Living together with Nature, Niassa Reserve, Mozambique

5th & 6th Class and P7 Pupils

Duration: 45 minutes with optional activities for class or homework.

Summary:

This lesson is based on the Yao Crochet Project in Mozambique, linked to the Niassa reserve. This project supports gender equality, sustainability, peace and justice and life on land.

As part of their work in this lesson, and afterwards, we would encourage pupils to prepare an Our World Awards entry that demonstrates how their actions can link to the work of Irish Aid and the SDGs. For ideas, visit http://www.ourworldawards.ie/take-part

Lesson Format:

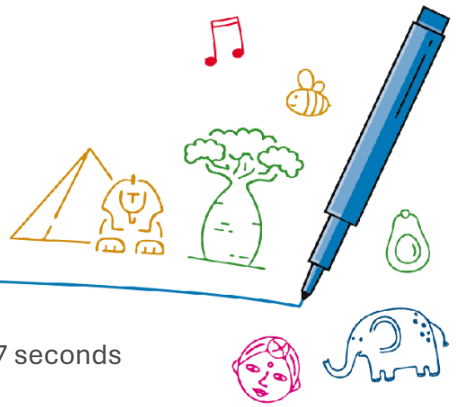
1. PowerPoint: Get to know Mozambique
2. Powerpoint: Get to know the Yao people & the Niassa Reserve
3. PowerPoint: Explore local actions including the Yao Crochet Project
4. Powerpoint: Linking the Yao Crochet project to projects supporting creativity in Ireland.

5. Optional Activities: You can select activities as relevant to your class and time available.
    1. Design and make a sustainable village.
    2. Learn to craft.
    3. Researching famous Mozambicans
    4. Explore Women in leadership around the world.
    5. Niassa reserve comparison with parks in Europe

Elements of this material may not be accessible to all pupils and may require slight adjustments to meet the needs and learning styles of pupils in your class.

Supporting Resources:

+ PowerPoint Slides for Pupils
+ Videos:
    - Introduction to Paula Ferro and Niassa Reserve 1 minute 45 seconds
    - Meet the Yao People: 1 minute 45 seconds
    - Irish Aid supports: 1 minute 26 seconds



- The Yao Crochet Project and Madala the Elephant 1 minute 37 seconds

+ Included in this document:
  + Instructions for all activities
  + Further Information for Teachers (including key definitions)
  + Links to research and other websites

Learning Intentions:

Pupils will be enabled to:

+ Understand the importance of gender equality and quality education.
+ Explore issues of conflict between humans and animals
+ Understand the importance of protecting and conserving the natural environment and its flora and fauna.
+ Make connections between this project and projects in their local communities.
+ Explore how creativity can be used to raise awareness of climate justice and sustainability
+ Evaluate the sustainability of local and community projects and see how they can become involved.

Curriculum Links Republic of Ireland:

Links will vary based on the activities you choose to complete.

+ **Primary Language Curriculum** - Oral Language, Reading, Writing
+ **SPHE** - Myself and the wider world - Developing citizenship - National, European and wider communities
+ **SEE**
  + **Geography** – Human environments - People and other lands
  + **Geography** – Natural environments - Weather, climate, and atmosphere
  + **Science** - Living things - Plants and animals
  + **History** - Story - Stories from the lives of people in the past
+ **The Arts** - Visual arts

Curriculum Links Northern Ireland:

Links will vary based on the activities you choose to complete.

+ **Language & Literacy –** Talking and Listening; Reading; Writing
+ **Personal Development and Mutual Understanding**
  - Strand 2: Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community
    - Relationships in the Community
    - Relationships in the Wider World
+ **The World Around Us**
  + Geography, History and Science
    - Interdependence; Place; Movement and Energy; Change over time;
+ **The Arts** – Art and Design; Drama; Music

Step by Step Activity Instructions

Suggested Activities - 1

Pupils explore sustainability, creativity and Mozambican culture through three optional hands-on and research activities inspired by Paula Ferro's work.

