



He Huringa i Ahau?

Can I Make a Difference?

Teaching Resource

Lesson 1 of 6

Year: 4-8

Class time: 45 mins

Prep time: 5 mins

What teachers need to know

This is Lesson 1 from a series of six lessons about connecting with our environment and people. See [Te Hono Atu – Overview](#).

The purpose of this lesson is to introduce the topic, find out about climate change, and discover that we can all make a positive difference to our natural environment.

Teacher preparation:

- Read through this resource.
- Print copies of [The Starfish Story \(Ko te Pakipoto Pātangaroa\)](#) for each ākonga/pairs or display it on the board.

 5 mins

Learning intentions – students will:

- Understand that people can affect their natural environment in positive ways.

Success criteria – students can:

- Express ways they could make a positive difference to their natural environment.



New Zealand Curriculum Achievement Objectives:

Social Sciences and Social Studies – from the New Zealand Curriculum:

Level 2 – Students will:

- Understand how people make choices to meet their needs and wants.
- Understand how places influence people and people influence places.

Level 3 – Students will:

- Understand how people make decisions about access to and use of resources.

Level 4 – Students will:

- Understand how people participate individually and collectively in response to community challenges.

Education for sustainability concepts:

- Sustainability
- Participation for change.
- See [Education for sustainability](#).

Learning experience

🕒 45 mins

1. Introduce your topic to the class (whatever your larger context is, eg, [Walking School Bus](#), [Park and Stride](#), [Movin'March](#)).
2. Explain the concept of citizenship, and citizenship muscles. We can exercise our [citizenship muscles](#) ([see meaning in Overview](#)) to make a difference in some of the issues that affect both our community and our planet. Explain that our global focus is climate change, and our local focus is improving our community [mauri](#).
3. Discuss the quote: "In a gentle way, you can shake the world" – Mahatma Gandhi.
4. Read [The Starfish Story – Making A Difference One Starfish At A Time](#) ([Kia hua mai he kōnekenene - mā te kōtiritanga o ngā pātangaroa](#)) to your class or ask them to read it independently. Discuss.
5. Think-pair-share:
 - If I could be all powerful and do something to make the world a better place (for everyone and everything in it), what would it be?
 - If I could, what would I like to change in our world? Who could I do this with?
6. Discuss:
 - What do you think are the big issues that are affecting the earth and people living on the earth?
 - What are you most concerned about?
7. Explain that climate change is a global issue.
Watch these clips about climate change:
 - 🎬 [Bill Nye – Emoji Science about Climate Change](#). 1 min 50 secs CC Ads: ✓
 - 🎬 [Climate Change according to a kid](#). 2 min 11 secs CC Ads: ⓧ
8. Discuss – How do we slow down rapid climate change? Your actions will make a difference.

Further activities, resources, and links

- Next lesson: [Katoa e Hono ana. Everything is Connected](#) (Lesson 2 of 6).
- See the list of [pukapuka](#) (picture books) and links to [pūrakau](#) (stories) about [atua](#) (Māori gods) that you could use in your classroom.
- For other links to short video clips about climate change, see [Movin'March – Te Taiao \(Environment\)](#).

