



Futures Thinking

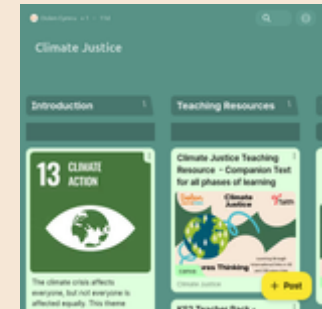
Learning through
international links in 40
and 200 years time

Climate Justice - Environmental Racism and Social Justice

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Scan the QR code or click below
to view the Climate Justice Padlet
- add your pupils work & join our
global community of learners



Acknowledgements

Developed in partnership by Taith and Dolen Cymru Lesotho, this resource is informed by the voices and lived experiences of communities, educators, and young people in Wales and Lesotho. Funded by the Welsh Government 2025-6.



Climate Justice

Presentation - KS2 Classes

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KS2 SLIDES

Climate Justice - Environmental Racism and Social Justice

Click below for Year 4 to 11 Teacher Packs:

KS2



The cover features a stylized globe with green continents and blue oceans, populated with white human figures. A blue ribbon loops around the globe. In the top left corner is the logo 'Dolen LESOTHOCYMRU' in orange and blue. In the top right corner is the 'Taith' logo in red with an upward arrow. Below the globe, the text reads: **Futures Thinking -** Learning through international links in 40 and 200 years time **Climate Justice (Year 4-6)**. At the bottom, a navigation bar shows '< 1/18 >' and icons for search, menu, and share.

Futures Thinking -
Learning through international links in 40 and 200 years time
Climate Justice (Year 4-6)

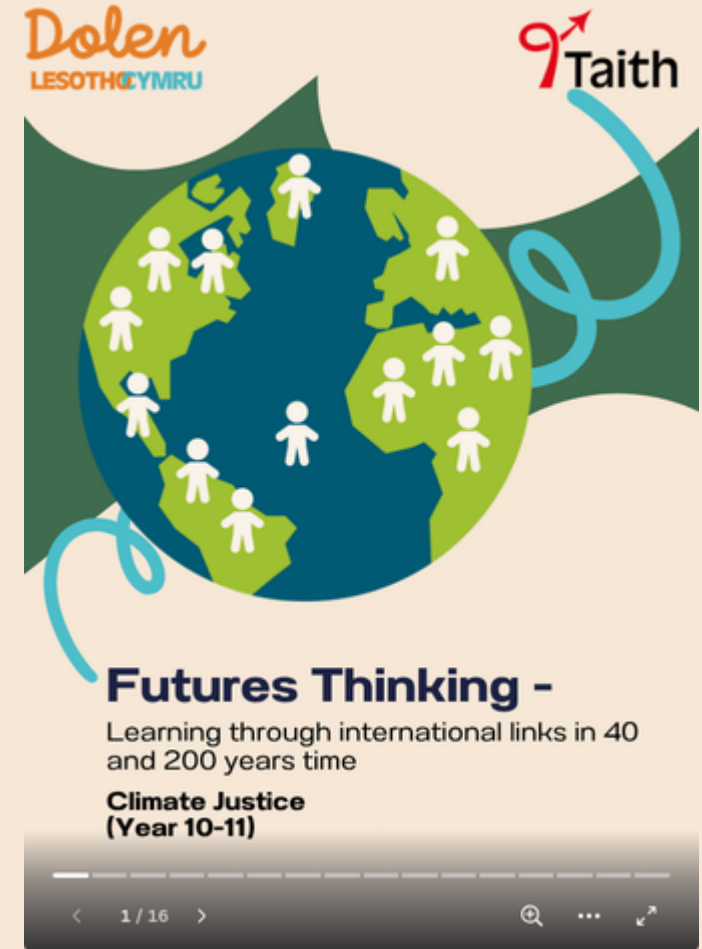
KS3



The cover features a stylized globe with green continents and blue oceans, populated with white human figures. A blue ribbon loops around the globe. In the top left corner is the logo 'Dolen LESOTHOCYMRU' in orange and blue. In the top right corner is the 'Taith' logo in red with an upward arrow. Below the globe, the text reads: **Futures Thinking -** Learning through international links in 40 and 200 years time **Climate Justice (Year 7-9)**. At the bottom, a navigation bar shows '< 1/18 >' and icons for search, menu, and share.

