

# PLANNING GLOBAL BITES FOR LARGE AND SMALL GROUPS.

*Global Bites, by our definition, are short, informal activities. Work with small or large groups will be incidental to some quite different reason for gathering. Global Bites are not about activities which together make up an integrated classroom session, but activities which can stand on their own in a context which may not have global issues as its core.*

When you run a Global Bite with a group, you are likely to be doing so as part of a larger function over which you have little or no control. You have the advantage of not having to publicise to gather your audience, but the disadvantage of being subject to strange furniture arrangements, changes in programme, over-running by other people of their sessions into your short “slot” and so on. Your preparation needs to take this into account.

## Large groups

If you are doing Global Bites with large groups (“On the Line”; “This is the way we ...” etc) you will want people to stand up and move about. You need to make sure there is space – don't be afraid to use corridors etc not just the room they are in. If the weather is good, go outside. You won't have time to start moving furniture about. With adults, you will have to chivvy and cajole to start with, fairly fiercely, and always be prepared for one or two people who hate this sort of thing, or who have mobility problems, and won't or can't join in. It is their prerogative. Don't push them too hard or others will opt out too.



## Multiple small groups, circuses of activities

You will need to make sure you have a room layout which suits small group work around tables if necessary. With a circus of activities make sure you have at least two sets of materials, one to use while the other is cleared up. Bites are short anyhow; don't swamp them with “preparation and clearing up”.

If you are planning a number of activities to take place concurrently, or within a circus of activities, you need to be very careful that all take the same amount of time, or that there are extension activities for groups which you anticipate might finish quickly.

If you have planned all the activities, but other volunteers are running some of them, a good briefing session beforehand is essential. It is probably best to have a volunteer for each group and leave yourself “floating”. This will help both with the activity and you can go round supporting or initiating global issue discussion.

In some very informal contexts you can be flexible, and those who have finished one activity can move to another at once. But you are likely to end up with a group of “fast trackers” with nothing to do. Have a spare activity for them if possible.

**Capturing the discussion.** With one small group, of which you are part, it is easy to capture and to some extent direct the discussion. With several groups it is different, and a debrief session with your volunteers will be necessary if you are to find out what has been discussed. These are not situations where a report back from every group is appropriate – that would be long winded and not in the spirit of a Global Bite.