

# Environment



# Our Environment

## Purpose

To be aware that the environment has finite resources and to understand how these might be damaged through misuse.

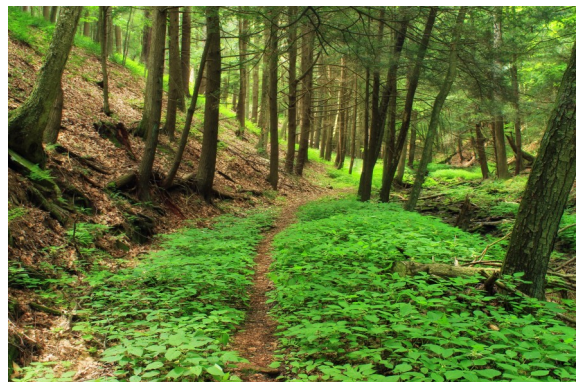
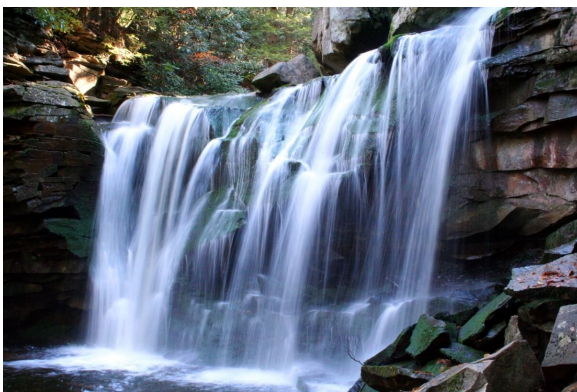
To identify ways in which we can look after and improve our home and school environments.

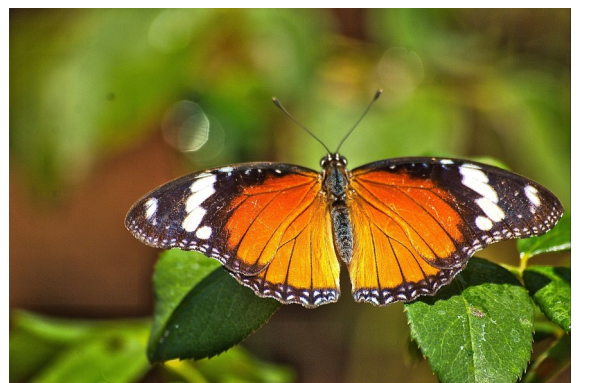
## Entrance of Pupils

*A thought provoking slideshow introducing the theme of 'Our Environment' for the pupils to enter assembly to (10 minutes)*

## Introduction

We have the most beautiful world which provides all the resources we need to sustain us and fill us with wonder at the beauty and all around us.





However we each have a duty to look after our world, our own environment because without thought, care and action, this can be destroyed.

But just how fragile is our wonderful world? Listen to the poem by Brian Patten. What or who do you think the 'newcomer ' might be?

**There's something new in the river,'  
The fish said as it swam.**

**'It's got no scales, no fins and no gills,  
And ignores the impassable dam.'**

**'There's something new in the trees.'  
I heard a bloated thrush sing.**

**'It's got no beak, no claws, and no feathers,  
And not even the ghost of a wing.'**

**'There's something new in the warren,'  
Said the rabbit to the doe.**

**'It's got no fur, no eyes and no paws,  
Yet digs further than we dare go.'**

**'There's something new in the whiteness,'  
Said the snow-bright polar bear.**

**'I saw its shadow on a glacier,  
But it left no pawmarks there.'**

**Throughout the animal kingdom, the news was spreading fast.**

**No beak, no claws, no feather,  
No scales, no fur, no gills,  
It lives in the trees and the water,  
In the soil and the snow and the hills,  
And it kills and it kills and it kills.**



## Finite World Resources

Sometimes the problems worldwide feel so big that they are out of our control. We hear about:

- Carbon footprint
- CO2 gas emissions
- Melting of the polar ice caps
- Droughts and starvation in poorer countries
- Oil and coal being depleted
- Forests being destroyed
- Animals in danger of extinction
- Seas being ruined with plastic waste, debris and oil spills
- Rivers being clogged with rubbish and chemical waste



It is good to know that countries meet worldwide to make decisions about how to save our planet. Agreements and targets are made to ensure that damage is limited and resources are spent to ensure that we replace what we use and find alternative ways of living.

