

Eco Worries

This lesson was written in January 2021 and reflects information available, and guidance issued at the time.



Objectives:

- To understand how our actions affect our environment
- To understand how we can reduce waste related to the pandemic

Curriculum Links:

- **PSHE:** (from PSHE Association) L5. Ways of carrying out shared responsibilities for protecting the environment in school and at home; how everyday choices can affect the environment (e.g. reducing, reusing, recycling; food choices)

Key Vocabulary:

- pollution
- recyclable
- single-use plastic

Resources:

- PowerPoint
- A3 paper
- Colouring pencils

FAQs:

Why do I have to wash my hands so often? The coronavirus travels in the droplets in our breath. When we cough, sneeze, or even just touch our mouth or nose and then touch something else – we move the virus onto those places. The virus can live on those other places, just waiting for someone else to pick them up. Our hands pick up microbes like the coronavirus when we touch objects (e.g. door handles, pens, cutlery) and it has been estimated that we touch our face over 20 times in an hour. So, it's really important to be washing our hands regularly to make sure our hands are as clean as possible all the time. It's important to use soap and warm water to wash our hands, as the coronavirus likes to stick to our skin using the natural oil we have on our hands. Soap breaks up this oil (which is why our hands can feel dry sometimes after we wash them), and then the warm water can wash the virus germs down the plughole. Did you know that a toilet handle has 400 times more germs/microbes on it than a toilet seat.....! You can also clean your hands with hand sanitiser if you are not able to use soap and water.

Why do people use disposable face masks and gloves? Using disposable masks and gloves means that there are no risks of them lying around waiting to be washed. However, they all contain plastic which is not good for the environment.

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Introduction:

5 mins



Mascot video- eco worries related to Coronavirus.

- How are we creating more waste in COVID-19 times? (using disposable masks and gloves, wet wipes, single-use plastic bottles, take away containers)
- Whose job is it to look after our world? (ours)
- Why is it important that we look after our world? (to make it clean and safe for people and animals)

Main Activity:

20 mins



Show children images on PowerPoint and talk about what they see in the underwater scene (disposable mask, gloves, plastic bottle). Tell the children that we call this pollution.

- How did these things end up underwater? (people dropping litter, rubbish in rivers flowing out to the sea)
- Where should they be? (in the bin (when disposing of masks, remember to cut the straps as these can cause a problem for animals getting tangled) - most cannot be recycled)
- What can we do to reduce waste? (reusable fabric masks, not using plastic gloves, refilling soap/hand sanitiser bottles, not having too many takeaways, or using our own cups/utensils, using soap and water instead of wet wipes)

Give them time to talk in pairs and make suggestions about what they can do to help.

List children's suggestions on the PowerPoint and explain that they are going to make a poster to remind people what they can do to keep our world clean and safe. Show them the PowerPoint example.

Plenary:

5 mins



- Who should look after our world?
- Why is it important to look after our world?
- What can we do to cut down on COVID-19 waste?



Possible Extension Activities:

- Go litter-picking in the School playground. (Please ensure that children do not pick up litter with their hands, and that used face masks are double-bagged before disposal)
- Make a class pledge- what we will do to help our School environment.