



# FUTURE VISIONS OF OUR PLANET

SCHOOLS CHALLENGE



# BACKGROUND FOR EDUCATORS

As WWF's *Living Planet Report 2020* and Sir David Attenborough's powerful new film *David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet* make clear, we are facing a huge and growing environmental crisis. The natural world is being seriously damaged by human activity at a time when we need it the most to help stabilise our changing climate, and to provide all the essentials of life for a growing population. We must act quickly to avert catastrophe.

As awareness grows about the scale of the problems, there is a real danger that individuals feel helpless and lose hope for the future – especially young people who have played no part in causing the issues, but who will be most affected by them. The problems may seem too great for any individual action to help address.

It is vital that we do not fall into despair. The truth is that change is needed – but it is possible. The *Living Planet Report 2020* lays out the stepping stones to a sustainable future in which we live in balance with nature. The world is already changing, and although there is hard work ahead, the near



future will bring new opportunities and exciting developments in technology and ways of living, as we shape a future that is better for people and wildlife. It is this future that your students will help to define, and will get to enjoy.

The Future Visions Challenge will help you and your students reframe the environmental crisis from being just about averting disaster by giving up things we currently enjoy, towards the positive mission of creating a better world.

Your students' creations can help to drive a conversation locally and globally about the kind of future we want, showing people that there is a future worth working for, and inspiring people to play their part in shaping it with a positive vision and a sense of purpose. WWF would like to amplify some of the future visions of young people over the months ahead, especially around Earth hour in March 2021 and leading up to COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021. To give your students a chance to have their creations selected for screenings and social media posts by WWF please ensure you share them with us using one of the following methods. We will always contact you before showcasing students' work, and will make contact to inform you of plans for its use, and to obtain necessary permissions.

## SHARE YOUR FUTURE VISIONS:

1. On **Instagram** or **Twitter** with **#FutureVisions** and **@WWF\_UK**
2. Via email (as an attachment or file transfer link) to **education@wwf.org.uk**

## WHO CAN TAKE PART?

This challenge is open to all, with no lower or upper age limit, but we're excited for young people who will shape and experience the future to take this opportunity to share their vision.

## THE FUTURE VISIONS FILM

WWF and Silverback Films – the film-makers behind the *Our Planet* series and *David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet* – have teamed up with acclaimed digital artist Erik Wernquist to create a unique film that shows a future that could be within reach if we address the issues highlighted in the *Living Planet Report* and work *with* rather than *against* nature to provide for our needs.

Using this unique film as inspiration, challenge your students to consider and then express what a positive future looks like to them – and what it would mean to them for us to achieve balance with nature.

Students can use whatever medium they feel best conveys their vision and their message, though you could limit their choice to give them focus or to use the challenge as a practical exercise for a particular subject or to deliver against a specific learning objective. Here are some ideas.



## FILM VOICEOVER SCRIPT

*English | Science | Geography | Citizenship*

In the Future Visions asset pack versions of the Future Visions film are provided with and without a music score, allowing students to write and (if they wish) record their script to create their own version of the film to share within your school community, with WWF and with the world. Their script could relate directly to the visuals of the film, describing the way things are different from today, how that new way of life could be achieved, and what it would mean for them and the planet as a whole. Alternatively they could base their script on the themes of change, innovation and balance with nature, but bring in whatever information or reflections they wish to share to build their vision.

## POETRY

*English | Citizenship*

Some students may wish to express the deep themes of the film and the emotions or reflections that it inspires in the form of a poem – which could itself be performed and recorded to provide a voiceover to the film. To inspire students with a sense of how a personal reflection on the themes could form a response to the film, poems have been written and performed by poets Benjamin Zephaniah and Kate Tempest.

## VIDEO

*Art & Design | Computing | Science | Geography | Citizenship*

The Future Visions asset pack includes a video clip bank that students can draw on to edit their own short films to convey their vision. Additional footage could be brought in from royalty free archives, or shot by the students especially to bring their creative vision to life.

## MUSIC

*Music | Citizenship*

Composing and performing a music track – with or without lyrics – may be a way that some students can express their future vision. A version of the Future Visions film is provided with no music score, so that students can overlay their song or instrumental score over the visuals to create a powerful music video.

## SPEECH

*English | Science | Geography | Citizenship*

As a persuasive writing or public speaking exercise, students may write and perform a speech that conveys their vision of the future, perhaps aimed at world leaders who are best placed to make that imagined future a reality. This speech could be performed on video, recorded as audio to be added as a voiceover to the Future Visions video, or submitted as a written article.

## INFOGRAPHIC POSTER

*Art & Design | Computing | Science | Geography | Citizenship*

The Living Planet Report Youth Edition has a number of infographic elements. Starting from a discussion of the way that images have been used to convey key stories and statistics in that report, students could consider how they might convey their own vision of the future in an infographic, and design a poster for school display.

Useful reference: <https://venngage.com/blog/infographic-design/>

## TAKE PART

It's simple! Just follow these three steps:

- 1 Introduce your class or school community to the Living Planet Report Youth Edition, using the assembly slide deck and/or classroom activities outlined in the accompanying education pack.
- 2 Watch the Future Visions film together and use it as the basis for a class discussion.  
Tips for screening and discussing videos in class can be found in the Our Planet Their Future pack: <https://tinyurl.com/OurPlanetTheirFuture>
- 3 Set your students the challenge of coming up with their vision of the future and expressing it through their chosen medium (see printable worksheet provided).

[wwf.org.uk/futurevisions](https://www.wwf.org.uk/futurevisions)



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