

Today's Motion is:

'Our schools should be paperless'



Classroom Activity



Let's get the discussion started!

Questions to ask your class;



? *What is your favourite subject?*

? *Which tools do we use in our classroom to learn?*

e.g. books, scientific equipment, art supplies, interactive whiteboard etc.



Let's breakdown today's motion..



Schools: a place where children go to be educated

Paperless: a paperless classroom, office etc. is one in which people store information and communicate with each other using computers, rather than paper.

Source: Cambridge Dictionary

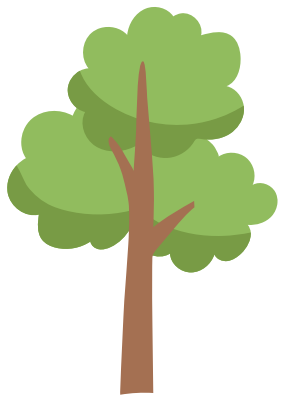


This motion links to the following SDGs;





The average school uses almost six million sheets of paper every year



That's over €46,000 or £38,000 per school and more than 75 trees cut down in the making of worksheets, textbooks and photocopies



In 2021, a survey by the Teaching Council of Ireland found that 75% of teachers believe that using digital tools helps students enjoy lessons more and learn in different ways

How does this link to Concern?

We believe that all children have the right to an education and that it provides one of the best routes out of poverty.

We integrate our education programmes into both our development and emergency work to give children experiencing extreme poverty more opportunities in life and to support their overall wellbeing.





Lesson recording at the radio studio in Niamey. Photo: Concern Worldwide 2023

Remote learning has been part of Concern's work in Niger, where 891 primary schools closed in 2023. Radio programs are designed to provide a solution for children who don't have access to school during times of crisis. Lessons are recorded in local languages by facilitators. They are shared at 'listening clubs' whereby small groups of children listen to the radio broadcasts to learn and do activities together.





Photo: Apsatou Bagaya/Concern Worldwide

Concern has set up school governments to involve students in decision-making in their schools in a democratic and accountable way.

Three key focus areas of our work on education are:

- Increasing access to education, including in emergencies
- Improving the quality of education and learning outcomes
- Supporting the wellbeing of children and teachers



Mahamadou Assoumane, (wearing purple) is an Educational councillor in Bambaye, Niger. Concern has developed an innovative video coaching approach to improve teaching practices and teacher training, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.

Photo: Apsatou Bagaya/Concern Worldwide

Classroom Activity

What percentage of our rubbish can be recycled?

- a. 90%
- b. 75%
- c. 45%
- d. 25%



Classroom Activity

What percentage of our rubbish can be recycled?