One example of this is the move from petrol/diesel cars to electric cars. This is being encouraged by governments as petrol and diesel will eventually be depleted. You may have seen that more and more public areas like shopping centres have a place where electric cars can be charged. In the UK, the aim is that by 2035, the selling of new petrol/diesel cars will be banned.





Similarly, you may have seen in the news that there are major concerns about the use of plastics as these materials do not degrade very quickly and therefore pollute the environment. They can be especially dangerous to wildlife, particularly those who live in water. Many companies have made changes to help. Have you noticed, for example, that you rarely get a plastic straw with your drink—these have been replaced with paper straws which do far less damage to the environment.

### **Little Things Matter**

So we have heard about what governments and large companies can do to help, but what can we do to care for our world?

Perhaps surprisingly, it is actually the little things that matter. For example, if everyone in your school ensures that you would not drop litter, your own close environment would be so much better in an instant. How much could you save at home and at school if you remembered to turn off lights and equipment when they are not in use? What if your family turned down the heating by a degree or two and remembered to keep doors and windows closed if the heating is on?

It takes everyone to 'do their bit' but think how effective it could be if everyone in every school made a small effort. There are over 32000 schools in the UK—



pupils and students have a powerful role to play in the protection of the environment!

## **Greta Thunberg**

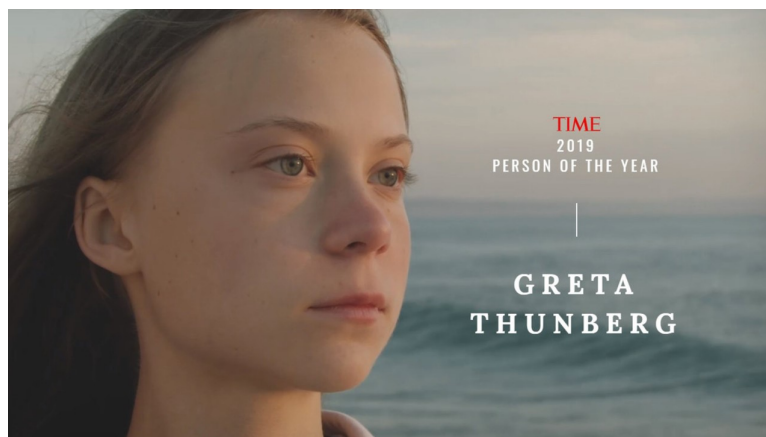
**Greta Tintin Eleonora Ernman Thunberg** was born in Sweden on 3 January 2003 and has become famous as an environmental activist. She has gained international recognition for promoting the view that humanity is facing a crisis arising from climate change. Thunberg is known for her youth and her straightforward speaking manner, both in public and to political leaders and assemblies, in which she criticises world leaders for their failure to take sufficient action to address the climate crisis.

Video Clip - You Tube - Sky News

Greta Thunberg sends a message to British School children in Bristol.

**'This is an emergency. People are already suffering and dying from the consequences of the climate environmental emergency. But it will get worse. Well I will not stand aside and watch. I will not be silent while the world is on fire. Will you?**

**World leaders are behaving like children so it falls on us to be the adults in the room.'**



Whilst not everyone agrees with Greta Thunberg and some say that her messages are alarmist and lacking scientific evidence, she is nevertheless an example of how a young individual can really make a difference and make their voice heard.

## Worldwide Campaigners

For a number of years, groups have developed to campaign for our environmental protection. In the UK alone there are over 50 groups looking after the many different interests of nature. These include:

- ⇒ Canal and River Trust
- ⇒ Centre for Alternative Technology
- ⇒ Friends of the Earth
- ⇒ Groundworks Trust
- ⇒ Greenpeace
- ⇒ Keep Britain Tidy
- ⇒ Plant a Tree Today

There are even groups for the Conservation of Bats and the Earthworm Society of Britain!

It would be well worth researching and even joining one of these groups so that you can do your bit to save and protect our wonderful world!

### Quote

*'We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors,  
we borrow it from our children'*

*Native American Saying*



## The Bible Says

The story of how God made the world is told to us in the first book of the Old Testament—Genesis (meaning ‘the beginning’.)

