody in the team needs to participate in the building and work on different aspects of the shelter design.	30 minutes	
Activity 2: Testing of the shelter. Can the shelter stand freely on its own? Can everybody comfortably get into the shelter and not just stand but sit/lie? Is the shelter waterproof? Testing this is always fun!	10 minutes	
Plenary: Assess the shelters. Ask the students to peer assess. What worked well? How could shelters have been improved? How long would the students realistically want to live in the shelter they have created?	5 minutes	
Follow Up: Although this is a very fun activity, students should be encouraged to look at the real life dilemma of those caught up in real life disasters. Look at the infrastructure of the original buildings-does that explain why their homes might have been destroyed? How could this be prevented in the future? As a follow on from this, why not use the 'Assessing Disaster Risk' resource from World AIMS to deepen students' understanding of how the impact of disasters can be lessened through risk reduction.		
Resources Anything and everything could be useful here. Large plastic sheeting, black bin liners, bamboo canes, bits of wood, cable ties, cardboard. A good tip here is to ask the school to collect bits in the weeks leading up to the lesson. Very often staff and students will be able to bring bits in from home.		

