



School travel lesson plans The Big WoW

Walking to School Assembly Plan (How other children get to school)

Yr R,1,2,3,4,5,6
Duration: approx 30 mins

Objectives; by the end of assembly the children should be able to

- Recognise how walking to school in the UK is different to walking to school in parts of Africa
- Compare their own environment to the one talked about
- Acknowledge the effort that certain children make to get to school

Introduction

Introduce yourself and explain briefly what the children are going to learn about using the objectives above

In London today children and young people are being encouraged to walk to school instead of riding in a car or on a bus. – mention the new wow badges and the big WOW day

BIG WOW DAY

Over 2.5million children worldwide took part in Walk to School Week in 2006, and this number is growing every year. It may be a new experience for those of you who are walking to school today, but millions of children across the world have no option but to walk.

Main Presentation

Show map of Africa to the audience

Ask if anyone has been to Africa

How far away is Africa? How long does it take?

What is it like?

Deserts/rainforests/hot/raining/cities – Johannesburg,

Meet Shann – show picture

“Shann’s journey to school shows how determined some children are to go to school. His walk to school is not along pavements or tarmac roads but along hard dusty tracks. First, he climbs a series of incredibly steep and rutted tracks. Then he scrambles along a dangerously high path through a banana plantation, before he can even see his school in the distance. It’s hard to imagine that Shann walks this route every day of his school life.

Show pictures of banana plantation

How is this different to your journey?

The school sits atop a small hill at the end of a deep red Kitoje earth. From this point, you can see the lush surrounding hills and countryside stretching away in the distance, pock-marked by scattered villages.

It is from these villages in **Uganda** that the children walk each day to this school.

Find Uganda on a map of Africa

You may wonder if their school is something special as children are prepared to make the long difficult journey each day. It isn’t.

What do you think his school is like? Do you think it’s like this school?

The school is made up of one building: a small two-roomed shack providing an office for the tutors and storage space for books and a few items of basic sports equipment and one classroom.

The classrooms are bare – low wooden benches and desks and a large blackboard on one wall. But in each classroom, children eagerly do their lessons.

Each child in that school has a different story to tell about their life.

What time do you get up? What do you do before you walk to school? – e.g. chores?

Shann gets up with the sun and before he takes that walk to school he works on his vegetable patch, fetching water from the stream at the bottom of the steep hill twice each morning. He grows tomatoes and egg plant (aubergines). When he gets home he feeds his chickens. He rears them so he can sell the spare eggs and chicks. His first batch of chickens was killed by an eagle so he bought some more and built a house to protect them. He made the chicken coop from sticks and leaves.

Why does he walk so far to school and raise chickens and vegetables?

He lives with his grandmother and younger sister and has to support them. With the money he gets from selling vegetables and eggs he can buy his younger sister

clothes and books for school as well as for himself. He can also give his grandmother money to buy things for the house, such as paraffin, salt and soap.

Life has not been easy for Shann since both his parents died two years ago. But he is determined that he will continue his walk to school because he knows that if he gets an education, one day he will get work that will bring in sufficient money to look after his grandmother and sister properly.

When interviewed, Shann said,
“I don’t have much time to play but life without this school would mean no education and no skills for me. I am proud, because my friends and I are doing our best, trying to succeed in life. I would really like to learn to be a mechanic.”

How does that make you feel?
Lucky / privileged / easier life / grateful

Summary

Shann’s story is typical of thousand of children across the world who walk kilometres to school each day because they want to learn. I wonder if any of us would be prepared to walk more than a kilometre each way to school every day, for years.

So when you wake up at your usual time, and can’t be bothered to make your bed or walk to school I want you to think of Shann – because by the time you have woken up he has already worked on his vegetables, collected water and set off on his journey to school.

When you walk to school, think of all the children across the globe who are glad to be able to walk to school, no matter how far. They are often the first child in their family to go to school, and their families make sacrifices so they can attend. These children realise that often the future of the family is dependent on their getting an education and getting a job that will help bring money into the family.

And of course, walking to school is so much better for you – it gives you exercise and you can learn so much about your neighbourhood and the world, just by looking around you on your walk to school. So I hope many of you will continue to walk to school after today is over.

Resources

Map of Africa
Map of Uganda
Pictures of Shann's journey
WoW badges