The answer is **b. 75%**

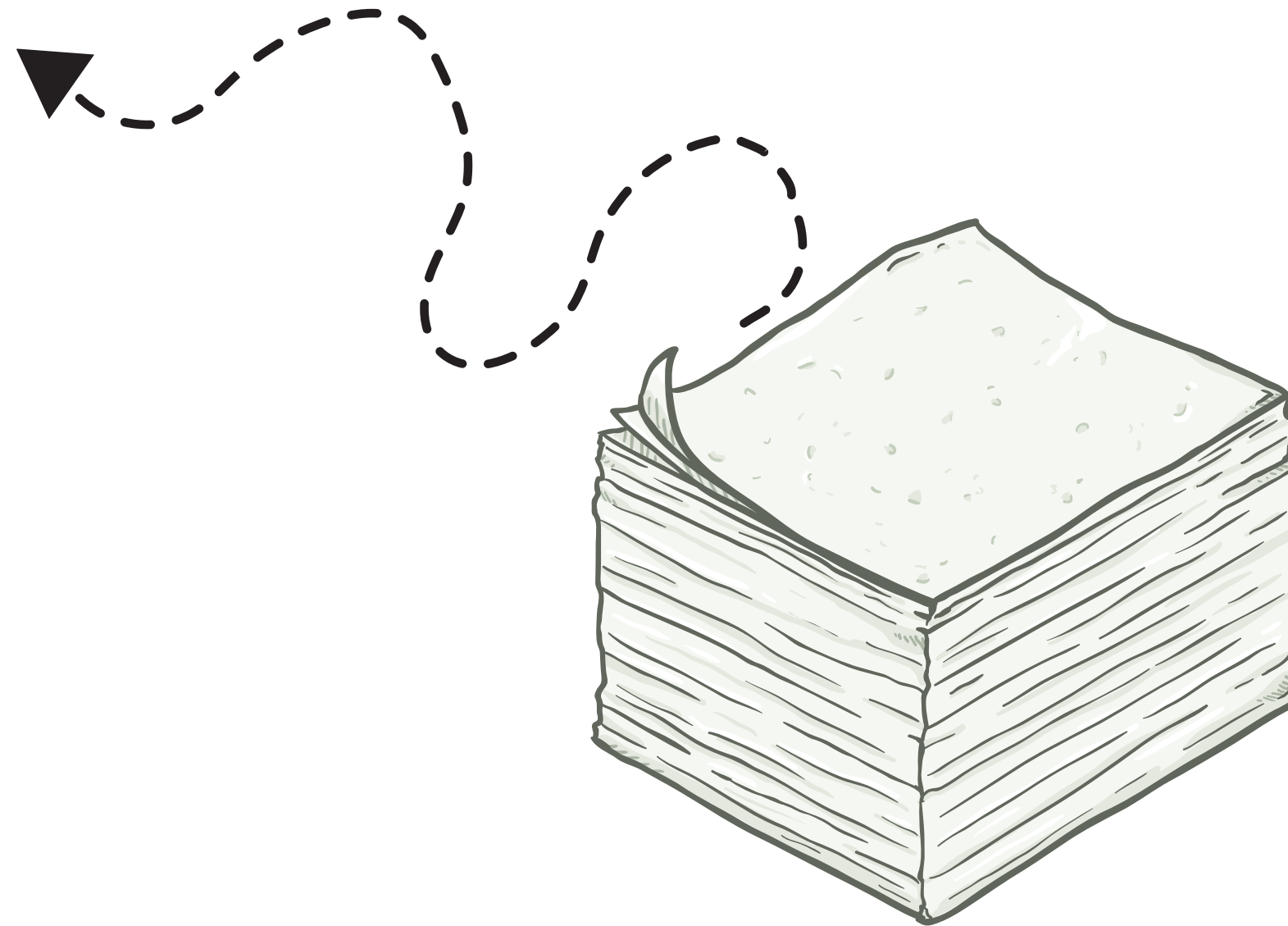
An average person throws away 4 pounds of rubbish every day and makes about 1.5 tons of solid waste a year. Multiply that by 7 billion and you know why we have environmental problems. What's ironic about it is that 75% of our rubbish can be recycled. Recycling is when used waste and materials are converted into new products, so that it can be used again. This practice ensures that we don't waste perfectly reusable materials.



Classroom Activity

How many times can a piece of paper be recycled?

