

PUPIL RESOURCE

What do you love most about the 'great outdoors'? Do you have a favourite place – a corner of your garden or the local park, a beach, or a special tree? And what do you love doing? Watching birds, making a den, going biking, or building sandcastles? Maybe you love singing in the rain, or kicking up leaves in autumn?

Our brilliant planet helps us to enjoy all the things we love in nature.

But if we're going to carry on delighting in nature then we need to look after our planet right now.

WHY, WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

While we enjoy the outdoor spaces close to home, we also depend on places far away, such as forests on the other side of the world. The Amazon rainforests are huge carbon stores – storing carbon both in the trees themselves and in the ground underneath them. And even though tropical rainforests cover only about 6% of the Earth's land surface they are home to over 50% of landbased species. This rich variety, or biodiversity, of species on which we all depend is under threat.

The problem is that at the moment we're using the Earth's natural resources as if we had more than just one planet at our disposal. In the Amazon, around 17% of the forest has been lost in the last 50 years, mainly for cattle ranching to produce our food. We are also burning fossil fuels, such as oil, natural gas, and coal to provide our energy and this causes climate change.

Our activities are making the Earth's atmosphere warm so quickly that species can't adapt quickly enough. Nearly one in 6 species are threatened due to climate change. More people are enduring extreme weather events such as floods, forest fires, or drought. Crops are failing so people are going hungry, and as sea levels rise, communities are forced to leave their homes.

If we keep damaging our planet by using up more than our fair share of the Earth's natural resources then it may never recover.



Earth is our most precious resource, and we're sure that you will do all you can to protect it. To get you started, you could carry out a survey and find out what people in your school community know about sustainability.

wwf.org.uk/garesources

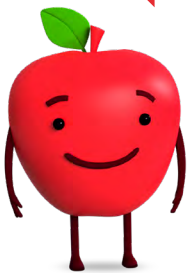
SO, WHAT CAN WE DO?

Luckily we can all do something. By becoming a Green Ambassador you'll be helping to spread the green message and help people live more sustainably. Being sustainable means:

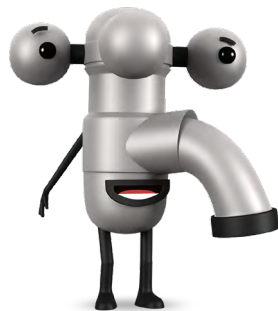
- Caring for yourself
- Caring for each other - your family and friends and others in your school but also people living across the world
- Caring for the environment and animals - your pets and animals in your garden or living in your school field but also endangered animals all over the world and the places where they live.

Being a Green Ambassador shows that you care for our planet. And the Green Ambassador characters are full of ideas on how to live sustainably.

Make a compost heap and waste less food.



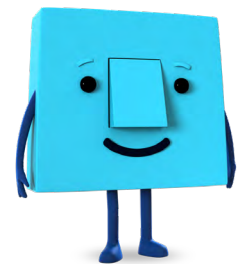
Don't leave the tap running!



Think about how you come to school.



Make some draught excluders for the doors and keep the heat in.



Drink tap water instead of using plastic bottles.



As a Green Ambassador you'll be helping others in your school create a brighter future for our precious Earth.



Build a bug hotel.



*Why are recycling bins optimistic?
Because they're full of cans!*

