

Finn's Sustainable Ocean Challenge

Learning objective: To understand the concept of sustainability and evaluate how human choices impact global ecosystems.

Finn the dolphin is mapping out ways to protect our oceans. Below is a list of actions. Sort these actions into two categories: 'Sustainable Choices' (actions that preserve resources for the future) and 'Unsustainable Choices' (actions that deplete resources or damage the environment). Then, answer the deeper thinking questions to help Finn improve the health of our planet.

Word bank: Renewable energy · Single-use plastics · Composting · Overfishing · Water conservation · Deforestation · Biodegradable materials · Carbon footprint

1. Sort the following into a table: Using a reusable water bottle, leaving the tap running while brushing teeth, purchasing fruit wrapped in excess plastic, and using solar panels. Explain why your choices for the first two items are sustainable or unsustainable. (4 marks)

2. Explain why 'overfishing' is considered a major threat to marine biodiversity. What might happen to the food chain if a specific fish species is caught faster than it can reproduce? (3 marks)

3. Justify your answer: Is it more sustainable to buy a product that is cheap but breaks after one week, or a product that costs £25 but lasts for five years? Refer to the concept of 'resource consumption' in your answer. (3 marks)

4. Compare and contrast 'renewable' and 'non-renewable' energy sources. Why is the transition to renewable energy vital for the sustainability of our planet? (3 marks)

5. If a local shop decided to stop selling all items packaged in plastic, what might be the positive and negative consequences for the shop owner and the local community? (3 marks)

6. Propose a 'Sustainability Pledge' for your school. Identify one specific area where your school could reduce its waste and justify why this change would have a significant impact. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Sustainable Future' vision of your local high street. Include at least four features that demonstrate sustainability, such as cycle lanes, rooftop gardens, or water collection barrels.



Extension challenge: Research a country that relies heavily on renewable energy, such as Iceland or Costa Rica. Write a short report explaining how their geography allows them to be sustainable and whether the UK could adopt similar methods.