- a. 1 time
- b. 2-3 times
- c. 5-7 times
- d. Over 10 times

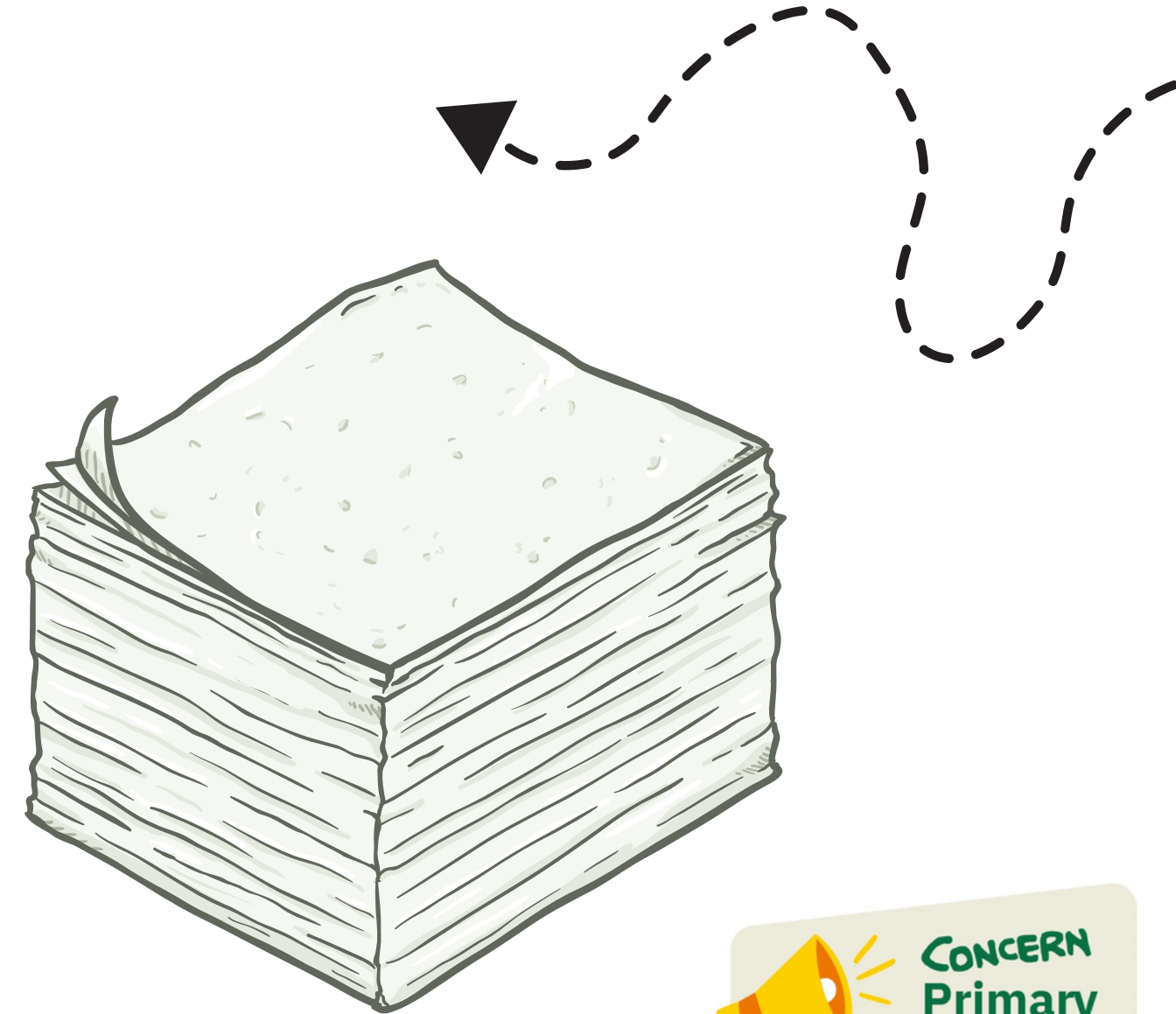


Classroom Activity

How many times can a piece of paper be recycled?

