



IO1 – Climate Change
Awareness
Compendium of
Comedy and
Learning
Lesson Plan



FARCE!

Using Satire and Comedy to Promote
Climate Change Awareness



Introduction to the Lesson Plan

The aim of this lesson plan is to support you, as a community and adult educator, to deliver a session using the FARCE Climate Change Awareness – Compendium of Comedy and Learning resources, with adult learners in your group. Through this lesson plan, we will provide you with some sample activities that you can use to deliver one of the Comedy Resources from this Compendium in a group-work setting. When preparing to deliver these activities in your group, it is important that you are prepared to use the Comedy for Climate Change resources. For this, we recommend that you complete the relevant modules from our FARCE In-service Training Programme, before delivering these activities in your practice.

Introduction to the Climate Change topic

Every living organism on earth depends on the health of the tree population. Trees provide homes for many plants and animals, materials for buildings, firewood, and much more. They are also responsible for giving us oxygen, storing carbon, and filtering the water we drink.

There are estimated to be around 3.04 trillion trees on Earth, meaning that there are approximately 422 trees for every person on Earth. That seems like a significant amount, right? It is also important to note that 15 billion trees are cut down each year due to deforestation, which has contributed to climate change, and caused soil erosion, flooding, loss of biodiversity, and increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. There are many reasons why deforestation occurs, such as clearing land for agricultural purposes, wood harvesting, road building, and urbanisation, and the rate at which the earth's forests are being destroyed are increasing year by year.

The Amazon rainforest, the Earth's most important ecosystem, contains 20 percent of the world's flowing fresh water, and it contains a third of all known plant, insect, and animal species on the planet. This rainforest is often called the lungs of the planet, because it plays a significant role in absorbing carbon dioxide, and providing us with clean air to breathe.

Unfortunately, humans have not been as kind as this precious rainforest as it has been to us, and the Amazon is in danger of disappearing completely. Half of the Earth's rainforests have already disappeared due to deforestation and climate change, massive areas of the Amazon are destroyed every year from deforestation and forest fires, and it is reaching a dangerous





tipping point, meaning that if 25% of the tree population is removed, the rainforest will be at the point of no return, and over time will become scrubland.

There is a way that the devastating effects of deforestation can be addressed, and this is forest restoration, achieved by planting new trees, improving soil, and protecting wildlife. It is important to do research on forest restoration projects all over the world, and research petitions calling for forest restoration projects, and supporting these projects. Another way to protect our trees and forests is to implement more eco-friendly habits in your life to address climate change, as global warming has caused numerous forest fires that have devastated ecosystems all over the world.

Getting to know the Resources

In this section, we will provide you with a brief introduction to the Comedy Resource that you will use in when delivering this lesson plan in a group of adult learners.

What is covered in the Comedy Resource?

This comedy resource is a satirical song on the topic of climate change. It addresses the issue of deforestation, and how humans have become so out of touch with nature, and treasure parking spaces more than we do trees. This song is a mockery of modern society, and highlights how we treasure parking spaces for our “massive SUV’s” over these woody plants that play an extremely important part in our health, and the health of the planet. The name of the song is “Nothing Uglier Than a Tree”, and we chose the format of a song, as music is present in everyone’s lives, and it can provide entertainment, while also exposing the errors of society in relation to the climate crisis.

Applying this Comedy Resource

In an educational setting, learners will be played this satirical song, and will also be provided with lyric sheets to further analyse the content of the song.





Lesson Plan

Title of Session:		Satirical Song – Nothing Uglier Than a Tree
Duration		Resources Required:
This lesson plan will take 60 minutes to deliver	To deliver this lesson plan, you will require the following resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Nothing Uglier Than a Tree” comedy resource • Speakers • Internet connection • Pen 	
Learning Outcomes		
<p>On successful completion of this lesson, learners will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the practice of deforestation • Identify the pros and cons of deforestation • Appreciate a satirical approach to climate change education 		
Workshop Opening		
Duration	Description of Activity	Links to Support Materials
10 minutes	<p>The facilitator will play the satirical song “Nothing Uglier Than a Tree” for learners, and will then ask learners the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Did you enjoy this resource? - What climate change topic was addressed in this song? - Satire is used to criticise and to expose errors in society. What or who is being criticised in this song? 	





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there many trees in your town or city? - Do you think that deforestation is an important issue? - How did you feel after listening to the song? Were you left with a sense of uneasiness about climate change, or was it just simply a funny, entertaining song? 	
Group Activity 1		
Duration	Description of Activity	Links to Support Materials
20 minutes	<p>The facilitator will explain that the song addresses the issue of deforestation, and that the song is a mockery of how modern society is so out of touch with nature, that we worry more about finding parking places for our cars, rather than protecting our natural resources.</p> <p>The facilitator will then split learners into small groups of 3-4 people to conduct research on the topic of deforestation. Learners will write answers to the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are the causes of deforestation? - What is the connection between deforestation and climate change? - The production of which foods cause deforestation? - How does urbanisation contribute to deforestation? - How can we help save our forests and stop deforestation? 	<p>https://youmatter.world/en/definition/definitions-what-is-definition-deforestation-causes-effects/</p> <p>https://www.wwf.org.uk/food/deforestation-and-food-your-questions-answered</p> <p>https://wwf.panda.org/discover/our-focus/forests-practice/deforestation-causes2/</p>
Group Activity 2		
Duration	Description of Activity	Links to Support Materials
20 minutes	Learners will be instructed to participate in a debate about deforestation, and the facilitator will randomly assign each learner to two different groups. One group has to argue in	https://www.sfu.ca/cmns/13Od1/HOWTODEBATE.htm





	<p>agreement with the statement, and the other group has to argue against the statement. The statement is as follows:</p> <p><i>There are more pros than cons of deforestation, therefore, it should not be banned</i></p> <p>Before the debate begins, each group will compile their For and Against arguments to better prepare for the debate, and then the facilitator will follow the following steps to successfully facilitate this debate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instruct one speaker on the affirmative side to present arguments in support of the statement. • Instruct one speaker on the opposing side to present arguments opposing the statement. • Instruct one speaker on the affirmative team to present further arguments and address questions raised by opposition speaker. • Instruct one speaker on the opposing side to present further arguments against the statement and address questions raised by affirmative speaker. • Continue structure until all speakers have spoken. • Instruct each learner to provide a closing argument, and end the debate. 	
Workshop Close		
Duration	Description of Activity	Links to Evaluation Survey
10 minutes	Ask learners to evaluate the lesson by completing an evaluation survey.	https://forms.gle/ReBnwihb1EET9msz7





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CREATIVE EXCHANGE



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