

Sustainability

The Blue Marble



Years 3 & 4

Your students will be immersed in the idea that the Earth is the only place that we know of which can sustain life. They will learn about living things and how they rely on the environment to survive. Students will learn about the life cycles of different animals and visit a National Park. They will research an endangered animal and participate in a Conservation Conference to raise awareness of the threats that the endangered animals faces and how people can help.

Rationale

Understanding the importance of habitats for plants and animals encourages us to think and act sustainably when we interact with the environment.

Essential questions

- How do living things depend on each other and the environment to survive?
- What impact do we have on the environment?
- Who is responsible for caring for the environment?
- How can we reduce our environmental footprint?

Glossary

atmosphere, campaign, compass, conservation, crops, deforestation, desert, ecosystem, endangered, erosion, fauna, flora, fungi, grasslands, habitat, insects, mammals, photosynthesis, protection, rain forest, savanna, sustainable, wetlands, woodlands

Rich assessment task

Your students will visit a National Park and record information about examples of erosion, flora, fauna, and the impact of humans. They will use a writing rubric to help them share what they learnt. Students will use the 'Conservation Campaign Rubric' as they work towards presenting a stall at the school's Conservation Conference. They will research an endangered animal and develop a poster to communicate the threats that the animal faces and how people can help. Students will develop a strategy to gain the attention of those attending the Conservation Conference and answer questions that attendees ask about the endangered animal.

Future action

Students will appreciate the idea that Earth is one environment and the only place that we know of which can sustain life. They will be able to participate in discussions about whose responsibility it is to sustain the environment. Students will be able to list strategies for helping endangered animals. They will be curious to learn more about environmental sustainability and motivated to contribute to conservation campaigns.