

# Note to Teacher: Climate Change Journey

## Background Information

Our Climate is changing because humans have increased the amount of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. Greenhouse Gases are actually necessary, as they help to keep the earth's surface warm by trapping the earth's heat (the greenhouse effect). Without this warmth the earth would be unbearably cold. These Greenhouse Gases (GHG's) include Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), Nitrous Oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O) and Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>). The problem is that their concentrations have increased dramatically in the last century due to human activity. When we burn fossil fuels to provide electricity for our homes and businesses or when we cut down trees these actions release Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This is making the earth very, very warm (global warming) and in turn causing our climate to change.

## Some of the climate change impacts include:

1. Rising sea levels – which cause coastal erosion and flooding.
2. An increase in the intensity of hurricanes – this can cause flooding and structural damages due to strong winds and storm surge.
3. Reduced Rainfall – that can lead to drought.
4. Bouts of very heavy Rainfall – that can lead to flooding.
5. An increase in temperatures – making it extremely hot.

## About this Activity Sheet

This exercise is targeted to children between the ages of 4-5 years. It allows children to understand the different elements of climate change, and the impact that it will have on our environment. In the exercise, Corey's plant will go through a series of climatic elements in the maze below and the child will make a choice about what the impact of the climate will be on the plant.

## What Skills are developed?

**Eye-hand coordination:** As children draw a line from 'Start' to Finish, they are developing eye-hand coordination.

**Problem-solving/Making Choices:** From 'Start' to Finish, there are different pathways. Children will try different paths until they find the correct one.

**Left to right progression:** When children read and write, they move from the left to the right. As children draw the line from 'Start' to Finish, they are moving from left to right.

**Directionality:** Children also learn directionality, and concretize the concept of direction. For example, when they travel from home to school, they are learning about 'to' and 'from'...hence directionality.

## Additional Sources of Information

1. GOJ/ EU/ UNEP Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project Brochures
  - Climate Change: Let's Change the way we treat our Coasts and Beaches
  - Climate Change: We have to Change
2. GOJ/ EU/ UNEP Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project Fact Sheets  
<http://myspot.mona.uwi.edu/physics/csgm/climate-resources>



# CLIMATE CH\_NGE JOURNEY ACTIVITY SHEET

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

What will Corey's plant look like at the end of this climate journey? Circle the correct one.

**Start** →

**Strong Wind**

**Flooding**

**Light Rain**

**Heavy Rain**

**Strong Heat**

**Clear Skies**

**A**

**B**



Climate Change-We have to change!

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