

## 1a. PREPARATORY SURVEY

1 HOUR, PLUS  
15 MINS AFTER  
EACH ACTIVITY

A survey is carried out by each child to ascertain their thoughts about sustainability as well as their understanding of the impact of their own behaviour in actively bringing about change. Children are encouraged to question family members and compile an overview of current attitudes towards sustainability.

### TYPE OF ENQUIRY

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Survey / Researching using secondary sources

### OBJECTIVES

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Recording data and results of increasing complexity (UKS2 Working Scientifically)

Reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, in oral and written forms such as displays and presentations (UKS2 Working Scientifically)

### SCIENCE VOCABULARY

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Generations, positive, negative, impact, environment.

### RESOURCES PER CHILD

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- Photocopy of **Activity Sheet 1**: Survey plus additional copies to take home
- Pencil or pen

### PRIOR KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE

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Children will have had experience of asking and answering simple questions to gather information or opinion.

### ACTIVITY NOTES

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Explain to the children that they are each going to complete a short survey which contains questions about looking after the Earth and our environment. Discuss with them that this is not a test, it is just to collect their ideas and that there are no right or wrong answers. Discuss with children that they all might have their own ideas and opinions about the questions they are being asked so that it is very important to answer honestly and with as much detail as they can.

Children should be aware that the teacher can read the questions aloud to them, if appropriate and explain any words or questions they do not understand without providing ideas for their answers. If a child is unable to respond, they should write **'I do not know'**. The accuracy of spellings is not important at this stage and there could be a time limit of thirty minutes for completion of the questionnaire, although some children might not need the full amount of time.

Once the survey has been completed, it would be interesting for children to compare their ideas and opinions. Children might also take copies of the survey home for family members to complete and then a wider range of responses can be compared, with a focus on differences and similarities across generations.

## 1b. ENVIRONMENTAL VOCABULARY

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30 MINS +  
15 MINS AFTER  
SUBSEQUENT  
ACTIVITIES

Children are challenged to create a 'big-book' style environmental dictionary which will help others in their school to learn about important environmental issues. They suggest definitions for a list of words provided and then, later, refer to the **Glossary** and return to the task to make amendments as they learn more about environmental issues in subsequent activities.

### TYPE OF ENQUIRY

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Grouping and classifying things / Researching using secondary sources

### OBJECTIVES

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Recording data and results of increasing complexity (UKS2 Working Scientifically)

Reporting and presenting findings from enquiries, in oral and written forms such as displays and presentations (UKS2 Working Scientifically)

### SCIENCE VOCABULARY

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See full vocabulary list contained in the activity on **Activity Sheet 2**

### RESOURCES

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per child

- Photocopy of **Activity Sheet 2**: Environmental vocabulary
- Later reference to **Activity Sheet 3**: Glossary
- Pencil or pen

### PRIOR KNOWLEDGE / EXPERIENCE

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Children will have had experience of asking and answering simple questions to gather information or opinion.

### ACTIVITY NOTES

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Show children the newspaper headline on **Slide 9** of presentation '**Sustainable materials: which plastic?**' (also shown below):

#### Dictionary names 'single-use' as the phrase of the year

There is a rising concern of how much plastic we use once and then throw away. This year has seen huge numbers of businesses pledging to phase out single-use plastics from their operations. Some governments are preparing to ban plastic straws, cotton buds, and other single-use plastics...

Discuss the information provided and describe how, each year, several dictionary companies compile a list of new and popular words that reflect the times we are living in. They have named 'single-use' as the phrase of the year and say that this phrase has been used four times as much over the past twelve months as it has ever before.

Explain to children that they are going to create a 'big-book' style environmental dictionary which will help other children in their school to learn about important environmental issues. There are so many new words and phrases that have appeared in our language over recent years, it is important that young people have a good understanding of what they mean.

Share the list of words on **Activity Sheet 2**. Ask if children can suggest definitions, without carrying out any initial research. They should write their ideas directly onto the sheet under each word provided.

Explain that they will return to the task on completion of the activities in this publication. It will be interesting to see how much additional detail children can include in order to improve their final definitions for the finished dictionary.

Children may also wish to compare their final definitions with those provided in the **Glossary (Activity Sheet 3)**.