

We define an “action” display as one which engages the viewer in a positive way, by asking them to give an opinion or make a decision concerning a global issue. The example we give here is a display about copper mining in Mufulira, a town in the Zambian Copperbelt, and its environmental and social impact on the community. Mufulira has many links with the Castle Cary area of Somerset, and we particularly wanted to raise the awareness of local Somerset people about the issues facing the people of Mufulira.

Ingredients:

- The display of photographs (see *Tips for bites based on artefacts and displays*, and also, for the content and a picture of the display, *Case Study 3, Exhibition at a Gardening Show*)
- One or two artefacts to attract attention
- Laminated “thought bubbles” and sticky spots
- Information sheets to take away

Method: length of time: 5 minutes

Age range: 11yrs upwards

It is vital for this sort of Bite to have a facilitator who has significant knowledge about the subject and is happy to engage people in discussion. The decisions the viewer has to make are ambiguous and multi-faceted – that is the whole point. The viewer has insufficient information to make a decision, and even after the facilitator has given more details, it is difficult.

Global issues raised: In this particular case, poverty, inequality, globalisation, environmental issues. But the approach can be used for the analysis of any global issue in a particular setting. There has to be a question – here it was how can the Mufulira Mine best reduce its negative impact in Mufulira.

Additional resources: Have information, maps, additional photos etc available if needed.

Where to use this global bite: locally, at exhibitions, fairs, AGM of relevant linking organisation, any relevant occasion.

Variations on the theme:

At meals, quiz evenings, etc where people sit down in groups, instead of an exhibition, a single page of photos and the question posed can be put on each table along with sticky spots. The event must be in some way relevant, eg a quiz which is a fundraiser for an international exchange; a harvest supper where the special focus is local links etc.

Watchpoints: Make sure you don't try to put too much written information in your display. Pictures speak for themselves best. Beware of creating stereotypes about poverty – try to provide photos to balance any negative images.

Take a strip of 5 spots
Imagine each spot is £1billion
Share them between
the thought bubbles to show
how you think they should be
used during the next year.

