

Using Photographs in the classroom

Learning outcomes: Pupils will have learned that visual images carry meaning which can change in different contexts

Skills: Critical thinking (visual literacy)

Concepts: This activity could be used to explore any of the following concepts

- Interdependence
- Identity and diversity
- Fairness/social justice
- Conflict and peace
- Sustainability

depending on the issue that is to be addressed:

Use an existing photo pack or develop your own photo bank with a wide range of photographs of peoples and places around the world.

Some photo activities

Captions:

Present the same picture with two different captions, one positive and one negative. For example, a photograph of a poorly resourced school could have the caption 'Classrooms are not well equipped', or 'Having a chance to learn to read and write'. How does the caption change the meaning? Pupils can think up their own positive and negative captions for the photograph.

Categories:

In groups pupils could choose their own categories to organise photos into eg women, people working etc.

Questions:

1. In groups or pairs, pupils write down the question they would most like to have answered about their photograph.

2. Pupils could be asked, in groups, to answer the following questions about the photos:

Why do you think the photograph was taken?

What do you think was the purpose of the photo?

Who do you think took it?

Who is it appealing to?

What is going on just outside the photo, do you think?

What different pictures of the same thing could have been used instead?

The newly launched resource bank from RISC is an excellent source of photographs: www.risc.org.uk/resourcebank