

# DDES Kiribati Keepers



DDES AGENTS OF CHANGE

## Identifying a Cause

Guiding Question: What are the impacts of climate change?



At DDES, students are committed to making a positive impact in their world. The first step in this process is identifying a need or a problem. In 4th grade, students learn about the many ways that climate change is impacting their world. However, they became particularly passionate about helping out the nation of Kiribati when they learned that this small island nation was slowly disappearing due to rising sea levels. 4th Graders at DDES partnered with a local non-profit organization (the Kiribati Keepers) for an indepth study of the negative impacts climate change is having on the Kiribati Islands and how we can help them.

[Student Summary: The impacts of climate change on the Kiribati Islands](#) (EMBED)

## Connecting Our Cause to Our Own Lives:

Guiding Question: Who is Responsible for Climate Change?

While the Kiribati Islands are located far from Denver, students learned that our our actions are having dramatic impacts on the Kiribati Islands. Through analysis of multiple scientific texts, guest speakers, videos, and classroom discussions our students determined that industrial nations like ours, is largely responsible for creating climate change. We decided that since we are doing more than a fair share in causing climate change. We now needed to do our part in helping those who are being impacted.

[Climate Change - Socratic Seminar](#) (EMBED)



Student's use a jigsaw protocol to determine who/what is responsible for causing climate change.

## **Taking Action - Writing for a Purpose**

**Guiding Question: How Can We Recruit Others to Become Agents of (Climate) Change?**

Students worked with the Kiribati Keeper organization to determine the best way to help the nation of Kiribati. They decided that they best way to help would be to raise awareness of the problems the nation was facing.

In an effort to raise awareness, students used Chris Van Allsburg's story, *Just a Dream*, as a model for how to use fiction to send an important message to their reader. They write their own fiction stories that incorporated scientifically accurate facts about how climate change is impacted the Kiribati Islands.

**Text Examples:**

[Student \*Just a Dream\* Inspired Story 1](#)

[Student Just A Dream Inspired Story 2](#)

Next, they made their stories into movies so that they could easily be shared with a large audience.

[Story 1 Video Version](#)

[Story 2 Video Version](#)

[Story 3 Video Version](#)

[Story 4 Video Version](#)

[Story Rubric](#)

<b>DESCRIPTIVE and accurate DETAILS</b>	I have no scientific language.  I do not use descriptive language.	I have scientific language but it may not connect clearly with details.  I use simple phrases and words.	I accurately use scientific evidence to describe the impacts of climate change on the Kiribati Islands.  I use interesting phrases, imagery and vivid words that capture my reader's attention.	<b>And...</b>  This is consistent throughout the story.
---	--	--	---	---

<b>Theme</b>	The theme of climate change is not present.	The theme of climate change is present yet isolated to certain parts of the story.	The theme of climate change is clearly and consistently present through dialogue, thinking and narration.	<b>And...</b>  I include descriptive details, varied dialogue and/or thinking that invite my reader to infer the theme.
--------------	---	--	---	---

## Authentic Audience - Campaign for Change

Our students were finally ready to take action and recruit others to join them in their passionate campaign to help the people on the Kiribati Islands. Students presented their stories and scientific findings at the Alliance of Sustainable Colorado, an educational outreach center promoting sustainability and the reuse of historic structures to achieve sustainable cities. They also launched a fundraising campaign to help the raise money for water filtration systems. (The water



on the island was becoming contaminated due to rising sea levels). DDES 4th graders raised over a thousand dollars for the campaign and recruited over 100 people to follow their work on their DDES Kiribati Keeper page.

[Imagine Remix Song](#)

## Continued Inspiration

**Humans of Kiribati** celebrating a healthy future on Earth at Downtown Denver Expeditionary School. April 20

**Earth Week in Denver: Turning Awareness into Action**  
 "If climate can change, so can we!"

Downtown Denver Expeditionary School 4th graders worked hard to increase awareness of, and amplify support for the Nation of Kiribati. Concerning its challenges with climate change, one student remarked, "a lot of people don't know about Kiribati, and we need to spread the knowledge so people can help." Another stated, "I want the world to know that kids voices are powerful and we are using them to help the Kiribati islands."

Inspiring what these kids learned pales in comparison to what they did with the knowledge. Raising over \$1,000 in one night for Kiribati Keepers, a US non-profit dedicated to supporting the nation of Kiribati, we can only hope that future generations will act as kindly for the benefit of everyone in our one shared home.

**DDES Kiribati Keepers**  
 The people and culture of KIRIBATI are unique and special in many ways.  
 First of all, fishing is a big part of their culture. Seafood is a main food source. Also living by the ocean is a huge advantage. First of all they can swim in the waves in their free time and fish for a tasty dinner.  
 Furthermore they have lots of plant life that means, more food! You can pick fruit and grow vegetables and trees. There is also huge trees, you can climb and pick apples and coconuts, and you can grow your own. I-Kiribati people always get fresh food. For example, they eat fish, roasted pumpkin, and rice.  
 Furthermore, they have many unique traditions. For instance, they spend most of their lives living with their whole family. They believe that their elders took care of them, so now it's their job to return the favor.  
 Clearly the KIRIBATI islands are special in many ways but they need your help to stop climate change!

Our agents of change has been recognized for turning awareness into action.

The DDES Kiribati Keepers have caught the attention of organization such as, Humans of Kiribati. They continue to share our work with their 40,000 followers to inspire others.

Our work is also featured on the [Kiribati Keeper website](#). The DDES 4th graders continue to use their work to both inspire and inform others about how to help the Kiribati Island

**Educational Collaborations**  
 Kiribati Keepers recently collaborated with fourth graders at Downtown Denver Expeditionary School as they applied their learning about climate change to advocate on behalf of Kiribati. Follow their great work on the DDES Kiribati Keepers Facebook page, and check out the advocacy products from these young change agents that represent all of their fabulous learning about climate change and Kiribati!

**Educators, click here for lesson plans.**

Inspired by research and photos from and about Kiribati, DDES Keepers created mixed media art paired with informative writing pieces which were all shared in a culminating advocacy event informing hundreds of attendees about how climate change is impacting I-Kiribati lives.

Check out these inspiring and informative art and writing pairings below!

**How WELLS ARE IMPACTED BY CLIMATE CHANGE**  
 By Sawyer Erickson and Rebecka Muggleton

On the Kiribati Islands, the wells are turning brackish because the seawater is rising too high which makes the saltwater seep into their wells. When the wells turn brackish the Kiribati people can't drink the water. If they do they will get sick. They also don't have water to clean or cook with.