### Day One

In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth, and while the earth was still unformed, God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then God separated the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day and the darkness Night. And there was an evening and a morning, making the first day.

### Day Two

And God said, "Let there be a sky and let it divide the waters that are below from the waters that are above the sky." And it was done. And God called the sky the Heavens. And there was an evening and a morning, making the second day.

### Day Three

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be brought together, and let the dry land appear." And it was done. And God called the dry land Earth and the waters that were brought together Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let plants and trees grow from the earth." And it was done. And plants and trees grew from the earth, each plant bringing forth its own kind of seed and each tree its own kind of fruit, and God saw that it was good. And there was an evening and a morning, making the third day.

### Day Four

And God said, "Let there be lights in the heavens to separate the night from the day. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, the days, and the years. Let them be lights in the heavens to light the earth." And it was done. So God made the two great lights (the sun and the moon): the greater to rule the day and the lesser to rule the night. God made the stars also and placed them in the heavens to throw light upon the earth. And God saw that it was good. And there was an evening and a morning, making the fourth day.



## Day Five

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth many living creatures and let birds fly above the earth and in the sky." And God made large sea-monsters and all kinds of living creatures with which the waters abound, and all kinds of birds. And God saw that it was good. And he blessed them, saying, "Increase and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was an evening and a morning, making the fifth day.



## Day Six

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures, cattle and creeping things and wild beasts." And it was done. So God made all the different kinds of wild beasts, and the cattle, and everything that crawls upon the ground. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let us make man like ourselves. Let him rule over the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the wild beasts and all the living things that crawl upon the ground." And God made man like himself, like God he made him. He made them male and female.

And God blessed them, and said to them, "Have children, increase, live all over the earth, and conquer it; rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that crawls upon the ground."

And God said, "See, to you I give every plant which grows on all the earth, and every tree which bears fruit with its own kind of seed. It shall be food for you. And to every wild beast and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that crawls on the earth and is alive, I give every green herb for food." And it was done.

And when God saw everything that he had made, he saw that it was very good. And there was an evening and a morning, making the sixth day.



## Day Seven

And the heavens and the earth were finished and all that there was in them. And on the seventh day when God had finished the work which he had done, he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, for in it he rested from all the work which he had done.

## Let Us Pray

Dear God

Help us to look after the beautiful world that we have been given and make sure that we are active in protecting it for ourselves, for all who live in it and for the generations of the future.

Amen

## Putting it Into Practice

**Over this week you could plan to start or further develop an environmental group within your school.**

## Day One

Who might be involved? What issues might you decide to tackle? How would you ensure that others hear your message? How might you go about organising your group? How would you aim to get everyone involved?

## Exit of Pupils

*A thought provoking slideshow reminding pupils of the key issues raised in the assembly about the theme of 'Our Environment' for the pupils to exit assembly to (10 minutes)*



## Collective Worship and Putting it into Practice for the Rest of the Week

### Day 2

Dear God

We pray for the world we live in: that God may open our eyes to recognise the goodness of all creation and help us to do what we can to restore and care for the wonderful gift that we have been given.

Amen

**Discuss and plan how you would ensure that your school is a litter free zone.**



### Day 3

Dear God

We pray for all those who suffer as a result of our waste, greed and indifference, And we pray that the day would come when everyone has enough. food and clean water. Help us to respect the rights of all people and all species . And help us to willingly share your gifts . Today and always.

Amen

**Discuss and plan how you would campaign to save energy in your school.**



## Day 4

**Dear God**

Dear God, thank you for this beautiful planet. Bless it and keep it safe from harm. We pray for the protection of the animals, the soil, air and water. May we care for all You have made. Help us to love the Earth as You do.

Amen.

**Discuss and plan how you might plant a tree area in your school**

## Day 5

**Dear God**

That the Earth is wondered at and cared for as God intends,  
let us pray to the Lord.

That we stop poisoning the soil and seas with trash and toxins,  
let us pray to the Lord.

That we are sorry for our greed and live simply and lightly on the Earth,  
let us pray to the Lord.

That all members of this community take seriously the pledge to protect the  
Earth, let us pray to the Lord.

That global warming is halted and reversed before more damage can occur,  
let us pray to the Lord.

That protection of the Earth be a top political priority,  
let us pray to the Lord

Amen

**Discuss and plan how you might save and reuse paper in your school**

