

# // CLIMATE CHANGE //

## MALDIVES - A CONTEMPORARY ATLANTIS?



### SUBJECT

Art, Geography

### METHODS

Educational video, free associations

### DURATION

45 min.

### MATERIALS

video, texts, sticky notes, overhead projector

### TOPIC

- **Climate change – the impact of climate change on the natural environment**

### LESSON PLAN:

## INTRODUCTION

Start by asking the students what they know about the Maldives. Find the Maldives on online maps and photos and talk about the differences between the students' country and the Maldives.

## GROUP WORK

Divide the class into 4 groups. Each group receives a text (Appendix 1) from which they need to draw as much information as possible on the following topics:

- Why are the Maldives threatened by climate change?
- What actions are taken to counteract the changes?

## VIDEO

Play the video *An underwater art museum, teeming with life* about the underwater sculptures of Jason de Caires Taylor. Ask students for their impressions after the video.

### OBJECTIVES

- the students will understand some of the consequences of climate change
  - the students will understand why climate change affects some places and communities more than others, e.g. people in the countries of the Global South (like the Maldives)
  - the students will become aware of the relationship between climate change and migration
- the students will increase their involvement in action to combat climate change
- the students will develop empathy towards places that will be covered with water



## GROUP WORK

- Ask students to write down their associations with the word „Atlantis” on sticky notes. Attach all the notes to the board, then analyze the information and complete it with the following text:

*Atlantis is a mythical land; described for the first time by Plato in 360 BC. Allegedly, it existed on a large island in the Atlantic Sea in the 9th century BC. It sank in its heyday.*

- Ask students if they know other civilizations that have died out (e.g. the civilization on Easter Island, the Incas, the Maya)
- Divide the class into 3 groups. Write on three different cards: Atlantis, Easter Island, the Incas. Each group draws one card and should find information about the culture and art of the given civilization and write why it died out. Students can use the internet to find answers to these questions.
- Choose one person from each group to present their findings.

## SUMMARY

Ask the students: What are the similarities and differences between the presented civilizations and the contemporary one? What can we do to prevent our civilization from becoming extinct?

### A. Additional materials (links, pictures etc):

- Maciej Wesołowski (20.10.2015). Malediwy: kłopoty w rajy? Do końca wieku wyspy mogą zniknąć. [Maldives: Trouble in Paradise? The islands may disappear by the end of the century.] Online access: <https://podroze.se.pl/swiat/azja/malediwy/malediwy-klopoty-w-raju-do-konca-wieku-wyspy-moga-zniknac/5122/>
- „Na Malediwach powstaje niezwykle koralarium, które ma przypominać o ochronie rafy koralowej” [„An unusual coral museum is being created in the Maldives to remind us of the protection of the coral reef”] (20.06.2018). Online access: <http://www.fpiec.pl/travel/na-malediwach-powstaje-niezwykle-koralarium-ktore-ma-przypominac-o-ochronie-rafy-koralowej>

### B. Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Texts on the Maldives

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## Appendix 1

1. What is climate change? - climate change is a large-scale long-term rise in temperature on Earth causing changes in weather patterns.
2. The impact of climate change on the environment of the Maldives - the ocean absorbs CO2 emitted to the atmosphere and this ocean becomes acidic. For this reason, 40% of the coral reef has gone extinct. It is estimated that 80% of the reef will be extinct by 2050. The Maldives consist of 1,190 islands grouped into atolls. The existence of atolls is made possible by the coral reef that holds them together. If the reef is lost, the atolls will collapse. The lack of the coral reef is a very serious threat to the Maldives. The islanders will be forced to migrate.
3. The economy of many countries of the Global South is based on weather, which is important for tourism (as in the case of the Maldives) and for agriculture. Climate change is often devastating for farmers, for example in sub-Saharan Africa, where the global warming causes droughts that can lead to hunger and human migration.
4. The Maldives are a flat surface - the average height above sea level is 1.5 m, while the highest „peak” is at 2.47 m. Most of the islands are about 90 cm above sea level. Climate change causes sea and ocean levels to rise, which means that the Maldives will be covered by water.
5. Efforts are being made to stop the flooding of the Maldives, e.g. a government meeting held under water in 2009; the signing of a call for states to change their policy on CO2 emissions, or the search for an alternative solution - the President of the Maldives allocates income from tourism to purchase land and move the whole state, e.g. to Sri Lanka, India or Australia. The inhabitants have also built an artificial island called Hulhumalé.

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