Futures Thinking -
Learning through international links in 40 and 200 years time
Climate Justice (Year 7-9)

KS4



The cover features a stylized globe with green continents and blue oceans, populated with white human figures. A blue ribbon loops around the globe. In the top left corner is the logo 'Dolen LESOTHOCYMRU' in orange and blue. In the top right corner is the 'Taith' logo in red with an upward arrow. Below the globe, the text reads: **Futures Thinking -** Learning through international links in 40 and 200 years time **Climate Justice (Year 10-11)**. At the bottom, a navigation bar shows '< 1/16 >' and icons for search, menu, and share.

Futures Thinking -
Learning through international links in 40 and 200 years time
Climate Justice (Year 10-11)

Llyn Celyn

Cofiwch Dryweryn- Remember Tryweryn

Built between 1960 and 1965 in the Tryweryn valley, the regulating reservoir of Llyn Celyn was constructed as part of the Bala Lake Scheme in the River Dee catchment area to provide a constant source of water for the city of Liverpool. An area of 320ha was submerged under 81 million cubic metres of water and the village of Capel Celyn and twelve farms were drowned by the reservoir, causing a great controversy at the time which still lingers today. Unusually for a reservoir intended for water supply, it generates 4MW of electricity for the national grid.



Capel Celyn
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>



Llyn Celyn <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2>

- **Capel Celyn Village Residents:** The Welsh-speaking farming community of Capel Celyn directly opposed the flooding, as it would destroy their homes, farmland, school, chapel, and cemetery. Despite petitions and protests, their objections were ignored by Parliament.
- **Loss of Culture and Language:** The drowning of a predominantly Welsh-speaking village was seen as an attack on Welsh identity and heritage.

Wider Welsh Public Protest

- **National Outrage:** Many Welsh people saw the act as colonial in nature, with England exploiting Welsh resources without consent.
- **Demonstrations:** Protests were held across Wales and outside Liverpool City Council meetings. There was significant anger that local people had no power to stop the decision.
- **Petitions and Letters:** Campaigns gathered thousands of supporters



Protests to stop the flooding
[Phttps://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4)



Protests at the official opening
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Climate Justice

Dams in Wales and Lesotho

The Polihali Dam is a concrete faced rock-fill dam under construction in Mokhotlong in Lesotho. It is the third dam out of five under the Phase 1 of the series of dams proposed by the Lesotho Highlands water Project (LHWP). The Polihali transfer tunnel which will link this dam to the Katse dam spans a length of 38km. This tunnel will convey water via gravity from the Polihali reservoir to the Katse reservoir. The construction of the Polihali Dam and the filling of the reservoir will give a storage capacity of 2.3 billion m³ and encompass more than 5000 hectares of land bordering the Senqu and Khbele rivers. It is aimed to be completed in 2028.



Katse Dam <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5>



Senqu River <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>

Polihali Dam

- Amnesty International warn that the Polihali Dam project could displace 8,000 people from 35 villages. Threatening their homes and livelihoods.
- Numerous local news articles have highlighted complaints of residents, these concerns encompass compensation provided for their land, handling of their animals that wandered into the construction zone and the low wages given to local labourers.
- President Ramaphosa said that “the Lesotho Highlands Water Project is more than just a water project. It is a beacon of hope, a symbol of progress, a symbol; of international cooperation between the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa”. Improving water supply to South Africa and hydro power for Lesotho

Key terms

Environmental Racism - is the disproportionate impact of environmental hazards and ecological degradation on marginalised communities.

