

Year R

Eco Worries

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



Objectives:

- To make connections between our actions and the environment
- To understand the phrase 'reduce waste'

Curriculum Links:

- **Personal, Social & Emotional Development:** talk about their own and others' behaviour, and its consequences
- **Understanding of the World:** They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another.

Key Vocabulary:

- pollution
- recyclable
- single-use plastic

Resources:

- PowerPoint
- Colouring pencils
- paper

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 issues 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 a 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- 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)

Ask for children's suggestions, then show them the illustrated list 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.

Make posters in small groups with adult support- each child can draw a picture to illustrate one item on their poster then cut it out and stick it on.

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.