



Intelligence activity

Summary information

Age range:	7 – 16
Curriculum Links:	PSHE/Citizenship
Time needed:	30 minutes
Group size:	Pairs or small groups
Setting:	Optional
Learning Cycle:	Reflecting
Key vocabulary:	Consumption, development, wants, needs, sustainable, technology, happiness



Sustainable learning outcomes:

- To think about the difference between wants and needs
- To think about the environmental impacts of the things we buy

Resources required

Display the following quote:

“Humans have always assumed that they are more intelligent than dolphins because they’ve achieved so much...the wheel, New York, wars and so on...while all the dolphins had ever done was muck about in the water having a good time. But conversely, the dolphins have always believed that they were far more intelligent than humans...for precisely the same reason.” - Douglas Adams, writer.

Procedure

Introduction (whole class)

- Read the quote and explain that the author, Douglas Adams, was a writer (e.g. Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy) and an environmentalist and that he loved fast cars and technology.



- Discuss: The quote uses humour to introduce some serious issues e.g.
 - Do humans use their intelligence to create a better world.
 - Do our ‘achievements’ make us happy or do they destroy the environment?
 - Would we prefer to muck around having a good time like the dolphins?
 - Who is the more intelligent?
 - How could Douglas Adams ask these questions if he loved fast cars and technology?
 - Can technology and the things we buy make us happier?
 - Can technology save the planet?

Paired work

Use Intelligence resource sheet to think about some of the things we buy.

Plenary (whole class)

- Discuss the pupils’ work.
 - What things do we want/need?
 - Is there a difference?
 - How can we reduce the environmental impact of some of the things we want/need?

Extension

Conduct a consumption audit

Create a list of the things you consume;

Identify the ‘wants’ and the ‘needs’;

Decide how you can reduce the environmental impacts of your consumption;

Take action.

Evaluation

- Write a short message to the dolphins:
 - I’m going to help to protect your lifestyle by making the following changes in my lifestyle: