



## SESSION 8 – Climate Change and our natural world

VIEW THE SLIDES in 'SLIDE SHOW' mode – and then all the links will work!!

Please do send us photos of your children enjoying this club!

(Resources required – outdoors – grassy patch if possible?)

### Slide 2 – Challenge Review

Which action did you choose from your Jigsaw?

Did you manage to chat to your family, friends or teachers about climate change – what they know and what you've learnt?

---

### Slide 3 – Nature on our doorstep

This week we're thinking about our natural world – and the IMPACTS of climate change on our NATURAL world.

Climate change is not only impacting humans, but some of our most loved natural spaces, insects, animals and plants are threatened by climate change.

Have you noticed nature on your doorstep?

We don't need to go exploring all round the globe to find Nature that is awesome!

How many of these have you seen recently – did you stop to notice them?

Most of these photos were taken by our Young Climate Warriors!

How does nature make you feel?

NATURE IS AWESOME... happy, contented, peaceful, tranquil, safe, at home...? (Or maybe nervous, threatened, uncertain, overwhelmed ...)

---

### Slide 4 – It's time to go exploring the globe!

Prepare to be inspired, awe-struck, amazed. Frozen Worlds. Jungles. Coastal Seas. Grasslands. High Seas. Fresh Water. Forests



FOLLOW THE LINK – It's time to go exploring... with the help of WWF, David Attenborough, Silverback Films, Netflix, One Planet, the internet and your computer – you can see many amazing things!

CLICK – 'BACK TO ALL HABITATS' first (top left of screen) – and then choose where you would like to explore!

Go to this link and spend 10 minutes watching in wonder and awe.

You can delve down into the forests, into the oceans ...

<https://www.ourplanet.com/en/explorables-globe>



If you're not able to go exploring at the moment – perhaps you can do so another day, or at home later.

---

Slide 5 – Do we take 'Nature' for granted?

Our forests, rivers, oceans and soils provide us with the food we eat, the air we breathe, the water we irrigate our crops with. Our natural world also supports our health, happiness and prosperity.

If you remember back to one of the earlier sessions – we looked at a UNICEF video – one girl from Zimbabwe said – we need to 'Teach people that trees have value when they're standing anchored in the ground, as they should be'

Should Nature be 'free'?

Because nature is free, we often take it for granted and overexploit it.

We clear forests, overfish oceans, pollute rivers and build over wetlands without taking account of the impact this will have.

What is the 'value' of a standing tree? A clean unpolluted river? Preserved wetlands? How we value nature poses some really big complicated questions (maybe it's even a 'super wicked problem!')

Slowly humans are realizing that it might help if we ascribe monetary values to nature – to help us protect it - making it more expensive if people destroy nature, means they are less likely to do it.

(TREES capture carbon – but also provide habitats for other species, and in some cases are almost an ecosystem in themselves. An oak tree has many habitats for distinct communities of organisms. Branches and leaves – for bees, wasps, moths, bluetits, squirrels and hawks. Trunk – insects and larvae. Root and litter zone – bacteria, earthworms, woodlouse, fungi)

Why is it important that we value nature?

We need to value nature so that we make better long-term decisions for the health of us and our planet.

WWF says - Instead of making decisions based on short-term financial interests, we can look at the longer-term benefits for people and the economy – and of course nature itself. Using this argument, we can persuade governments and businesses to take better care of the natural world, so that it can continue to sustain us all into the future

---

Slide 6 – Can you think of examples of how climate change will impact our natural world?



The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (you may remember we mentioned them in Session 1 – they are the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change) says that even a 1.5 degree average rise in global temperatures may put 20 – 30% of the world's species at risk of extinction.

Our natural world is suffering because of climate change, human activity and pollution. SPECIES LOSS – African elephants – are vulnerable to a changing climate – the biggest concern for elephants is their need for large amounts of fresh water – and the influence this has on their daily activities, reproduction and migration.

