

## Painting the school green

by Jackie McAvoy

**Level:** Pre-intermediate and above

**Target age:** Teenage and above

**Time needed:** 50 minutes plus recording time

**Aim:** For students to produce a short video / audio of an eco-project for their language school

**Materials:** Digital camera or mobile phone / mp3 recorder (e.g. iPod)

### Lead in to the topic

1. It would be nice if this lesson followed on from another one on the environment so that students are familiar with some of the vocabulary of the topics already. This may be a lesson from your course book or one from onestopenglish. Type *environment* into the onestopenglish site search or use the links on the web page for this lesson.

2. Put students into small groups of four. Write *Environment* on the board and ask them in their groups to come up with as many words or phrases connected to this subject as possible. Give the students a good 10 minutes to do this. You may consider giving this task for homework so that they arrive to the class with a long list already.

3. Halve each group so that everyone is now working in pairs. Give each pair a copy of the worksheet and ask them to solve the anagrams in part 1.

*Answers: Water, Energy, Waste, School Grounds, Food*

4. Ask students to look at their list and to decide which topic it could best be linked to. Do a couple of examples: *recycling* could be linked to both water and waste. *Biodiversity* (the different kinds of animals and plants which make a balanced environment – give this word if they don't have it) could be linked to *School Grounds*. With any luck a student will ask what *School Grounds* has got to do with the environment. Tell them it's a good question and you'll explain once they have linked their words to the topics. Get pairs to compare their ideas so that everyone has a good range of vocabulary for each topic.

### The task

1. Now tell students that they are going to come up with a fun, eco-friendly project to:

- help make their language school a more pleasant

place to be, and;

- reduce its impact on the environment.

They do this by choosing just *one* of the topics and concentrating on that. Students work in pairs and come up with ideas (in note form) on part 2 of the worksheet. Encourage students to be as imaginative as possible. You will need to monitor a lot here. If, for example, students decide that all disposable plastic (cups, bags, etc.) is to be banned from the school, they also have to think of alternative options. Does everyone bring their own cup to school? Get students to consider what's appropriate for their country too – is it windy enough to have a turbine? Is it sunny enough for solar panels? Having said that, it should be fun! Try to make sure they're using some of the appropriate vocabulary too.

2. Once they have some ideas, regroup the students back into fours and get them to tell each other their projects. Students should listen, ask questions and make comments and see if their projects can be improved.

### Preparing to record

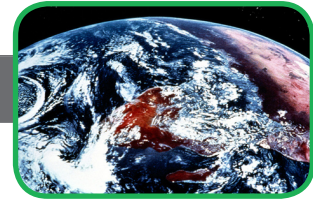
1. Once students are happy with their eco-projects tell them they are now going to be recorded presenting their project. This can either be filmed as a video, or just an audio. If students have drawings, pictures or photos that illustrate their ideas, these can be included.

2. When talking, students should ideally aim for one minute. It can be longer of course but a shorter presentation is more interesting than a longer one to listen to. See the worksheet *Top tips on recording*.

3. After the presentations have been recorded the videos can be uploaded to YouTube or Google Video. They can then be watched by all the students in another lesson. The videos can also be watched by other students around the world! Remember to put *Onestopenglish* in the title of the video, for example: *Onestopenglish Eco-project for \_\_\_\_ School*.

4. Audio recordings can also be listened to by all the students in another lesson. If your school has a website, perhaps you can upload the recordings there so that other students can listen to the presentations too.

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Worksheet

Part 1

Solve these anagrams:

taWre \_\_\_\_\_

gryEen \_\_\_\_\_

seatW \_\_\_\_\_

Shocol rosGund \_\_\_\_\_

odFo \_\_\_\_\_

Part 2

Plan your ideas for an eco-project.