

CASE STUDY

HOW ARE DIFFERENT AREAS REGENERATED?

Learners wanted to improve their local environment away from school, as much work had been carried out on the school grounds in recent years to site vegetable patches and outdoor learning areas.

The school decided to use this activity over a whole term. Learners were highly engaged with the opening video - *What If All Humans Suddenly Disappeared From The Earth?* – so the teacher extended their learning through a series of ‘What if?’ enquiries on thoughts from the video, for example – ‘What if all the plants died?’ and ‘What if we all became vegan?’ and ‘What if the Earth stopped turning?’.



Learners were surprised to find out that the school site used to house a small hospital that was mainly used for maternity. This led onto a discussion as to why maternity hospitals don't really exist anymore and how advice to mothers who have just given birth has changed since Victorian times.

Coal mining and its importance in the Iron Industry in Wales was introduced as the school is in Merthyr Tydfil. Learners looked at what life must have been like in these times focusing on the hardship and poor living conditions. We looked at aspects of ‘Tuberculosis and the clean air of Bannau Brycheiniog’ around living conditions in Merthyr and ‘Reservoirs, dams and cholera’ (Bannau Brycheiniog) as to how cholera was an issue in Merthyr in the mid-1800s. Learners were really engaged with looking at diseases and how poor living conditions could exacerbate them.



We returned to the original activity and did Task 3: *What is regeneration?*, leading to learners finding a local piece of land that they decided needed to be regenerated. This was at the side of the school and was part concrete with some grass and small trees.

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Learners researched to find out who owned the land and came up with lots of different ideas as to how it could be regenerated. They presented their ideas to an invited audience of a local environmental group, a local councillor and members of the PTA who ran businesses in the area.