

The Development Compass Rose: a framework for raising questions

The development compass rose has three main learning objectives:

- to identify environmental, economic, social and political questions
- to discuss and explore some of these issues and see how they are connected
- to begin to see how much people in different places have in common.

Instead of North, South, East and West, the four main compass points represent :

- Natural/ecological questions
- Social and cultural questions
- Economic questions
- Who decides? Who benefits? (political questions)

How could you use it?

Choose an object or photo that represents the theme you want to enquire about. Introduce the Compass Rose and get the pupils to come up with questions for each of the four points. You could do this as a whole class or in groups where each group had a different stimulus representing the issue.

Or

Place the stimulus in the centre of a large sheet of paper and ask pupils to generate questions evoked by it. Questions can be jotted down round the stimulus or written onto 'post-its', one question per 'post-it'. Pupils can then either physically move their questions to appropriate points on the compass or label the questions they have written to categorise their questions. This helps them to see areas they need to think more about.

The process of categorising the questions also helps pupils to discard questions that don't help to frame the learning enquiry. Some questions will involve more than one point of the compass engendering important discussions around the relationship between questions and issues. There may be some questions that end up in the centre encompassing all aspects of the compass - economic, social, natural and political elements.

With younger pupils you could:

- Just focus on a couple of the points - the natural and the social to begin with.
- Have each wall of the classroom labelled as one of the compass points and get children to move their questions onto the appropriate wall.

Helping to make local to global connections:

The Double Compass Rose

1. For this activity you need a pair of photographs illustrating similar themes but taken in different places.
2. Use the DCR framework with the first image. Usually, when the first image is from the pupil's home country, their responses show a good understanding of the theme and the relationship between environmental, social, economic and political factors.
3. Once the framework has been completed for the first image, place the second image over the first. Or remove the first image to reveal the second one hidden underneath.
4. Look again at the questions you raised. Which questions apply to both places? What do these places have in common? What is different?
5. If there are stereotypes about countries, this activity is a good way of challenging these.