

Planet SOS



Recommended year group: Year 3

Theme focus: Art

Suggested term: Spring

Theme introduction

Planet SOS is a theme that is focused on learning about the planet. Learning in this theme is focused on Art but also includes Geography, Music and PSHE. In Planet SOS, we look at key issues surrounding our planet. These include water pollution, plastic pollution, oil spills and the effects of rubbish. Pupils will learn all about how these issues are not only affecting the planet, but also humans. Pupils will learn about how we can overcome these issues so that future generations have a better place to live.

Driving Question

Is plastic the enemy of humans?

Switch on Science Unit

Year 3: How does your garden grow?

Switch on Computing Unit

Year 3: We are presenters

Linked Reading Texts

Planet SOS (Where on Earth Books) by Chris Lloyd

The Lorax by Dr Seuss

DK Find Out: Climate Change

Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers

Writing Outcomes:

Persuasive letters: Letter about pollution damaging the environment, persuading the MP to take action (to send to local MP).

Poems that rhyme: A poem based on protecting the environment, based on *The Lorax* by Dr Seuss.

Curriculum Coverage

Geography – Environment, human geography, similarities and differences

PSHE – Living in the wider world

Art – Colour, painting, developing ideas, other techniques, evaluating and appreciating

Music – Rhythm, improvise and compose

Science – Living things and their habitats

Excite

Pupils experience the book *Planet SOS*. Show them the front cover and ask them to predict what the book is about. Pupils to be given the cards and the images of the monsters.

- What planet issue do pupils think each monster is referring to?
- Give pupils the book and let them see if they were correct.
- Which did they get right and which did they get wrong?

Explore

There are fourteen explore sessions:

Explore 1: The Ozone Serpent

Explore 2: The Road Snake

Explore 3: The Glare Worm

Explore 4: The Noisy Bird

Explore 5: The Smogosaur

Explore 6: The Grublin

Explore 7: The Trash Kong

Explore 8: Jason deCaires Taylor

Explore 9: The Plaken

Explore 10: The Aqualik

Explore 11: The Oil Spillathan

Explore 12: The Carbon Bigfoot

Explore 13: The Terra Carta

Explore 14: Wellbeing

Theme essential vocabulary:

carbon footprint, contamination, environment, landfill, ozone layer, plastic, pollution, smog, sustainable, waste

Essential knowledge/concepts:

1. The ozone layer is a layer that goes around our planet.
2. The ozone layer had a hole in it caused by CFC gases, but this is now repairing itself.
3. Pollution in our environment can be caused by the traffic that travels on our roads.
4. There is constant noise all around us, including from traffic, animals and humans.
5. Smog is a mixture of fog, dust and smoke.
6. Food that is thrown away rots, causing a gas called methane that is harmful to the environment.
7. Food waste can be composted down to be used again to grow plants and vegetables.
8. The rubbish that we throw away ends up in large landfill sites.
9. To reduce the amount in landfill, humans are encouraged to reuse and recycle what they already have.
10. Our oceans and seas are getting contaminated with plastic, which is harmful to the animals that live in them.
11. Humans can reduce the amount of plastic by reusing bags and using paper-based items instead of plastic ones, e.g. for drinking straws.
12. Water is contaminated with both natural and human pollution.
13. Every human contributes to the carbon footprint of the planet.
14. The Terra Carta has been written to show humans ways in which we can make our planet sustainable.

Excel

The key assessment outcomes of this unit are:

Explore 1: The Ozone Serpent: Presentation on the ozone layer

Explore 5: The Smogosaurus: Painting of a smog scene

Explore 9: The Plaken: Non-chronological report on plastic pollution

Explore 13: The Terra Carta: Letter to HRH Prince Charles

Exhibit

Pupils to create a video on how they can improve the world by being living sustainably. The video should include what they have learned over the course of the theme and why it is so important to save our planet for future generations.

Possible wider experiences

Visit a sea life centre to gain insight into the world of our oceans.

Visit a botanical garden and explore why the plants on our planet are so important.

Flipped learning opportunities

Learn about the slogan 'Reduce, reuse, recycle' and see what you can find out about it.

Research an environmentalist, such as Greta Thunberg. Why is she such an advocate for environmental issues?

Family learning suggestion

Try growing your own vegetables in the garden (either in the ground or in pots) and then use them to make a meal.

Try to recycle more of your household rubbish so that it does not go into landfill.

Cultural awareness

Key piece of music

Is This The World We Created? – by Queen <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIIXY322K7Q> *Yes We Can* – by Artists United for Nature <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rsSqoc1WyhI>

Key piece of art

Café Terrace At Night – by Vincent van Gogh



Key poem

Names – by Brian Moses
[Finding Your Voice - Environment - Key Stage 2 Literacy](#)