



Paris Accord: Lesson Plan

Topic	
The Paris Accord is an international agreement that encourages global participation and allows for flexibility in the fight against greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Its three main components are limiting greenhouse gas emissions, maintaining transparency and accountability without penalties, and supporting developing nations financially in their efforts to mitigate their contributions to climate change.	
Possible subjects/classes	Time needed
Politics, Government, History, Environmental Sciences	30-45 minutes
Video link:	
https://academy4sc.org/topic/paris-accord-clean-energy-here-we-come/	
Objective: <i>What will students know/be able to do at the end of class?</i>	
Students will be able to... <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Explain the origins of the Paris Accord.● Summarize what the Paris Accord asks of nations.● Explain the debate about US involvement in the Paris Accord.	
Key Concepts & Vocabulary	
Climate change, greenhouse gases, carbon neutrality	
Materials Needed	
Worksheet, Student Internet Access or Textbooks (optional research activity)	
Before you watch	
Think-pair-share: What do you know about climate change? What are the different things that contribute to it? How does it affect our planet? What are some ways to tackle it?	
While you watch	



Complete provided Worksheet.

After you watch/discussion questions

1. Should there be penalties for nations who do not meet their goals to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions?
2. What do you think of the debate surrounding the United States' involvement with the Paris Accord? What's the best decision for the nation itself? The global community? Why?
3. What are some effective ways the money given to developing countries can be used to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions?

Activity Ideas

- Split the class into two sides and have a debate about whether the US should be in the Paris Accord or not based on this video and individual research. Consider what's best for the nation itself, the Paris Accord agreement, and the global community as a whole.
- Have students do a short journal entry about ways a nation or an individual can reduce their fossil fuel consumption. What specific actions can be taken, and by what parties? How might an individual's actions look different from a non-government organization's? What avenues are only available to such groups or the government itself?
- Allow each student to pick a country and research the basics of its economy and development. Students should then create a plan to help that country reduce its consumption of fossil fuels.

Sources/places to learn more

1. "Paris Agreement." *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf.
2. Denchak, Melissa. "Paris Climate Agreement: Everything You Need to Know." *NRDC*, 12 Dec. 2018, <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/paris-climate-agreement-everything-you-need-know>.
3. United Nations, "The Paris Agreement." <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/paris-agreement>.