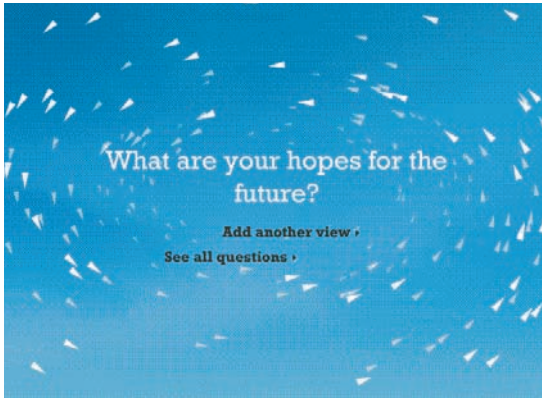


## LESSON PLAN 25: CREATING A VISION OF THE FUTURE

**Objective:** To help your students think about the future, raise their aspirations and become aware that they can make a positive contribution to their own future, as well as that of others.

**Age range:** 8-16

# 25



Million Futures ([www.millionfutures.org.uk](http://www.millionfutures.org.uk)) is a fascinating project that asks students to write their visions of the future on virtual paper airplanes. There are six questions:

- What are your hopes for the future?
- What's your biggest worry for the future?
- What do you want your community to be like?
- What should education be like for your grandchildren?
- What do you want your country to be like?
- What skills do you think will be important?

You can explore the planes already in flight to see how other people have responded, and create planes to share your own views. It's free and anonymous. Before you do, however, here's a way to get your class thinking about change and the future.

### YOU WILL NEED

- ▶ Computer, printer, camera, Internet access;
- ▶ Sets of five photos of people doing an activity at: 1) home, 2) at school, 3) in their community, 4) an image of New Zealand, 5) and a global picture (perhaps the globe or a specific photo that tells a story, for example melting ice caps and polar bears). The purpose of the photos – which can be sourced from magazines, websites, taken by the students, etc. – is to stimulate discussion around hopes for their immediate environment and that of the world;
- ▶ Possibly paper, pens, scissors, glue and other materials to create posters.

### DEVELOPING SKILLS

Free thinking, forward thinking, presentation, collaboration, communication, self awareness, aspiration

### METHOD

1. Divide your class into small groups, each with a set of the five images and ask them to discuss:
  - Place (where is it taken);
  - People (who is there);
  - Activity (what are they doing);
  - Effect (what impact could it have on something in or out of the photo).
2. As a whole class, discuss them all. Find out what they like and don't like, and how they might change if they could make anything happen.
3. Again, split the class into small groups, giving each a different image, and tell them they are to make a poster around it. Get them to discuss what they would like to change in the picture to make that space better for doing things they would like to do. Ask each to draw on their poster what they would like to do if anything was possible (maybe adding labels to help explain what's going on).
4. To create the posters, you can go one of two ways:
  - Pen and paper, glue and scissors, etc., OR
  - Design on computer, perhaps using Glogster (see Two-minute guide on page 30) or any suitable software (like Word or Publisher).
5. Discuss each group's poster and display (on a wall, online, or both). Over the coming weeks and even months, refer back to the wall to encourage young people and to keep their aspirations alive.
6. Take part in Million Futures.

"Research evidence suggests that what can separate one young person from another, with respect to future happiness and prosperity, is simply having aspirations and hopes for the future. For most young people aspirations are developed through their social and cultural experiences – often outside the school gates. However, for many young people life outside school is less than inspiring – this in turn can provide young people with the impression that their future achievements and prospects are limited, which results in many living up to this unfortunate scenario."

Million Futures is part of the UK's Beyond Current Horizons, a joint project conducted by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and FutureLab.

[www.millionfutures.org.uk](http://www.millionfutures.org.uk)