The answer is **c. 5-7 times**

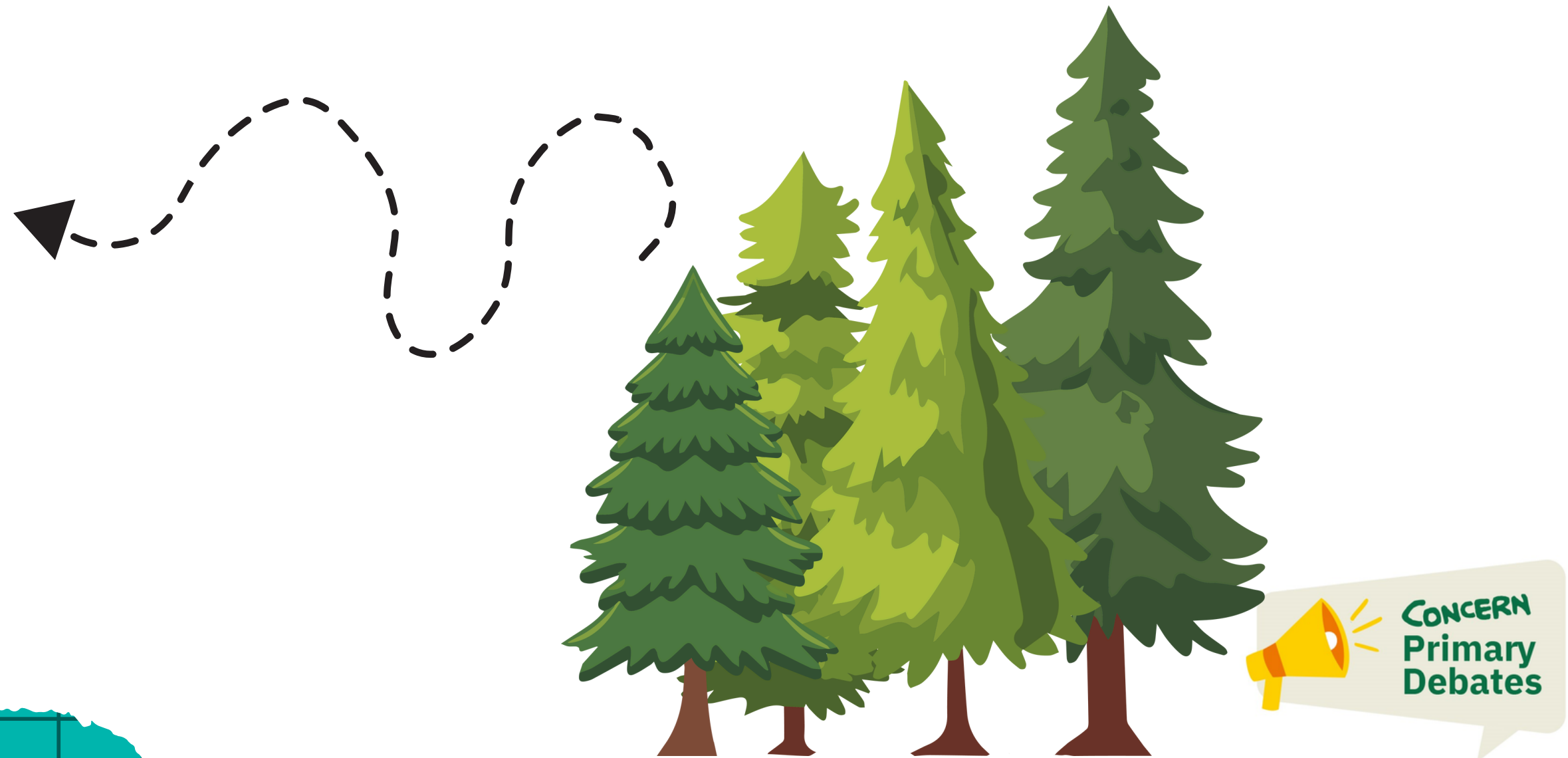
Recycling doesn't always only happen once. Actually, materials can often be recycled lots of times, so that they have lives as many different items. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a piece of paper can be recycled 5-7 times before it has to be thrown away or added to compost!



Classroom Activity

What type of gas do trees and other plants produce that is helpful to humans?

- a. Oxygen
- b. Hydrogen
- c. Carbon dioxide
- d. Nitrogen



Classroom Activity



What type of gas do trees and other plants produce that is helpful to humans?

The answer is **a. Oxygen**

Trees take carbon dioxide (CO_2) out of the air, which is what we breathe out (and what is released when we burn fuels!)... and then the trees let out oxygen, which is what we breathe in! So our lungs and trees are matched perfectly to help each other live. (Source: 8billiontrees.com)