Climate Justice - focuses on the unequal impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations. It seeks to achieve an equitable distribution of the burdens of climate change and efforts to mitigate through policy change.

Activism - using vigorous campaigning to bring about political or social change.

Climate Pledge - a commitment to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. A call to take collective action on the world's climate crisis and work together to build towards a safe and healthy planet.

Environmental Racism

Wales & Lesotho

Although the two nations are at least 8000 miles apart, with tens of territories and two oceans between them, presumably with contrasting socio-economic and political trajectories, the two have so many similarities.

They have faced similar challenges in the past and have related experiences, and thus, we can imagine shared futures.

Kingdom in the Sky

Two-thirds of Lesotho's terrain is mountainous. The only country in the world with a lowest point above 1000m above sea level. Largely owing to its beautiful topography, Lesotho is the coldest country in Africa. Its environment has posed significant challenges for its 2.3 million people. These current challenges are a product of historical processes that shaped the formation of the Kingdom and its relations with South Africa and itself.

These historical processes bear a resemblance to Welsh history and the people's struggle for identity.

Basotho Nation

The formation of the Basotho nation owes much to the Lifaqane (Mfecane) wars of the early 19th century. Fleeing from Shaka, Moshoshoe 1 influenced peoples from diverse ethnic groups and welded them into one nation by 1824.

Among these were the Baphuthi, Makhoakhoa, the Batlakoa and the Bataung and he settled around the Thaba Bosiu mountain, which became the headquarters of the nation.

This is much like Wales which emerged out of different independent kingdoms to form a recognizable identity and culture which, despite being formally united with England through the Acts of Union in 1535 and 1552, has maintained its distinct identity.

Land Loss

The Basotho Kingdom faced a new and more complicated challenge from Afrikaner settlers in the Orange Free State who attacked them and systematically confiscated the Basotho land and pushing them further east onto the mountains. By the time Moshoeshoe made diplomatic overtures to the British for protection, leading to the country becoming an official British colony in 1868, the total land area under his control was significantly reduced.

The wars and treaties of land dispossession left the people of Lesotho with an economically unviable marginal territory that could not support the growing population of Lesotho.

Hence, on the cusp of colonial rule, the stage had been set for increased pressure on the land and greater competition over its use and control.

Although Basotho did not lose land to the British during the colonial period, their environmental and socio-economic fate had been sealed by prior events. Britain merely 'protected' Lesotho from further land losses and helped draw the current boundaries of the country.



"Landscape in Lesotho" by Tjeerd is licensed under CC BY 2.0.

"Soil Erosion in Lesotho" by Lscheffa is licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0.



Climate Justice

Environment, Society and Justice Today

The result of these historical factors is that Basotho have continued to face serious environmental challenges that affect their livelihoods. Chief among these are soil erosion, climate change and agricultural sustainability. To date, Lesotho is the second most eroded country in Africa, after Ethiopia. This is a result of two factors: the land in the lowlands consists mostly of duplex soils which are susceptible to erosion, especially if they are used for arable agriculture. Second, the mountainous terrain in the highlands makes the movement of water and soil very easy, leading to erosion. Again, is worsened by arable agriculture on the mountains and places near the waterways. The creation of terraces on mountains has helped, but only to a limited extent.

Climate Change and Justice in Lesotho

As the effects of global warming and climate change have increased over time, livelihoods among the Basotho have become more endangered, especially for rural communities that depend on agriculture.

Rains have become more erratic and seasons less predictable, making arable agriculture very difficult for communities that depend on rain-fed farming.

Traditional and natural environmental resources such as wetlands, springs and streams have dried up as a result of both climate change and human and animal activities amid more demand for agricultural and pastoral land.

The existence of international conventions such as the Ramsar Agreement on the management of wetlands remains not only unimplemented but undesirable among local communities.

