

Topic: Pressure groups

Lesson: The expansion of Heathrow Airport	KS or Year Group: KS3
Resources: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Resource 1 – Sky News video clip: ‘Heathrow Protest May Stop Flights’2. Resource 2 – Beat the teacher3. Resource 3 – Beat the teacher answer sheet4. Resource 4 – Sky News article 15. Resource 5 – Sky News article 26. Resource 6 – Opinion grid7. Resource 7 – Prompt sheet8. Resource 8 – National Curriculum level descriptors	Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students can outline the nature of the plans to expand Heathrow Airport.• Students can understand how people can bring about change through campaigning and protesting.• Students can explain how the proposed expansion of Heathrow Airport affects different groups of people and the conflicts that arise between them.

National Curriculum

Key Concepts: 1.1a, 1.1b, 1.1d, 1.2c

Key Processes: 2.1a, 2.1b, 2.1c, 2.2a, 2.2b, 2.2c, 2.2d, 2.3b

Range and Content: 3d, 3e

Curriculum Opportunities: 4a, 4b, 4e, 4g, 4j

Lesson overview

This lesson will introduce students to the proposed plan to expand Heathrow Airport and the subsequent conflicts that this has sparked. Students will consider the arguments for and against the proposed third runway by examining different sources of information. Students will give their opinion on the proposed expansion and take into consideration the viewpoints of others. Students will be encouraged to participate actively in the campaign by writing to the Prime Minister or an action group.

The expansion of Heathrow Airport

Starter

- Show students **Resource 1 – Sky News video clip: ‘Heathrow Protest May Stop Flights’**.
- Ask students to complete **Resource 2 – Beat the teacher**, identifying and correcting as many mistakes as they can find. (There are 15 in total.)
- Go through the answers as a class using **Resource 3 – Beat the teacher answer sheet**.

Main activity

- Explain how campaigners protest to bring about change. Ask students to read **Resources 4 and 5 – Sky News articles 1 and 2** about the Heathrow Airport protestors. Ask them to underline any facts and figures, and to summarise, in bullet points, the action that the protestors took.
- Ask students to complete **Resource 6 – Opinion grid**, summarising the different viewpoints of supporters and protestors. Higher ability students will be able to generate their own statements and should be encouraged to include facts and figures from the video and news articles to back up their arguments. Lower ability students can use **Resource 7 – Prompt sheet**.
- Ask students to decide whether they are for or against the planned expansion and to write a letter to justify their opinion on the issue. Explain how the work will be assessed using **Resource 8 – National Curriculum level descriptors**.
- Students who are *for* the expansion should write to the No Third Runway Action Group to persuade them why the development is necessary and to explain how it will benefit them.
- Students who are *against* the expansion should write to the Prime Minister to persuade him to change his mind about the proposal.
- To promote active citizenship, students could send their letters to the relevant parties.

Plenary

- In a hot-seating activity, ask one student to come to the front of the class and play the role of a protestor or supporter of the Heathrow expansion. The rest of the class should direct questions at the volunteer who has to answer in role using his/her knowledge from the lesson.

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Aim high

- Ask students to write a reply from either the Prime Minister or the No Third Runway Action Group to present a counter-argument. More able students should explore and interpret different sources of information and assess them for validity and bias, therefore considering what factors influence the views of others.

Assessment

The students' letters can be level marked using **Resource 8 – National Curriculum level descriptors**. This sheet could be issued to students.

Check the web

<http://www.notrag.org>

No Third Runway Action Group website

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/heathrowconsultations>

DfT consultations

http://www.foe.co.uk/campaigns/climate/case_studies/heathrow.html

Friends of the Earth Heathrow Expansion

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/in_pictures/6950288.stm

Protests in pictures

<http://www.heathrowairport.com>

Heathrow Airport website

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7828694.stm>

Heathrow expansion for and against

Summary of key learning

- Students will extract information from a variety of sources on the proposed Heathrow Airport expansion.
- Students will evaluate the social, economic and environmental implications of the expansion and consider how different groups of people are affected.
- Students will consider how people can campaign to bring about change.
- Some students will actively engage in a real life campaign.

The expansion of Heathrow Airport

Resource 2 – Beat the teacher

The following text is based on the Sky News video clip ‘Heathrow Protest May Stop Flights’, but there are 15 mistakes in it. Your task is to find the mistakes and correct them.

