Working in groups

Who are the members of your group?
Write down the names and email address of each of your group members.

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How can you be a good group member?
• put forward ideas and explain them clearly
• listen to other peoples' point of view
• express how you feel but don't attack others
• ask questions to find out more about other's ideas and encourage others to
    express their feelings
• maintain a positive attitude and encourage your other group members to do the
    same
• be sensitive to other peoples' feelings

Will you be a good group member?
What skills and characteristics do you have which will make you a good group member? Create a list.

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Working effectively in your group
To ensure that your group is productive you must maintain a good group dynamic. To do this you need to have a number of important skills within your group.

Solve common group work problems: Before you begin your group work, create a set of group rules. These may include things like: everyone must contribute, listen to each other, and show group members respect. It is up to you what your group rules are, but if you take some time to develop a good set of group rules you group work should be more effective over the course of the project.

Learn how to provide constructive feedback: Don't make comments about another person, rather make comments that relate to the task that they are working on. For example, don't say, "You are lazy", instead say "We really need the piece of writing you are working on". Provide feedback early so that the person doesn't feel like they have wasted a lot of time. Try to give positive feedback as well as negative feedback.

Have detailed discussions: In group discussions, take it in turns to speak. If your group is having trouble coming up with ideas you may need to spend more time reading, brainstorming, making notes and reflecting on the topic or problem. Consider spending some time working individually and then coming back to the group discussion.

Manage the group: An important part of managing your group is to create and stick to work plans. Create a flow chart of all of the different parts of the project that need to be completed. Each of these parts will require your group to complete a list of specific jobs (typing notes, brainstorming ideas, etc). Create a detailed list of all the jobs that need to be done and allocate the jobs to group members. Be sure that no individual group member is overburdened with too many jobs to do.

Practising group work:

- Play Pictionary using words related to sustainability. Provide constructive criticism to the group members that draw the pictures.

- Imagine that you were going to make a model of the Eiffel Tower. Create a flow chart showing all the different parts to making the model. Create a list of jobs that would have to be done to complete the model.

The end product....

In your group you need to think about what the overall aim of your project will be. The options to choose from are below. Place a tick next to the one your group has chosen.

- ☐ Design a city or town showing how you could incorporate a range of different sustainable technologies and techniques which would maintain a growing population for 50 years.
- ☐ Create a 5 minute video about sustainability in the Epping community.
- ☐ Develop a visual representation of a design using graphics programs. Import the graphics into augmented reality software to represent the design in the location or to augment the information in certain contexts.
- ☐ Create an app to teach the community about sustainable practices they can implement in their home.
- ☐ Create a multi-level game which explores the consequences of not using sustainable practices in the Epping community.