

Notes for Parents/Carers:

Over the next 2 weeks, we are going to look at some ethical issues concerning the environment and animals. It is designed to combine the work we did on animals and the work on Pocahontas and get the children to think deeper about the issues in the world around them.

This week, we will be looking at different issues around the world and in the environment and then next week they will be using these ideas to create a poster.

This week is designed to promote research and debating skills. There isn't as much writing to be done, it is designed to get the children to talk and think about their ideas.

Monday - Habitats around the world.

Last term, we looked at what habitats are. Can you remember?

What habitats can you remember?

What exists in a habitat?

Why do certain animals live in certain areas?

What do animals need in a habitat?

On the next few pages, there are some pictures of habitats. What might live there and what challenges might that environment face?

Habitat 1: Rainforest

What animals might live here?

What plants might live here?

What challenges might the animals face?

What challenges might the plant life face?



Habitat 2: Coral Reef

What animals might live here?

What plants might live here?

What challenges might the animals face?

What challenges might the plant life face?



Habitat 3: City

What animals might live here?

What plants might live here?

What challenges might the animals face?

What challenges might the plant life face?



Habitat 4: Countryside

What animals might live here?

What plants might live here?

What challenges might the animals face?

What challenges might the plant life face?



Tuesday - Plastic and the Ocean

One of the big problems that faces our world is the amount of plastic and rubbish that is ending up in the sea.

What is plastic? Why does it end up in the sea?

How is this affecting the wildlife?

How does this affect us?

On the next few pages, there are some examples of this.

What do you think? What can we do about it?

Here are some pictures of the impact of plastic in the seas.



Watch the short clip of the diver swimming through plastic.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/43317850>

Here are some synchronised swimmers trying to do their routine in a pool with plastic.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-bristol-47731725/synchronised-swimmers-battle-plastic-waste-in-pool>

Some children turned up for their swimming lesson, but the pool was full of plastic. Imagine if this was Djanogly!

<https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2019-06-21/primary-school-pollutes-a-swimming-pool-to-educate-pupils-on-plastic-pollution/>

Here are some facts about plastic in the ocean.

<https://www.sas.org.uk/our-work/plastic-pollution/plastic-pollution-facts-figures/>

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/kids-club/cool-kids/general-kids-club/plastic-in-the-ocean/>

How do all these images and news clips make you feel?

What should we do about it?

What can we do about it?

What do you think will happen if this continues?

Wednesday: Pocahontas, the Powhatan and their Environment



When the settlers arrived, the majority of them struggled to survive? Why did they struggle?

Pocahontas taught the settlers to hunt and use the land effectively. One of the messages of the song from Friday, was to use the land responsibly and appreciate the world around them. What do you think this means?

One of the things that the Powhatan were angry at the settlers for, was over farming and taking advantage of the land. What are the consequences of this? Why is over farming a problem?

Does this still happen? Do we take more than we should?
Can you think of a modern example of this?

Thursday: Deforestation and Palm Oil.

Another major problem that faces our world is deforestation.

What is deforestation?

Why do you think it happens?

What reasons might we have for cutting down the rainforests?

Is it ever right to do this?



Watch the story of Rangtan on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQQXstNh45g>

Why was Rangtan upset?

How did the girl feel at the start of the story?

Why do you think Rangtan was in her bedroom?

Why are they cutting down the rainforest?

Do you think this is the only reason they are cutting down the rainforest?

How did the girl feel about Rangtan at the end of the story?

How can we help Rangtan and his friends?



Friday: Zoos

Most of you have been to a Zoo.

How do you feel about Zoos?

Personally, I really enjoy visiting a zoo. Yorkshire Wildlife Park is one of my favourite places to visit.

But, are they always a good thing?

Here is a superb resource with lots of ideas.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/what-are-zoos-for/z649f4j>



Here are some pros and cons about zoos.

Pros

- We can see animals close up.
- See animals we might never see.
- Keeps animals safe.
- The animals seem happy.
- Helps people to learn.
- Protects the animals.
- Quicker to see them.
- Safe for people to see.
- Programmes to protect them and give them a safer place to live.
- Breeding programme - baby animals.
- Helps wounded animals.

Cons

- Dangerous, wild animals.
- Not enough space.
- Bored
- Cages are dangerous for the animals.
- Unhappy
- Moved from it's natural habitat.
- Only 2% go back to the wild.
- Not hunting for food. Makes them lazy.
- Shows and entertainment.

What is your opinion? What do you think? Are zoos a good thing?