Continued Domination by South Africa

As a result of diminished livelihoods and poverty, Lesotho has grown increasingly dependent on South Africa. Beyond labour migration, Basotho have begun to send water to South Africa.

Just like Wales, which exports water to England (particularly Birmingham, Liverpool and Cheshire) from its reservoirs in the Elan Valley, Lesotho sends water to South Africa's Gauteng Province under the Lesotho Highlands Water Project

Dams such as Katse, Mohale, Metolong and Polihali have been constructed for that purpose, after the displacement of many communities many of whom are still water insecure.

More Similar than Different event, July 2025



<https://youtu.be/SUVqP4BJlr0>

Further Links - Wales



Remeber Trywerenofiwch Dryweryn- Remember Tryweryn



Drowned



The Story of Rainscape

Further Links - Lesotho



Highlands Water Project in Lesotho



Environment

With various partners, The Hub is creating open-source animations and graphics, holding...

thehubatmorija.co.ls

<https://thehubatmorija.co.ls/environment/>

Rhaglen Dysgu
Byd-eang Cymru

Global Learning
Programme Wales

Education
Development
Trust

LESOTHO DAMS ROLE-PLAY

Learning Objectives

- To discuss and debate the building of dams in Lesotho
- To listen to and appreciate different points of view

ROLE-PLAY

The situation is based on the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, where a series of dams are being built in Lesotho, carrying water to South Africa. This activity will work best if pupils have done some background work on Lesotho, then researched or watched the PowerPoint to introduce the building of dams in Lesotho.

Divide the class into five groups and ask each group to take on one of the roles. The groups will need to read through their briefing and decide what they are going to say. Each group will need a spokesperson. They will need to prepare written notes – just bullet points to remind them what they are going to say.

Set some ground rules. Each group needs to make sure that everyone's opinion has been taken into account. No one should be afraid to disagree with another member of the group.

Hwb resources



Lesotho | UNDP Climate Change Adaptation

The climate of Lesotho is characterised by the occurrence of dry spells and wet spells over recorded time. These climatic fluctuations have had serious impacts on the environment. The impacts associated with dry spells include food shortages,...