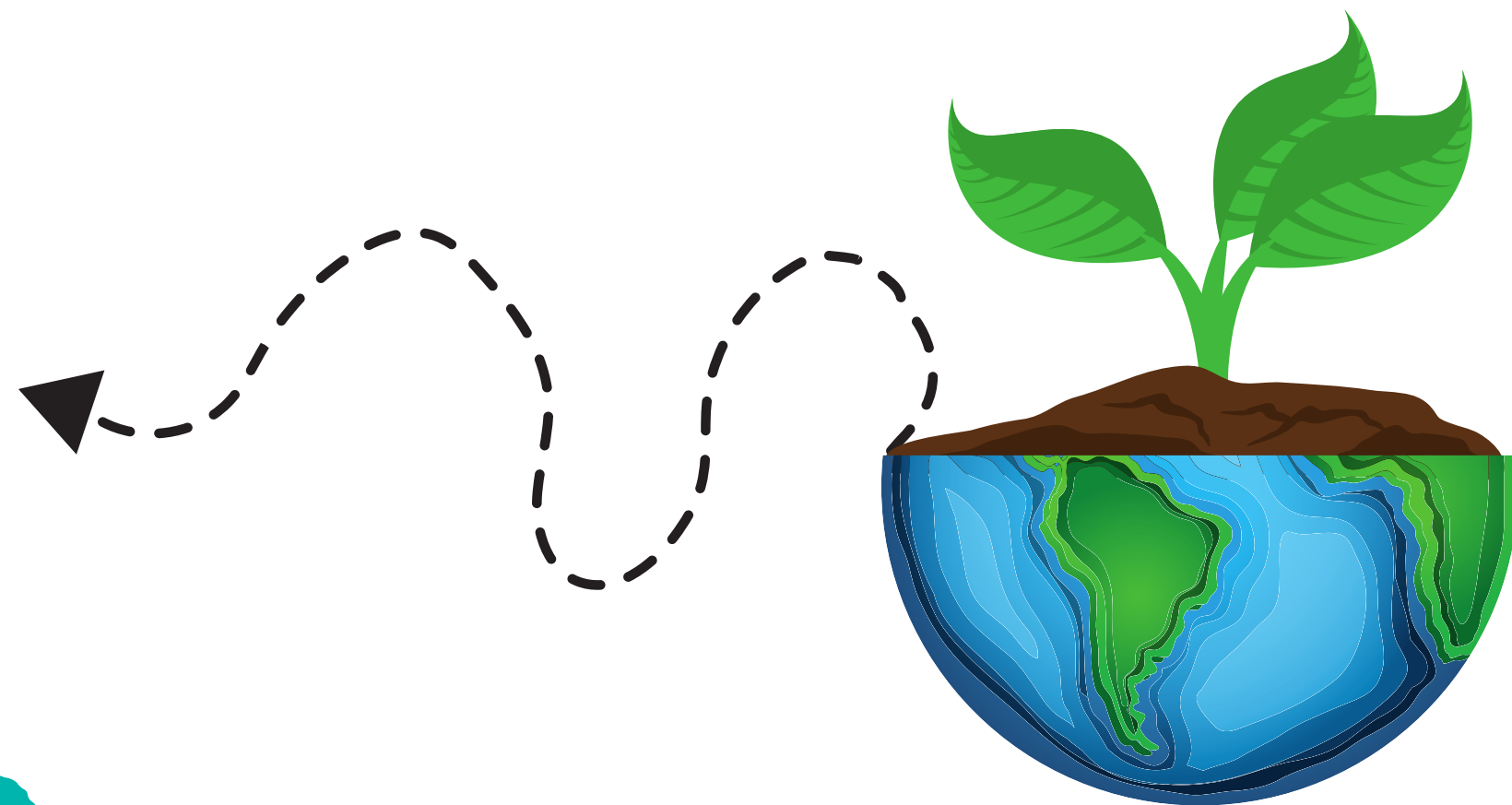


CONCERN
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Debates

Classroom Activity

What can we do to combat deforestation?

