

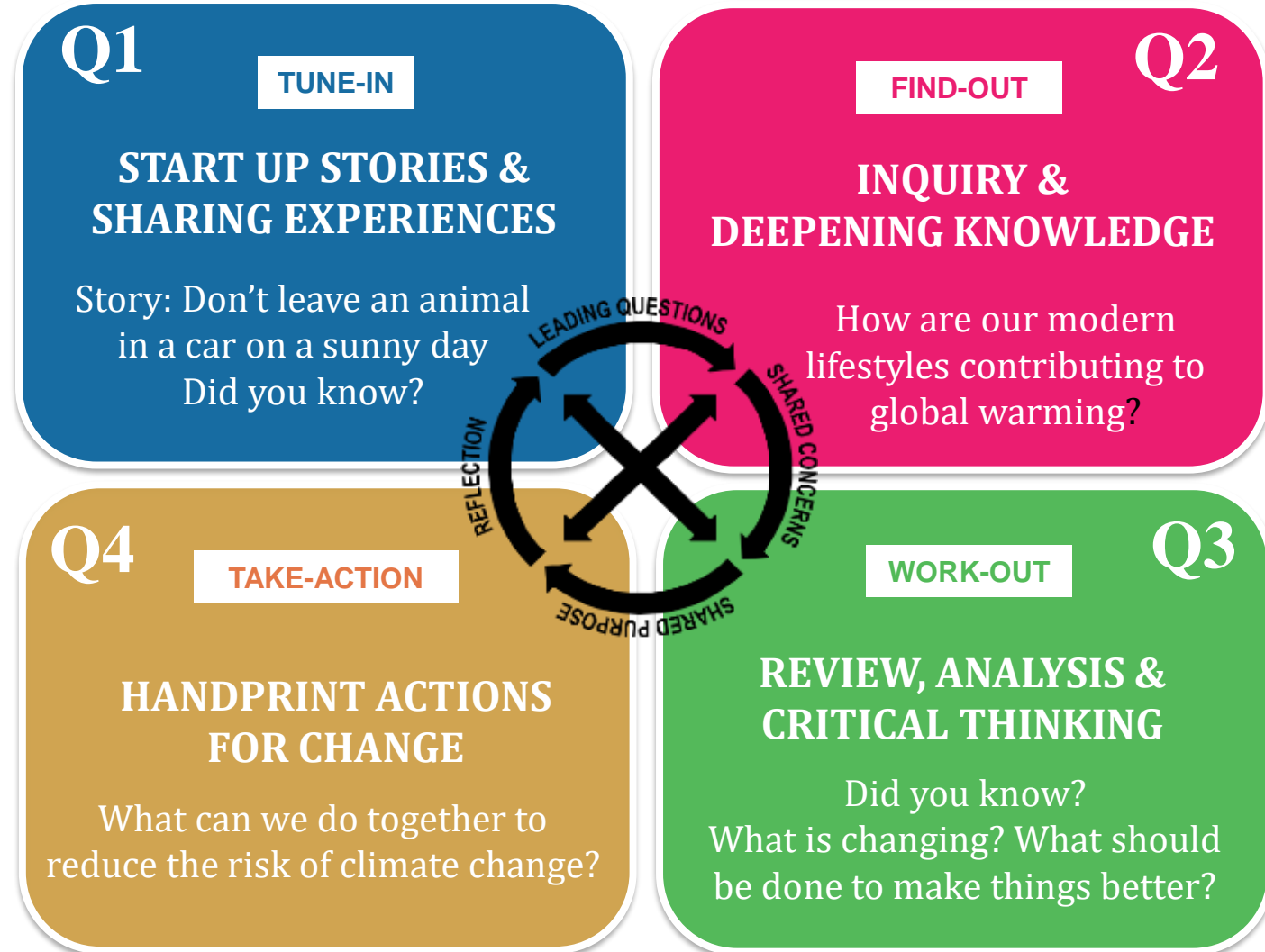


Climate Change



One of the biggest challenge that faces the world today is climate change. Over the last 50 years, human actions have increased carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to affect the global climate. Changing weather patterns, rising sea levels, extreme weather conditions are some of the implications of climate change that we are already experiencing. Climate change not only affects humans but it greatly affects biodiversity. It also poses risk to food security and health.

This exemplar throws light on different aspects of climate change and it encourages discussions and debate around each of them.



Exemplar on Climate Change



The exemplar starts with a short story comparing a car to a greenhouse and how cruel it would be to leave an animal in a car on a sunny day. This is followed by set of few short stories on various traditional practices followed in South Africa that helped maintain food security, ensuring nutrition and avoiding poverty during droughts. The next section has a series of information around topics related to climate change viz greenhouse effect, solar energy, global warming. The questions given under each can be used by teachers to initiate classroom discussion/debate to help deepen knowledge among learners. This is followed by section that will help learners critically think, analyze/review what has changed around us (transportation, industries, forest lands) and what are the outcomes of such a change (loss of biodiversity, extreme weather patterns, spread of diseases). Under each of this topic, there are questions that gives learners umpteen opportunities have discussions/debate and few of those questions are given below:

- What does ‘sustainable development’ mean?
- How is it possible to meet the needs of people through “development” and yet still live sustainably?
- Does it really matter if some plant and animal species become extinct? Why?
- What will be the major impacts to people living in low lying or coastal areas if the sea levels rise?
- How did people cope with seasonal cycles of drought in the past and what can we do today?

Students are encouraged to take Handprint actions by making a variety of lifestyle changes (i.e.) choosing a bicycle over a car, energy saving bulbs, reducing and recycling waste, etc.