

Dustbowl – Teacher's Notes

This document explains everything you need to know about the Dustbowl activities that can be downloaded from

<http://www.rootsnshoots.org.uk/blog/category/activities/dustbowl/>

The Roots & Shoots: Mission Possible Concept

Set in an alternate reality where Dr Jane Goodall is “Chief Agent J”, head of a secret organisation, Roots & Shoots: Mission Possible provides sets of activities for teachers to use both in and out of the classroom to encourage pupils to learn about people, animals and their local environment.

Each activity set is themed around a particular mission. Missions are introduced via the **Mission Briefing Comic**, in which Chief Agent J receives a distress call from a future world. In order to find out what the problem is, Chief Agent J despatches one of the time travelling **Chrono-Bots** (serial numbers **Root5** and **5Hoot5**) to find a potential future world where a major disaster has occurred. By taking action today you and your pupils can help prevent this disaster occurring! The accompanying **Activities** provide all sorts of ways that you can do this, ready for you to use.

As well as providing the activities, the website also presents you with a place for you to write up what you've been doing, sharing your good work with other schools in the UK and the Roots & Shoots international family. Feel free to write up anything that you have been doing that is beneficial to the Environment, Animals or People, not just things based on our activity sheets. All written up projects will be considered for a Roots & Shoots award that could see you and your pupils meeting Dr Jane Goodall. Check out the Completed Projects section of the website at <http://www.rootsnshoots.org.uk/blog/category/completed-projects/> to see what other schools have been up to.



The Dustbowl

In the Dustbowl activity set

(<http://www.rootnsnshoots.org.uk/blog/category/activities/dustbowl/>), Chrono-bot RooT5 travels to a future where crops have failed leading to dust storms, and Kent is a strange, almost lunar landscape, with little or nothing growing. This has been caused by crop failure due to the disappearance of bees and other pollinating insects. The activities are all about ways in which we can measure what may be happening to insects and other animals, and help them out.

In terms of effects on the environment and people, this scenario closely mirrors that of the North American dustbowl of the 1930s where poor agricultural practice and drought led to a series of devastating dust storms.

More information on this can be found in the Wikipedia article at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_Bowl

Why not enter the Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots Awards?

This resource was provided by Roots & Shoots UK, a not for profit charity run by the Jane Goodall Institute (UK). One of the aims of Roots & Shoots is to inspire young people to care for people, animals and the environment, and one of the ways that we like to do this is by running annual awards every December.

Every school that uploads a story about their activities to the Roots & Shoots website at www.rootnsnshoots.org.uk automatically wins a bronze award certificate to display at school, and the best stories win the chance for you and your children to meet Dr Jane Goodall herself along with a host of other prizes.

See <http://www.rootnsnshoots.org.uk/awards/> for details about the awards and information on how to upload your 'mission update' story and win!



What are the Dustbowl activities about and how can I use them?

The Iceworld activities are about exploring the **people, animal** and **environment** consequences of the future world outlined in the briefing comic. People activities help your students learn about what it is like to live in a dry, dusty climate; animal activities tell you about how changes today may lead to the lack of insects in the future world, and how we can help them and the environment activities concentrate on how we can improve the environment today to stop this scenario occurring in the future.

In order to best use the activities, we suggest that you:

- Print out copies of the Mission Briefing comic and use them to introduce the background concept to your class
- Choose one or more of the available activities to carry out with your class. For example, you might want to choose one people activity, one animal activity and one environment activity, or you may wish to concentrate on just one aspect.
- After completing the activities, discuss with your class how what they have learnt can help with the future world. Think about:
 - What have they done to help stop the future world happening.
 - What they have learnt about how to live in a dry and dusty environment that could be helpful to inhabitants of the future world.
 - How they can study and help out insects to try and stop this happening in the future.

Once you have finished, please take the time to write up what you have been doing on the website, and we will consider you and your school for a Roots & Shoots Award.

A list of Dustbowl Activities

All the Dustbowl Activities can be found at

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Keep up to date with Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots in the UK

You can find us on Facebook at fb.com/RootsnShoots.org.uk or why not sign up for our weekly email newsletter full of inspiring stories from our Roots & Shoots members in the UK at rootsnshoots.org.uk/sign-me-up/

