



Year 1 UOI Science: Living Things and Their Habitats

(Submitted by Ellis Foster, 2017, while serving as Year 1 teacher at Australian Independent School Indonesia)

Tool(s) used:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability Compass
Purpose of using tool:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating Questions • Guiding Discussion <p>Overview:</p> <p>We used the Sustainability Compass to discuss what the children think about the zoo that we visited by linking them to Wellbeing, Economy, Society and Nature. The activity was aimed to get the students understand deeper in regards to their involvement to the living things around them and their habitats. The children were given the opportunity to see different aspects in life (Economy, Wellbeing, Society and Nature) by giving examples and sharing ideas that they are familiar with. It made the children aware that what human do to the environment affect themselves and living things and their habitats in the future.</p>
Context of lesson/case study:	Unit of Inquiry - Science
Participants (# and description):	Year 1 students
Topic, Theme, or Key Understanding of unit/project:	Living Things and Their Habitats
Length of unit/project:	One term - 10 weeks
Resources/materials & setting required:	Photographs, books, online research
<p>Lesson Plan/Description of the Project:</p> <p>Prior to this lesson, the children were made familiar with the terms Economy, Wellbeing, Society and Nature by brainstorming what the children think the meaning of the words were. They worked in groups of 4 and their answers were recorded on the Sustainability Compass chart. They were given 15 minutes to complete the task. Then the whole class shared and discussed their answers as well as given the definition by the teacher. Once they get familiar with the terms and their definition, it was easier for the children to link their understanding to various topics when working using the tools again.</p> <p>The children were divided into groups of three or four and asked to discuss about their trip to the zoo by reviewing the animals' enclosure they visited. They used the Sustainability Compass to see their views of the topic and wrote down their ideas on the sheet provided by elaborating the sections to represent Economy, Wellbeing, Society and Nature. They also discussed how the animals needs were met etc and at the end they were lead to plan making a diorama project to show one particular habitat that the student think covered all of the animals' needs.</p>	
<p>Reflection</p> <p>Plusses:</p> <p>It was great to see the children were able to see further by linking their ideas to the Sustainability Compass.</p>	





This practice of using the Sustainability Compass in learning strengthens children's understanding of different aspect in learning and how it relates to many things. Children become more aware of relationships of one topic to another. Children became more confident in sharing ideas or opinions. They were able to share concerns, answers and ask questions about various things. It was challenging for the EAL (English as an Additional Language) students to understand the full concept but with language support, they were able to add drawings to elaborate what they wanted to share.

Challenges:

It was challenging for the EAL (English as an Additional Language) students to understand the full concept but with language support, they were able to add drawings to elaborate what they wanted to share. The EAL children were grouped together with the mainstream class so they are given the examples of sharing ideas, working cooperatively and taking turns. The EAL children were also given experience in their EAL class to review the activity as they feel more confident sharing ideas in a small group rather than in a whole class group.

Suggestions for other practitioners and educators:

It was a great opportunity to apply the tools. I'd like to try other tools as well next time in different topics or other subjects. I think it is best to share lessons, photos etc. so we can share what worked and what went well.

Evidence and Resources:



COMPASS EDUCATION

Empower & Connect Learning Communities to Educate & Act for Sustainable Future
www.compasseducation.org