



## Taking Care of the Earth (Earth Science)

### Year 1

#### End Points:

- People are causing pollution that is damaging the earth
- A natural resource is something that is found in nature that people can use
- A manufactured resource is something people have created to use
- Some natural resources cannot be easily replaced (non-renewable)
- Some natural resources can be easily replaced (renewable)
- Logging is cutting down trees
- Logging causes damage to the environment
- Pollution occurs when an environment is damaged by waste
- We can reduce the amount of pollution we create
- When something is reused, it is recycled
- We recycle items to reduce the amount of waste

This unit has been included in our curriculum in addition to the national curriculum content. Within this unit we included knowledge that, over time, builds understanding of concepts such as recycling and sustainability. We feel that our KS1 pupils should be introduced to this knowledge, in addition to the rest of their science curriculum, in order to build awareness of local and global issues relating to human interaction with the environment. Pupils will revisit these issues in both science and geography, for example in Year 4 when they study ecology and look at human threats to the environment and then in Year 6 Geography when they study issues such as waste management and pollution in the UK. In this unit pupils will learn about the Earth's natural resources and how people harvest and use them. They will be introduced to the concept of renewable and non-renewable resources. Logging is introduced and pupils will learn about the negative environmental impact this process can have. Pupils will also think about ways in which we can reduce our impact on the environment, from planting trees to recycling paper. This unit could be taught alongside a trip to a local recycling centre, or a visit from a speaker from an organisation that works on a related issue. This unit can also be supplemented with texts that explain issues such as recycling and conservation to young children.

**Lesson Sequencing:**

In lesson one, children learn that there are different ways we damage the earth. This knowledge will be built upon in lesson two when children learn about the difference between natural and manufactured resources, and renewable and non-renewable resources. In lesson three, children will learn the positive and negative impacts of logging. Lesson four will explore pollution: how people create it and how it can harm the environment. In lesson five, children will learn that recycling is one way we can take care of the earth and the benefits it has for the environment. In the assessment lesson, children will write about how to care for the earth using the knowledge they have learnt throughout the entire unit.

**Misconceptions:**

- Air pollution is always visible.
- We can make coal as fast as it is being used.
- Trees are a manufactured resource because humans plant them.
- Logging has no positive benefits.
- Once rubbish is buried, it no longer causes any issues.

**Working Scientifically criteria met in this unit:**

- Asking simple questions and recognising that they can be answered in different ways
- Identifying and classifying
- Using their observations and ideas to suggest answers to questions
- Gathering and recording data to help in answering questions