

Lesson five: What are the challenges facing Hong Kong?

Lesson Plan

This lesson introduces children to the challenges facing the city region of Hong Kong; the main teaching part of the lesson covers the human-induced or man-made challenges, and the activity covers natural challenges. Pupils learn the challenges of eight million people living in a very small space. It supports pupils' development of geographical skills. Photos reveal key challenges, including pollution and waste as well as current solutions such as recycling and landfill sites.

Note: the partner work of the group activity requires access to a computer, and the use of a child-friendly search engine.

Key Questions

- What are the major challenges facing Hong Kong?
- What causes people problems in Hong Kong?
- What is the difference between a natural challenge or hazard and a human-induced or man-made hazard?
- Which features of Hong Kong are human and which are physical?
- How could the government and population face the challenges and solve the problems facing Hong Kong?

Key Ideas

- Hong Kong faces a range of challenges, including extreme weather, air pollution, sea water pollution, and waste management.
- The relatively small area of Hong Kong is under pressure of the city's population **of eight million**.

Subject Content Areas

Locational knowledge: Students will be further exposed to coastal and inland locations. Hong Kong has a diversity of issues that affect the air, the land and the sea.

Place knowledge: Pupils discover the challenges that face Hong Kong and the reasons why these challenges have come about.

Human and physical geography: pupils consider the environmental challenges facing Hong Kong and how these impact the people living there. Hong Kong has a diversity of issues that affect the air, the land and the sea. Pupils determine whether the problems in Hong Kong have been caused by humans and how people could change their behaviours to help solve problems.

Geographical skills and fieldwork: Pupils use photographs and carry out online research to learn about the challenges facing Hong Kong.

Downloads

What are the challenges facing Hong Kong? (PPT)
Lesson Plan PDF | MSWORD

Additional resources

Computer access
A3 paper for the information poster
Coloured pens/pencils

Web links

To watch a short video about overcrowding in the densely populated area Mong Kok in Hong Kong go to YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewr5sbvnZMM>

To read a report on Hong Kong's waste problem go to SCMP
<http://www.scmp.com/magazines/post-magazine/article/1781565/how-hong-kongs-waste-problem-has-grown-its-wealth>

Learning Objective

To create an information poster educating the people of Hong Kong about the major challenges facing the city.

Starter

Explain to pupils that Hong Kong faces a range of human-induced (man-made) and natural challenges. Ask if they can think of any challenges that the city may face.

Main Teaching

Ask pupils if they can explain the difference between a naturally-caused or man-made challenge. Using the chart on slide three of the PowerPoint presentation, highlight four key categories of challenge a place can face:

- 1) Air and weather
- 2) Land
- 3) Water
- 4) Plants and animals

Encourage pupils to consider and discuss the challenges facing Hong Kong through the photographs on the *What are the challenges facing Hong Kong?* PowerPoint presentation (see downloadable resources).

Using the series of photographs, consider the different challenges and whether they are human-induced or due to natural causes. Use the questions in the notes section of the PowerPoint to teach key points, and to stimulate thought and class discussion. Highlight that there are ways people can protect themselves from natural challenges, such as building dams and wearing sun protection.

This lesson will feature one physical geographical hazard and three human environmental problems:

1. Extreme weather, heat and humidity, heavy rain and typhoons
2. Waste management – especially the challenges of waste from households and ships leading to problems with landfill.
3. Sea water and beach quality – the challenges of ships discharging waste as well as litter on beaches

4. Air pollution from traffic, but also factories in the Guangzhou megalopolis of 80 million people and one of the biggest manufacturing regions of the world, which is only about 100km away from Hong Kong.

Define the terms:

Air pollution: when **air** contains gases, dust, fumes or odour in harmful amounts to the health of humans, animals or plants.

Water pollution: when pollutants such as chemicals and waste contaminate **water** bodies (e.g. lakes, rivers, oceans, ponds or groundwater), damaging the plant and animal life.

Waste and landfill: waste is an item that is no longer needed and is disposed of, if waste is not disposed of properly, it can damage the environment and be unsightly. Landfill is a method of waste disposal where it is buried underground.

Sustainability: the practice of meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainable practices ensure that people do not exploit the environment to the point that future generations will suffer.

Main Activity

Use slide six for the whole class activity. Pose the question:

- In each quadrant, is it the black or white words which are natural or human?

As a whole class, discuss the challenges shown in the images. Discuss the following in greater detail:

- Over-crowding in cities and urban areas and the challenges this may cause

Go to YouTube to watch a short video about overcrowding in the densely populated area Mong Kok in Hong Kong <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ewr5sbvnZMM>.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages to living in a densely populated place such as Mong Kok.

Then, for the independent part of the activity, pupils carry out group research on the natural challenges as guided enquiry using a child-friendly search engine and then create an A3 information poster with their talk partner. They choose one of the following natural challenges and then follow the basic enquiry method to consider the impacts of the challenge.

The natural challenges facing Hong Kong:

- Typhoons
- Heavy rain and flash floods
- Landslides
- Heat and humidity

The basic enquiry method is as follows:

- What is your natural challenge?
- When and where does it happen in Hong Kong?
- What is done to protect people?
- Why does it happen?

Extension

Pupils can devise and record an 'environmental manifesto' with their top 5 tips for a better environment in Hong Kong, or alternatively research another of the natural challenges facing Hong Kong depending on Key Stage / ability level.

Plenary

Which three challenges would you prioritise as the Hong Kong government and why do you feel these are the most important?

Further study

Ask pupils to research the following either at home or during a lesson in the computing suite:

How much of Hong Kong is Country Park?

What is the Hong Kong MTR?

Do most people drive cars or use public transport?

How many factories are in the Pearl River Delta area?