

# The Learning Worm



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## TEACHERS NOTES: SUSTAINABLE LIVING SOURCEBOOK

### Language/ICT/Maths/Geography and Sustainable Lesson Plan

Appropriate for Children in Year Groups: 3 – 6.

**Learning Outcome:** For pupils to begin to understand the relationship between people and the environment, to be aware of finite resources, to present a reasoned case, and to feel a sense of responsibility for the environment and the use of resources.

### Ideas for Introduction, Main, Plenary

**Introduction:** Discuss sustainable development in the context of its meaning and implication to mankind, and specifically to each child in the class. Discuss the idea of producing a class booklet on sustainable living, with a view to sharing and comparing it with other schools.

**Main:** Divide the class into three groups to collate information into one of the following three categories (refer to the illustrative ideas below for consideration and exploration):-

- At home.
- At school.
- In the local community.

**Plenary:** Are children able to demonstrate a commitment to the topic, understand its relevance, and appreciate how their actions can make a difference?

#### Resources:

- Some information on ideas for sustainable living (more can be gathered as part of the work).
- Paper and crayons.
- Scissors and glue, and attached worksheet on key concepts.

#### Differentiation:

- Support – mixed ability groups, with teacher intervention as necessary
- Extension – can work be produced using DTP, WP packages, pie charts, graphs?

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**Key Skills:** ICT, communication, number, thinking.

## **Seven Key Concepts Of Sustainable Development (Panel for Education for Sustainable Development, 1999).**

1. Interdependence.
2. Understanding how people, the environment and the economy are inextricably linked at all levels from local to global.
3. Citizenship and stewardship.
4. Recognising the importance of taking individual responsibility and action to ensure the world is a better place.
5. Needs and rights of future generations.
6. Understanding our own basic needs and the implications for the needs of future generations of actions taken today.
7. Diversity.
8. Respecting and valuing both human diversity (cultural, social and economic) and biodiversity.
9. Quality of life.
10. Acknowledging that global equity and justice are essential elements of sustainability and that basic needs must be met universally.
11. Sustainable change.
12. Understanding that resources are finite and that this has implications for people's lifestyles and for commerce and industry.
13. Balance.
14. Understanding of uncertainty and of the need for precautions in action.

## **Ways to Live More Sustainably:**

### **At Home And At School:**

- Ways of saving resources such as paper, electricity, water.
- Ways of promoting healthy eating.
- Ways of reducing waste, such as buying snacks with less packaging on them, composting fruit and vegetable remains.
- Ways of reusing and recycling materials, containers, toys, books - for example, washing out and decorating used tins for plant pots, storage containers or sculptures, taking unwanted saleable items to charity shops or jumble sales.
- Ways of travelling to school which use few resources.

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## At Home:

- Ways of buying less - use the library and video hire shop instead of buying too many books or videos, mend things, and make things.

## At School:

- Information about the present biodiversity of the school habitat, and how it could be increased.
- Information about the sustainable development policy of the school, or if there is not one in place, ideas for what could go into one.
- Information about a local scrap project for the provision of art materials.

## In The Community:

- Information about the practices of local businesses on sustainable development issues such as Fair Trade, use of tropical hardwoods or recycling.
- Ways of stating opinion about and raising public awareness of local issues such as the local environment, road-building or house-building schemes, provision of green areas, recycling.
- Information about local sustainable development initiatives.
- Information about sustainable forms of energy such as solar and wind power.