Heathrow Airport near Birmingham has put forward plans to build a second runway. This would have positive and negative social, economic and environmental affects on a local, national and global scale. Those opposed to the plans include local residents and environmental groups. Approximately 600 homes are under threat and the new runway would result in the closure of schools, hospitals and churches. Heathrow currently handles nearly a million flights a month. The new expansion plan would cost £13 million and would increase the number of flights to 70,000 a year. A fifth new terminal would also be built. Heathrow is currently the world’s second busiest airport but it cannot handle the number of flights and passengers in the space it has currently. It has already lost 10 per cent of destinations in the last 10 years because of the lack of runway capacity. Those in support of the expansion, including business leaders, argue that it is essential to boost the economy and will provide employment opportunities. It is believed that the Prime Minister does not support this view. Environmental groups suggest that the expansion will lead to more carbon nitrous emissions and will make it impossible for Britain to meet its commitments to reduce CO₂ levels. Activists have organised parties aimed at causing disruption and delays.

Resource 3 – Beat the teacher answer sheet

Red indicates the mistake. **Green** indicates the correction.

Heathrow Airport near **Birmingham** (**London**) has put forward plans to build a **second** (**third**) runway. This would have positive and negative social, economic and environmental **affects** (**spelling – effects**) on a local, national and global scale. Those opposed to the plans include local residents and **enviromental** (**spelling – environmental**) groups.

Approximately **600** (**700**) homes are under threat and the new runway would result in the closure of schools, hospitals and churches. Heathrow currently handles nearly **a million** (**half a million**) flights a **month** (**year**). The new expansion plan would cost £13 **million** (**billion**) and would increase the number of flights to **70,000** (**700,000**) a year. A **fifth** (**sixth**) new terminal would also be built. Heathrow is currently the world's **second** (**third**) busiest airport but it cannot handle the number of flights and passengers in the space it has currently. It has already lost **10** (**20**) per cent of destinations in the last 10 years because of the lack of runway capacity. Those in support of the expansion, including business leaders, argue that it is essential to boost the economy and will provide employment opportunities. It is believed that the Prime Minister **does not support** (**supports**) this view. Environmental groups suggest that the expansion will lead to more carbon **nitrous** (**dioxide**) emissions and will make it impossible for Britain to meet its commitments to reduce CO₂ levels. Activists have organised **parties** (**protests**) aimed at causing disruption and delays.

Resource 4 – Sky News article 1

Thousands Expected At Heathrow Protest

11:21am UK, Friday May 30, 2008

Thousands are expected to take part in a march and rally on Saturday to protest against expansion at the UK's biggest airport.

People from all over the country will descend on Heathrow in west London for the protest. They will walk from Hatton Cross to Sipson, the village that will be lost if plans for a third runway at Heathrow go ahead.

At Sipson, the protesters will gather in a field to form a huge “NO” that should be visible to passing aircraft. MPs, local council leaders and environmentalists are due to address the crowds and bands will play at a protest being called the Make A Noise Carnival.

John Stewart, the chairman of Heathrow anti-noise and anti-expansion group Hacan, said: “Heathrow has never before seen a spectacle like this.

“Coaches will be coming from as far away as Manchester and Southampton and we will be joined by campaigners from Athens Airport in Greece.”

He added: “Heathrow has become a symbol of worldwide resistance against aggressive airport expansion.”

Tamsin Omond, who recently scaled the roof of Parliament in protest at Heathrow expansion, said: “People face losing their homes if [Gordon Brown] gives the green light to a third runway.

“Thousands of others are deeply concerned about increased noise levels and climate change.”

Lord Soley, campaign director of pro-expansion group Future Heathrow, said: “There is no doubting the strong views that some people hold.

“However, opinion polls continue to show that most local people support a third runway at Heathrow.”

A survey released on Thursday showed 18 of Labour's 44 London-based MPs are opposed to the plans.

Resource 5 – Sky News article 2

Heathrow Airport Activists In ‘Euroflashmob’

2:55pm UK, Saturday May 16, 2009

Flash mob protesters have descended on Heathrow to sing against airport expansion in a Eurovision-themed demonstration.

On the day of the kitsch song contest, the protest was designed to coincide with similar protests held across the Continent. Activists wearing bright red T-shirts emblazoned with the words ‘Stop Airport Expansion’ arrived at Terminal 1 departures, as protesters were due to gather at airports in Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Brussels, Dublin and Paris.

The climate campaigners launched into a string of their own versions of some of Britain’s most famous Eurovision entries from past years. Emphasising the plight of the villagers of Sipson, who risk losing their entire community to a third runway, protesters performed an adaptation of the 1996 hit ‘Just a Little Bit’, by Gina G.

Waving European flags, they sang: “Ooh ahh – no third runway, ooh ahh, we don't want more, ooh ahh – saving Sipson, It’s a fight you can’t ignore.” And campaigners used the Abba hit ‘Waterloo’ to emphasise their continued fight against the Government.

