

Watch this! Life Stories

Teacher notes – Transport and the environment

These three vodcasts are taken from *Insight*, the SBS discussion program hosted by Jenny Brockie.

The topic is Transport and the environment, and we see three stories relevant to the environment and climate change.

Car sharing works by having a fleet of cars parked at different locations across the city. Members log on to a website and book and pay for the use of a car by the hour.

Perth has just invested in a new fast train to get commuters to work from out-lying areas. Tully Collins and Simone McKenna race a car against the train.

Professor Jonathan Nott is concerned that in an environmental disaster, Cairns would be in trouble, as all the emergency services have been built along the foreshore.

Exercises accompany the vodcasts for different levels of language proficiency, depending on the content of the material. These can be downloaded in PDF format. Learners can watch the vodcast and complete the language exercises in self-access mode, or the material can be used by the teacher in the classroom.

As a classroom activity, depending on the level of their class, teachers can choose from the following questions to introduce the topic to their students:

Introducing the topic: What do you know about climate change?
How do humans affect the environment?
What should we be doing to protect the planet for future generations?

Focus questions: What are the advantages and disadvantages of car sharing?
What is fastest: train or car?
What could happen if there was a severe cyclone in Cairns?

General discussion questions:

- a. Who is responsible for climate change?
- b. What can ordinary people do to help the environment?
- c. What lessons can you learn from nature?

Possible follow-up activities:

- a. Role play a phone call to the local council enquiring about their recycling policy.
- b. Write an information report on action taken by your local council to protect the environment.
- c. Write an opinion text on the public transport system in your area.
- d. Deliver a short spoken presentation on climate change.
- e. Discuss: Who has the major responsibility for protecting the environment?
- f. Locate media articles about climate change and present the information to the class.
- g. Locate media articles about recent severe weather events and present the information to the class.