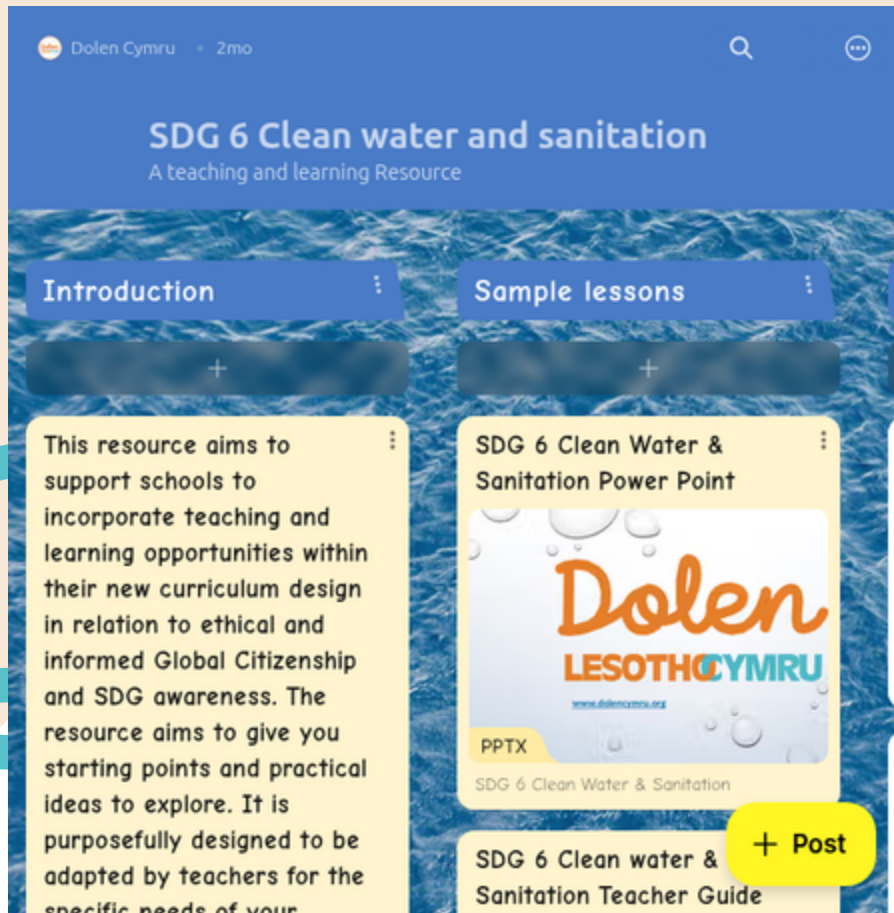
adaptation-undp.org

Climate Adaptation in Lesotho

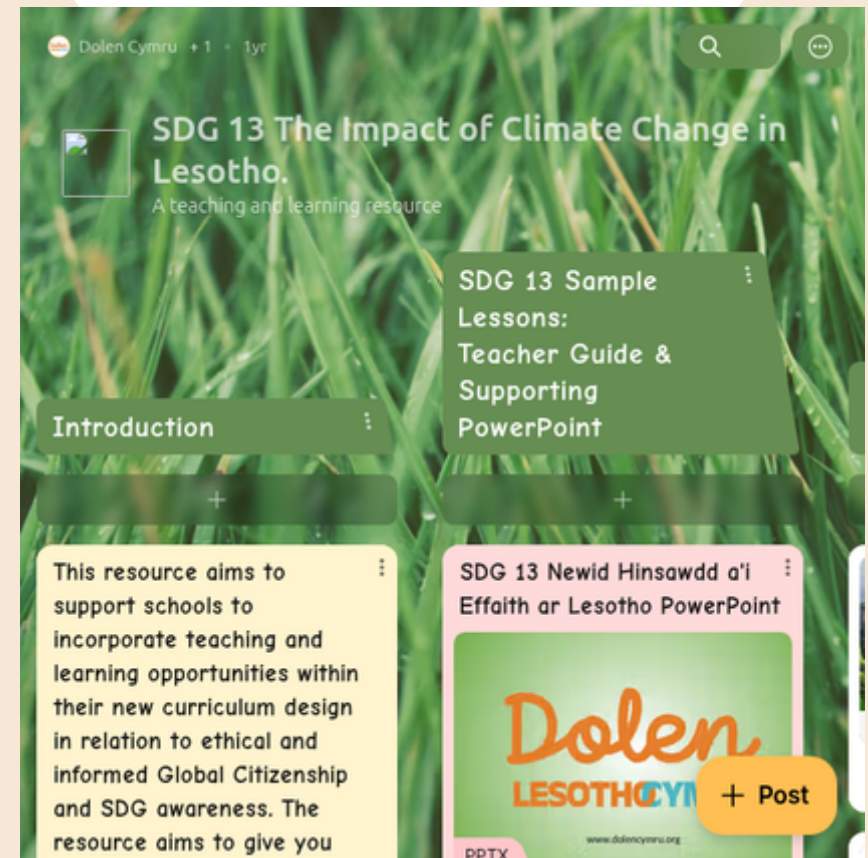


Polihali-dam

Further Links - Climate Change in Lesotho



[sdg-6-clean-water-and-sanitation-](#)



[sdg-13-the-impact-of-climate-change-in-lesotho-](#)

Accessible versions



Audio narrated presentation about Environmental racism in Wales and Lesotho by Dr Godfrey Hove



Audio narrated podcast about Dams in Wales and Lesotho

Dolen
LESOTHO CYMRU



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

9Taith

Learning Together, Improving Together

This resource grows
through shared
experience. Scan to help
shape the next edition.



[Feedback survey.](#)