Polar bears – Climate change is amplified in the polar regions. Climate change is heating up the Arctic faster than anywhere else – and sea ice is shrinking 14% per decade. Polar bears rely almost exclusively on a calorie-loaded diet of seals. To minimise energy consumption polar bears 'still-hunt' – waiting by seals breathing holes in the sea ice – they then stun it and catch it.

ECO SYSTEM DESTRUCTION – Coral reefs – cannot survive the frequency of current bleaching events from global temperature rise and warming oceans. More than a quarter of all marine fish species live in coral reefs. As we saw in an earlier session – 3 – 70 to 90% of warm water tropical coral reefs that exist today are expected to disappear even if warming at warming of 1.5°.

HABITATS THREATENED – Redshanks – Wetland birds such as redshank will find their habitats threatened by climate change – saltmarshes will become inundated by the sea while moors and wet grasslands will dry up during hot summers.

BEHAVIOURS IMPACTED – Picture (housemartins+ swallows (nick upto RSPB) – Birds may be forced to nest at different times in response to changing availability of the food they depend on to feed to their young. Migrating birds may have to change their migration routes or the places where they breed or spend winter.

---

Slide 7 – Nature on our doorstep – what can you do?

Look after or plant wild flowers to support bees and other insects – Encourage wild spaces, plant some bee-friendly flowers – in a pot?. Bees are struggling with climate change – drought and storms alter the availability of nectar and their ability to forage. Less wild spaces and use of chemicals on our land are also not helping.

Notice the beauty of nature – The warm, lichened panels of your garden fence? The crumbling bark and outstretched roots of a tree? A sunny patch of lawn? The cracks in a paving stone? Or maybe what lurks beneath an old stone or lump of deadwood? Leave dead wood to become habitats – gardens don't always have to be tidy – can you ask your parent / carer to leave some fallen leaves and dead wood – they make cosy homes for hibernating animals in winter, and are great for insects.

Support and enjoy wild spaces – Leave an area untended and 'messy' – some bees and other insects love long grass, or making nests in compost heaps or under hedgerows.



Help plant more trees – Join a community tree-planting scheme? Ask your cubs / brownies / football club – if they want to be involved in planting some trees?

Feed the birds in winter – Providing bird food can make a big difference to the survival of robins and other garden birds during cold weather. A robin's favourite treat is mealworms (a type of beetle larva), but they love kitchen scraps.

Avoid polluting – Do a litter pick – prevent wild animals from eating or getting caught in rubbish.

Look after your soil – homemade compost? Much of our soil is degraded. Can you ask your parent / carer about composting – is it possible to set up a compost system or wormery at home? And if you're buying compost – try to find some that is peat-free, as keeping peat in the ground is really important to tackling climate change.

Learn about nature in your neighbourhood. The more we learn, the more we understand, and the more we care!

Ask your parent / carer to buy only FSC (Forestry Stewardship Council ) paper – forests are managed sustainably – we'll look at this more in Session 9!

---

#### Slide 8 – Exploring with all your senses

Go outside to a grassy patch and stand still for 3 minutes!

Develop a sense of curiosity? Develop a sense of wonder?

What can you see?

How many different textures can you find – bumpy, mossy, slimey, smooth?

Maybe take your shoes off – what can you feel with your feet?

Close your eyes – what can you smell?

What sounds can you hear?

---

#### Slide 9 – Challenge for the week!

Take time to be inspired by nature.

Undertake one of the 'Nature on our doorstep' ideas.

Draw a picture / take a photo? (send it to your school social media account?)

---

Take-away points from this session:

- Even a 1.5 degree average rise in global temperatures may put 20 -30% of the world's species at risk of extinction.
- Nature is Awesome – we can explore nature from our doorstep.
- We need to VALUE NATURE – A standing tree? A clean unpolluted river? Preserved wetlands? So that we make better long-term decisions about our planet.
- Climate Change is leading to species loss, ecosystem destruction, habitats threatened and behaviours impacted.
- We need to love and care for nature, to support its fight against the impacts of climate change.