

Questions to Ask Your Twin International Eco-School



Before speaking with your twinned international Eco-School try finding out the following information about their country; it will also help with your studies.

Geography	<p>What is their capital city/ currency/ population?</p> <p>Are there any natural hazards in the country: such as volcanoes, earthquakes, wildfires, hurricanes?</p> <p>The landscape of the country: mountains/ coastlines/ forests/ rivers.</p>
Science	<p>What is the climate and weather like there- why?</p> <p>What inventions were created in this country?</p> <p>Is there a time difference between your countries?</p>
Literacy	<p>Are there any famous books/ authors or poets from their country?</p> <p>Try reading a book from this country (<i>maybe a translated version to start with</i>)</p>
Art	<p>Can you find any examples of art work or artists from this country? Can you recreate these.</p>
Languages	<p>If you can not already in the language of your twinned Eco-Schools country, learn to say some simple phrases such as 'hello', 'my name is...' and 'goodbye'</p> <p>Find out how many different languages or dialects are spoken in their country.</p> <p>If you are confident try asking some of the theme and seven step questions in the language used by your twinned Eco-School.</p>
History	<p>What are the major historic events of their country?</p>
Other subjects	<p>What are their main religious and cultural celebrations? <i>Can you celebrate them together!</i></p> <p>Are there any famous sporting teams or individuals for this country?</p> <p>Practice singing and playing their national anthem on instruments made from recycled waste items.</p>

How to organise a question session with your twinned international Eco-School.

Try to send the questions you would like your twinned Eco-School to answer in advance so they have time to prepare their answers. *We suggest a maximum of 5 questions for each call.*

If technology, time difference or other factors prevent you from speaking directly with your twinned international Eco-School then send your questions and responses via email or letter and include some images of the students who have answered the questions. *Please make sure you have permission to share the images.*

When holding a Skype, Facetime or Whatsapp call arrange a time that is suitable for both your school days. Decide in advance which 5 students will be taking part, asking and answering questions for your school. Make sure these students are not shy when speaking to others they do not know. If students are young and not very confident they could partner with an older student.

When the student(s) are each in front of the camera get them to state their:

- name
- age
- class they are in
- and ask ONE of the questions you have sent in advance to your twinned Eco-School.
 - Such as *'why is the forest important in your country/region?'*



The twinned Eco-Schools students will answer your question and then they will ask your student their question and so on (x5). In total 10 students will speak and the call should last about 30 minutes.

Eco-Schools Theme Questions

Energy

- How is the energy in your school generated? (*coal/ oil/ gas/ nuclear/ solar/ wind/ biomass /tidal/hydro*)
- Is the energy sustainable?
 - Does your school have solar panels or wind turbines?
- How much energy does your school use in a day?
- Is your school carrying out any actions to reduce its energy use?



Biodiversity and Nature

- What animals/ plants can you see around your school grounds?
- What animals in your country are endangered?
- Does your school have any animals or pets?
- What is your favourite animal from our country? (*the twinned school's country*)

Water/ Marine

- Is your school close to the sea/ a river/ a lake?
 - Which one?
- Does your school or country have any problems with fresh water supplies?
- How much water do you think your school uses in a day?
- Has your school been carrying out any actions to reduce water use?
- Has your schools been carrying out any actions to reduce marine plastics?



Waste/ Litter and Recycling

- What items does your school recycle?
 - How much waste does your school recycle?
- Do you know what your school waste is recycled into?
- Do you have problems with litter around your school?
 - If so, what is the most common item found when you litter pick (*plastic bottles*)?

Schools Grounds

- How big are school grounds?
 - What can be found in your schools grounds?
- Do you grow any vegetables/ fruit on your school grounds?
 - Do you cook with or eat the vegetable/ fruit in your school?
- Which trees/ plants can you find in your school grounds?
- How much time do you spend learning outside?



Healthy Living & Wellbeing

- What activities do you do to exercise?
 - How often?
- What sort of fruit and vegetables do you eat?
- How many people in your school are vegetarian or vegan?
- What is the main health problem in your school?
- Does your school discuss mental health and well-being?

Global Equality

- How many different countries do the students in your school come from?
 - Do you speak any other languages?
- What is the age range of the students in your school?
- What jobs do your family have?
- What job would you like to have in the future?
- What examinations do you have to take?

Food

- Does your country have any national dishes?
- What is your least/ most favourite food?
- Does your school have healthy school meals or do you bring in your own lunch?
- Does your school compost its food waste?

Transport

- How do you get to school?
 - What days/ time do you go to school?
- How long does it usually take to travel to school?
- Do you have school buses?



Climate Change

- Is climate change having an impact on your country?
- What is your school doing to reduce its impact (carbon footprint)?
- Does your country's government have any laws or policies about climate change?
- Do you believe climate change is real?!



Create a **wildcard question** for each topic too. For example 'What is your favourite subject in school?' or 'What football team do you support?'

SEVEN STEPS QUESTIONS

The Seven Step order as on Eco-Schools international <http://www.ecoschools.global/seven-steps/>

Please be aware that although all Seven Steps are covered, some Eco-Schools countries may not follow the Seven Steps in the same order as below

Step 1: Eco-Committee

- How were you elected on to the Eco-Committee?
- What does your school Eco-Committee do?
- What have you enjoyed most about being on the Eco-Committee?

Step 2: Environmental Review

- How did you carry out your Environmental Review?
- Were you surprised by any of the results from your Environmental Review?
- How did you let others know about the results of your Environmental Review?

Step 3: Action Plan

- What themes are you working on for your Eco-Schools action plan?
- Why did you pick these themes?
- What advice would you give other schools when they make their action plan?



Step 4: Monitoring and Evaluating

- How have you been checking to see if your Eco-Schools actions have worked?
- What action are you most proud of?
- Was there anything that hasn't worked well?
 - What will you do in the future to change this?
- What Eco-Schools themes would you like to work on in the future?

Step 5: Curriculum Links

- Why do you think it is important to learn about environmental issues in school?
- Can you give an example of when you have learnt about an Eco-Schools theme in class?

Possibly question for Eco-Coordinator/ teacher

- *How did you encourage other teachers to get involved in the Eco-Schools programme?*

Step 6: Informing and Involving

- What advice would you give other schools to help them get more people involved in the Eco-Schools programme?
- Have any other organisations outside of school helped you with your Eco-Schools work?
- Have you held any community events?
 - Were they a success?

Possible question for parent of Eco-School student(s)

- *Because your child attends an Eco-School has it made you change your environmental behaviour at home?*

Step 7: Eco-Code

- What does your Eco-Code mean to you?
- Can you tell us your schools Eco-Code?
- What could be our 'twinning' Eco-Code?