- a. Protect forests and plant more trees
- b. Lessen the use of products from wood fiber such as paper
- c. Both A & B
- d. None of the above

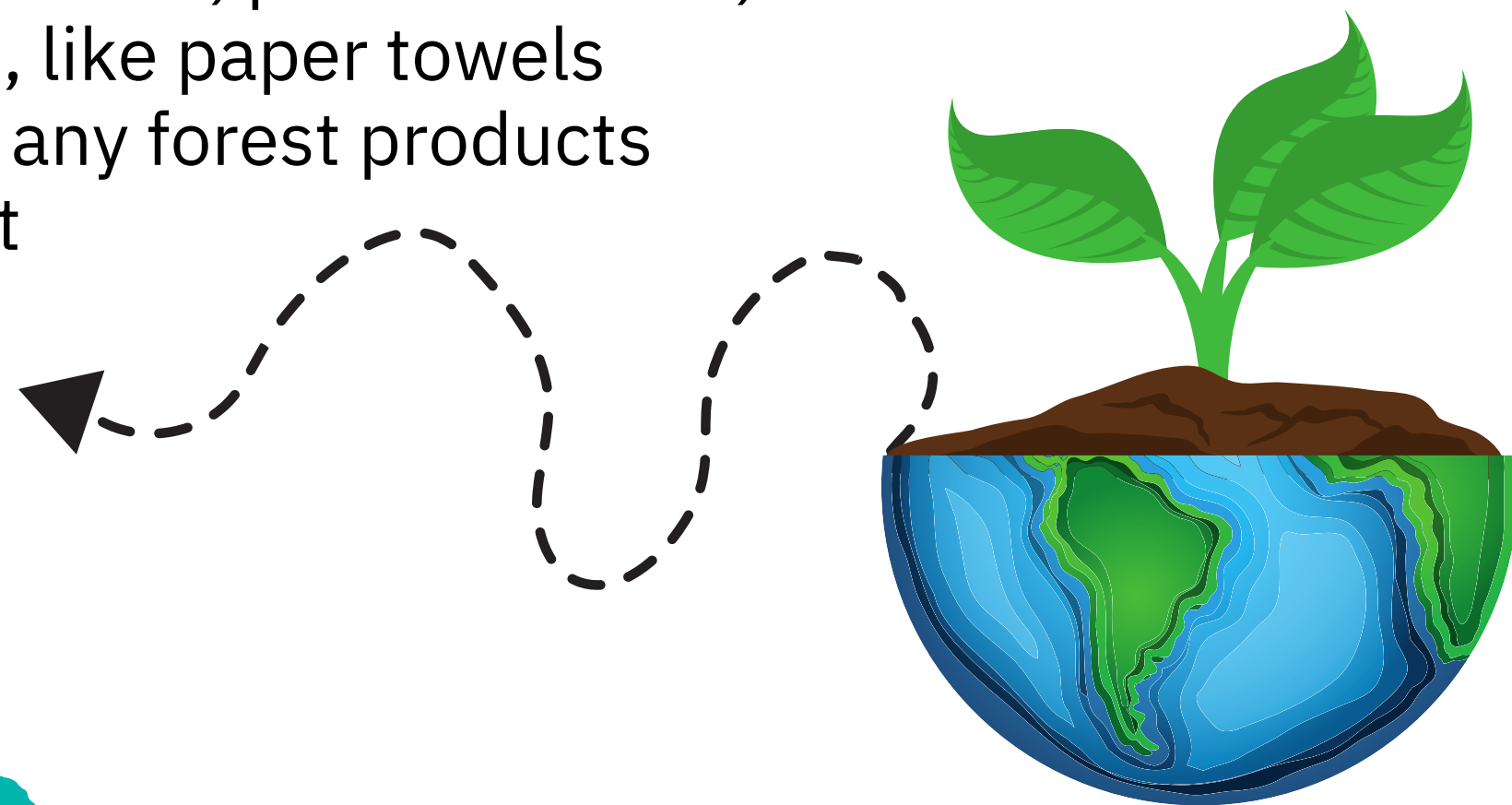


Classroom Activity

What can we do to combat deforestation?

The answer is **c. Both A & B**

To combat deforestation, you can plant trees, protect forests, and reduce your use of paper products, like paper towels and paper plates. You can also recycle any forest products that you do use, choose recycled forest products, and support organizations that help trees.



The Motion is:

‘Our schools should be paperless’

This means the proposition team agree with this motion and want to support it!