They sang the words: “DfT (Department for Transport) – you’ll be defeated, we’ll win the war, BAA – no more runways for ever more, Heathrow – couldn’t expand if it wanted to, Runway three – finally facing its Waterloo, BAA – finally facing its Waterloo.”

Campaigners dressed up as European caricatures and waved banners with the words ‘no to airport expansion’ written in several languages. The protest, organised by campaign group Haca, was designed to show that opposition to airport expansion is growing across Europe.

John Stewart, Haca’s chairman said: “We are here today to show that there is continuing – and strong – opposition to a third runway.

“The fact that there’s opposition to airport expansion at all the key airports around Europe gives a lie to the argument made by BAA that if Heathrow doesn’t expand, expansion will take place elsewhere.”

Resource 6 – Opinion grid

Name of group/ organisation	Tick column		Outline the reasons why this group are in favour of or against the expansion. Use facts to back up your arguments.
	For	Against	
Local residents			
Business leaders and trade unions			
Greenpeace environmental group			
Director of Heathrow Airport			
Local building firm			
Local businesses			

The expansion of Heathrow Airport

Resource 7 – Prompt sheet

Heathrow Airport does not have the capacity for more flights at present.

There would be increased noise pollution from flights and traffic.

35 million passengers a year would pass through the new terminal.

The expansion will boost the economy as it will open up new business opportunities. It is estimated the third runway will be worth £7billion a year to the economy.

Loss of green belt land leads to loss of habitats.

Communities would be lost – homes, schools, churches.
Sipson village would be destroyed, including 700 houses.

Jobs would be created in the construction and tourism industries.

New technologies mean planes are quieter and less polluting.

There are no other options to develop a new airport in London.

Heathrow's contribution to the UK's carbon emissions would rise dramatically.

There would be an increased threat of terrorist attacks.

Increased traffic surrounding Heathrow Airport would cause gridlock on the roads.

Rival European airports in Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam will each have four runways by 2012.

A new runway would fail EU pollution limits because of unsafe nitrogen dioxide levels.

An alternative option would be to spend £15.6billion on a high-speed rail link between London's St Pancras, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. It is claimed that this could cut Heathrow flights by 66,000 per year.

The expansion of Heathrow Airport

Resource 8 – National Curriculum level descriptors

Level 3:

- I can explain in brief how Heathrow Airport will be expanded.
- I can recognise that the expansion of Heathrow Airport affects people in different ways.
- I use the information provided to me to answer basic questions.
- I use everyday language in my written work.
- I understand why people campaign to bring about change.

Level 4:

- I can generate research questions to explore the debate surrounding the expansion of Heathrow Airport.
- I use a variety of sources provided to me to investigate the issue.
- I understand how rights compete and conflict and can explain how different groups of people will be affected (using Resource 7 – Prompt sheet).
- I use the information provided to back up my points with facts and figures.
- I refer to some place names and key words.
- I understand why and how people can bring about change through campaigning.

Level 5:

- I can generate research questions to explore the debate surrounding the expansion of Heathrow Airport.
- I can explain how rights compete and conflict and can explain in detail how different groups of people will be affected (using Resource 7 – Prompt sheet).
- I communicate my arguments clearly and give reasons for my opinion.
- I refer to place names, statistics and key terms in my work.
- I can explain how different groups of people campaign to bring about change.

Resource 8 – National Curriculum level descriptors (contd)

Level 6:

- I can generate appropriate research questions and decide on research strategies to investigate the debate surrounding the expansion of Heathrow Airport.
- I can explore and interpret different sources of information and begin to assess these for validity and bias.
- I can explain in detail how rights compete and conflict and how different groups of people will be affected by the plans.
- I can describe some of the influences that shape people's opinions on the expansion of Heathrow.
- I refer to specific place names, statistics and appropriate key terms in my work.
- I can explain how various groups have campaigned for or against the development.

Level 7:

- I can generate detailed research questions and decide on a variety of research strategies to investigate the debate surrounding the expansion of Heathrow Airport.
- I can explore and interpret a range of sources of information with confidence and assess these for validity and bias.
- I can explain fully how rights compete and conflict and the arguments presented by the different groups of people affected by the expansion.
- I question assumptions and my own views as a result of informed debate and examination of relevant evidence.
- I refer to place names, statistics and complex terminology with confidence.
- I investigate the various methods of campaigning that community and business groups have engaged in to bring about change, and evaluate their effectiveness.

Level 8:

As level 7, plus:

- I generate ideas for future campaigns.
- I actively participate in a campaign relating to the expansion of Heathrow Airport.