1. Build a sustainable community: Ask pupils to design and create a model of a sustainable town or village using recycled materials.
2. Get creative with crochet: Introduce pupils to basic knitting or crochet techniques and encourage them to create a simple handmade toy.
3. Explore Mozambique: Invite pupils to research a famous Mozambican person and discover how they have contributed to their society.
4. Share and reflect: Encourage pupils to present their creations or research and discuss what they have learned.

Learning Outcome: Pupils develop creativity, research skills and an understanding of sustainability and cultural contributions.

Suggested activities 2

Pupils explore leadership, conservation and the importance of working together to create positive change through research, debate and group discussion.

1. Explore women in leadership: Ask pupils to research a female leader from the EU or another country, focusing on her achievements, challenges and leadership qualities.
2. Compare conservation efforts: Pupils compare Mozambique's Niassa Reserve with a European national park, exploring size, wildlife, conservation efforts and successes.
3. Class debate: Discuss the statement: "Individual action is more important than collaboration." Encourage pupils to consider both perspectives.
4. Group reflection: In groups of four, pupils discuss the saying "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together" and how it applies to their class, school and community.

Learning Outcome: Pupils develop research, critical thinking and communication skills while exploring leadership, environmental conservation and the value of teamwork.

Further Information for Teachers:

The focus of this project is on the Yao people's collaboration with Irish Aid, artists and sculptors, using creativity to raise awareness to highlight issues of sustainability and climate justice.

This project is an example of Irish Aid working in collaboration with international organisations and local communities to provide vulnerable communities with the skills and training to move out of chronic and extreme poverty.

The project combines the wisdom and skills of the Yao people, with training, to enable them to earn an income and live more sustainably. The project encourages the maintenance and preservation of old traditions such as foraging for wild honey.

This is an example of Irish Aid working in collaboration with international organisations and local communities to provide vulnerable communities with the skills and training to move out of chronic and extreme poverty.

Yao people live in Tanzania, Malawi and Mozambique.

Glossary:

Niassa Reserve: A large, protected area in Mozambique that is home to many animals and plants. It's a place where animals are safe, but there can also be conflicts with nearby farmers.

Yao People: A group of people who live in Mozambique, Malawi, and Tanzania. They have special traditions and skills, including farming and crafting.

Yao Crochet Project: A project that teaches Yao women and men to crochet animals to earn money. It also helps protect animals in the Niassa Reserve.

Conservation: The act of protecting nature, like animals and plants, to keep them safe for the future.

Sustainability: Using resources in a way that protects the environment so that future generations can also have what they need.

Climate Justice: The idea that everyone deserves a safe, healthy environment. Climate justice means helping people and places most affected by climate change.

Biodiversity: The variety of all living things in one area. For example, the Niassa Reserve has a lot of biodiversity with many different plants and animals.

Pollinator: An animal, like a bee, that helps plants grow by spreading pollen. Pollinators are important for food crops and wildflowers.

Reforestation: Planting trees to replace forests that have been cut down. It helps restore natural habitats for animals and protects the land from erosion.

Ecosystem: A community of living things, like animals, plants, and their environment. The Niassa Reserve is an ecosystem that needs to be kept in balance.

Poaching: The illegal hunting of animals. Poaching is a threat to animals in places like the Niassa Reserve.

Tradition: A way of doing something that is passed down through generations, like the Yao people's skill in making things by hand.

Links:

Book: Ariki and the Island of Wonders by Nicola Davies

Book: The Leopard's Tale by N. Davies and A. Wright

Information: Children and Young People's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss: https://cyp-biodiversity.ie/

Video: Goal 15 Life on Land: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/category/life-on-land/

Information: UNESCO-Education for Sustainable Development Goals-Learning Objectives: https://www.unesco.de/sites/default/files/2018-08/unesco_for_sustainable_development_goals.pdf

Information: Extinction: The facts presented by Sir David Attenborough: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000mn4n

Game: The United Nations on conservation: https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/play-game-level-1-3

Video: Conservation and protection of natural resources: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CsKjqS1R1I