

The Great School Garden Campaign

Learning objective: To identify persuasive features and analyse the author's intent in a piece of persuasive writing.

Read the following letter written by Max the monkey to the school headteacher, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Dear Headteacher, imagine a vibrant sanctuary where pupils can learn, breathe, and grow. Currently, the patch of gravel behind the gym is a wasted opportunity. I am proposing that we transform this grey, barren space into a thriving community garden. Why should we settle for concrete when we could harvest our own crunchy carrots and fragrant flowers? A school garden is not merely a hobby; it is a living classroom. Research shows that nature improves focus and mental wellbeing, meaning students will return to their maths lessons refreshed and ready to calculate complex equations. Furthermore, the cost of seeds and basic tools is minimal—a mere £45—which could easily be raised through a community bake sale. By creating this green oasis, we are investing in the future health of every child. Let us work together to dig deep and make our school a beacon of sustainability. Will you join me in turning this dream into a delicious reality? Yours sincerely, Max the Monkey.

Word bank: persuasive · rhetorical · alliteration · argument · evidence · convince · ambitious

1. How much money does Max suggest is needed for the initial costs of the garden? (1 mark)

2. Name two specific benefits of a garden mentioned by Max in the text. (2 marks)

3. Why does Max describe the current space behind the gym as a 'wasted opportunity'? (2 marks)

4. What does the author imply about the relationship between nature and academic performance? (2 marks)

5. Do you think Max's use of rhetorical questions makes his argument more effective? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'before and after' picture of the school garden, showing the grey gravel on one side and Max's colourful, thriving community garden on the other.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) from the perspective of the headteacher responding to Max, using at least one piece of persuasive language to explain your decision.