

Note to Teacher: Good Practices

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 (CO₂), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) and Ozone (O₃). 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.

One impact of climate change is changing weather patterns including more instances of drought and more intense storms and hurricanes. The combination of drought and heavy bouts of rain helps degrade soil quality and impacts agriculture. Droughts dry out the soil and the heavy rains then wash it away. Because our climate is changing, we have to change the way we live! We have to try to reduce the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere (mitigation) and we also have to learn to live with the changes in climate that are already happening (adaptation). Trees can help us with both actions. Through photosynthesis they absorb carbon dioxide (CO₂) that would otherwise be released to the atmosphere. Their roots also help to stabilize the soil and prevent it from being washed away when the heavy rains come. Planting trees are therefore a good climate change activity in addition to being just a good environmental practice.

About this Activity Sheet

This exercise is targeted to children between the ages of 4-5 years. It allows children to make choices that are either good or bad, using a maze.

What Skills are developed?

Eye-hand coordination: As children draw a line from COREY to the forest; or COREY to plant a tree, they develop eye-hand coordination.

Problem- solving/Making choices: From COREY to planting a tree, 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 COREY to the where trees are being planted, 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>



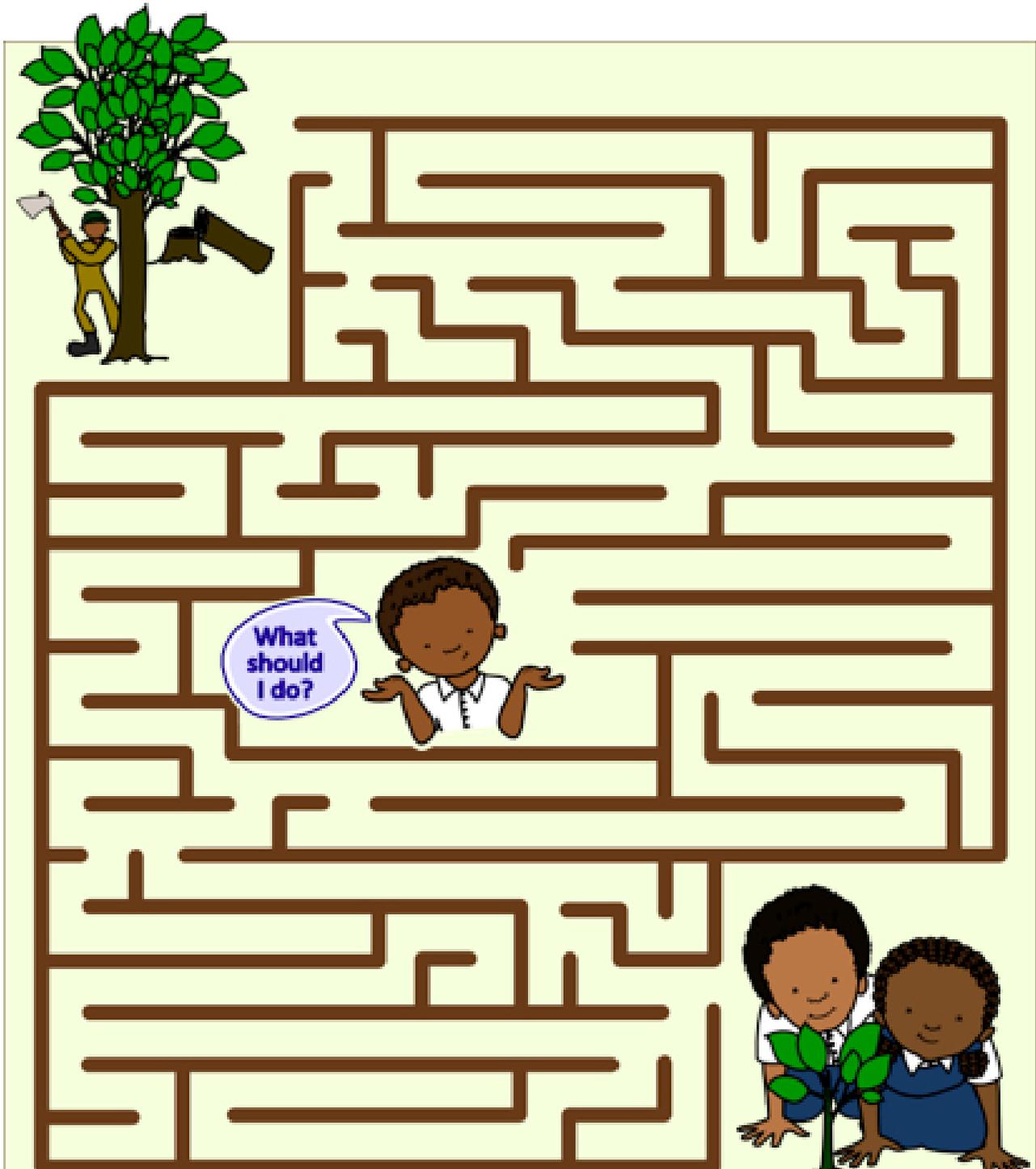
CLIMATE CHANGE GOOD PRACTICES ACTIVITY SHEET

Name: _____

Age: _____

Corey wants to do something good for the environment which will also help his community deal with climate change.

Should he help the coal burner or his friends Gail and Peter?





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