THE PROPOSITION MAY MAKE AN ARGUMENT SUCH AS THIS ONE:

“Paperless classrooms enhance digital literacy skills for pupils”

The reality is that for many pupils, technology will play a big role in whatever job they choose. That’s why it’s important to make it a seamless part of the education they receive. This means that not only will pupils be able to adapt to new technologies in the workplace but use creativity and flexibility to solve problems.

According to Forbes magazine in 2024, Digital Literacy has been placed in the top two in its list of professional skills needed to progress successfully in the modern world.

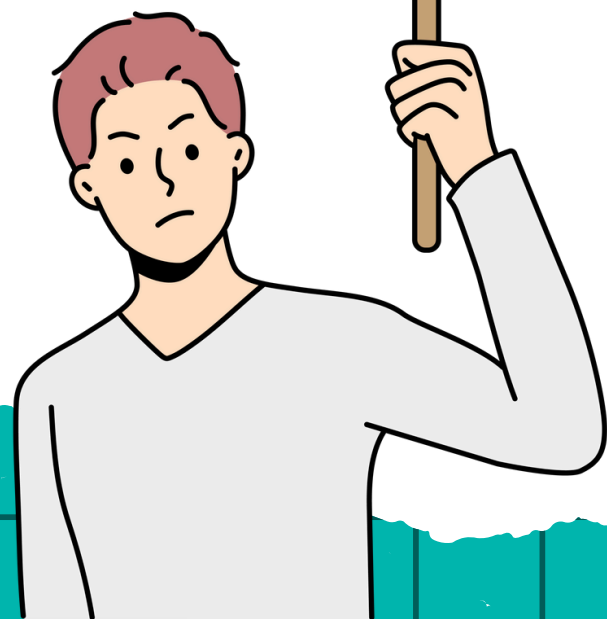


The Motion is:

‘Our schools should be paperless’

NO!

This means the opposition team disagree with this motion and want to disprove it!



THE OPPOSITION MAY MAKE AN ARGUMENT SUCH AS THIS ONE:

“The digital environment is not suited to certain types of learning”

The BookTrust published a survey in the UK which compared reading print and digital media preferences for children and found that while the medium did not affect students’ ability to understand the text, print was significantly better when it came to recalling more specific details.

In other words, students had a deeper engagement and understanding of the text when they were reading it on paper. This suggests that there will always be a place for printed material in the classroom, when a different approach to a topic is needed.



Classroom Activity



Let's get creative!

Using paper that has been placed in your classroom's recycling bin, create a project that highlights the message;

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!



Could your class make bunting, a scrapbook, papier-mâché, collage, posters, mural or an art installation? Or maybe use the paper for a performance piece or prop?



Learn More:



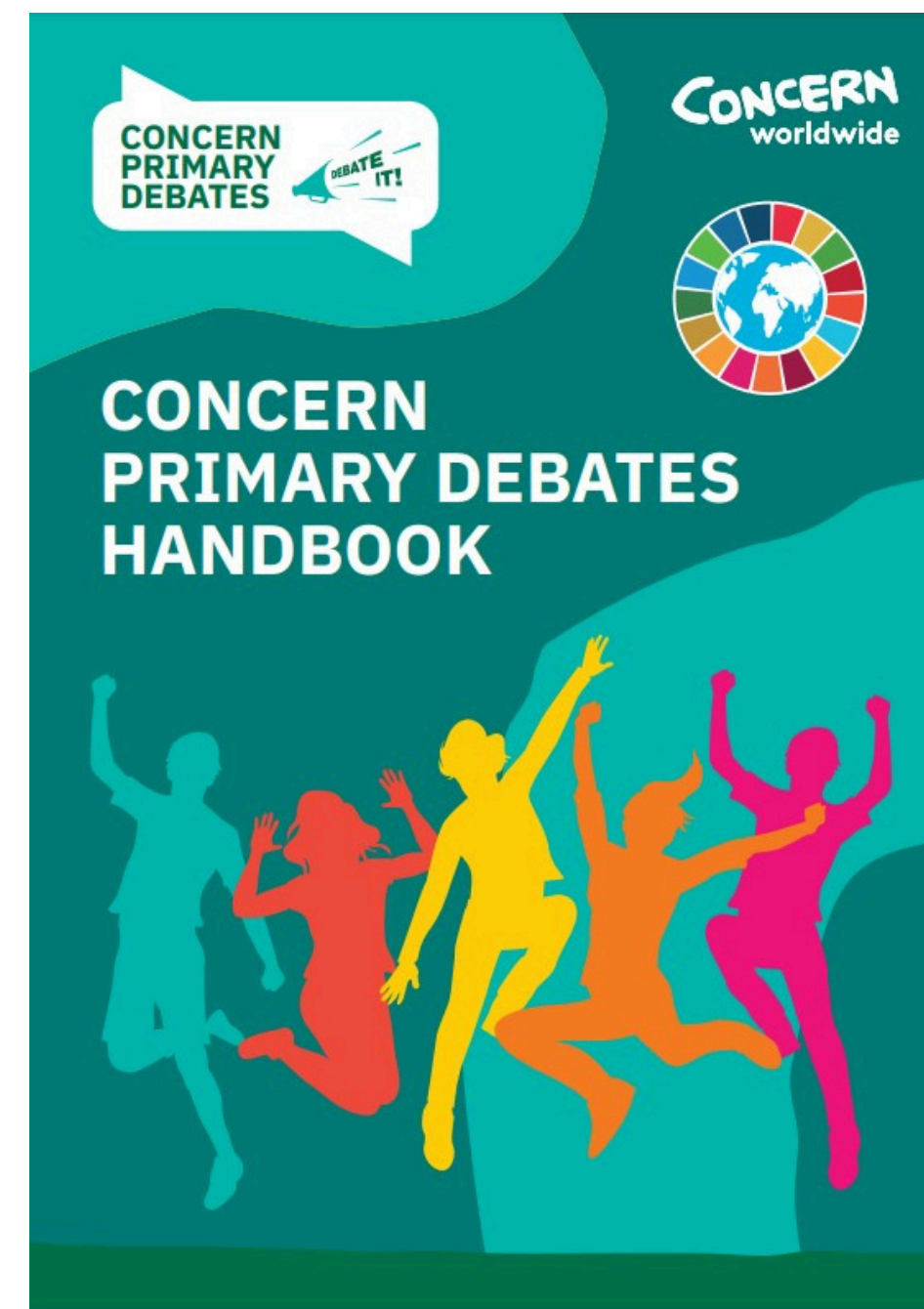
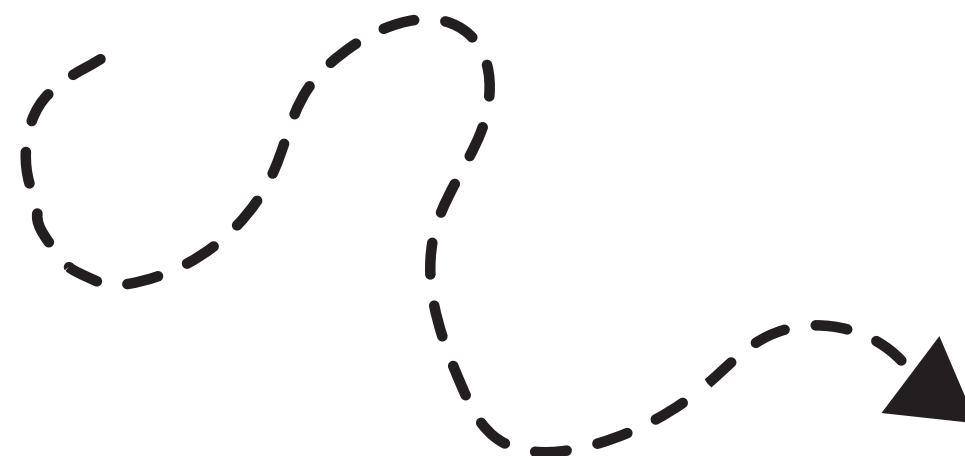
Handbooks, marking sheets and training videos all available on the **Concern Primary Debates** materials webpage



Primary Debates Playlist on YouTube



Contact Concern
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