

Year 5 Geography: Exploring Sustainability

Learning objective: To evaluate the impact of human activity on the environment and propose sustainable solutions for a greener future.

Read each question carefully. Use your geographical knowledge of resources, energy, and conservation to provide detailed answers. Ensure your writing is clear and uses subject-specific vocabulary.

Finn the dolphin has noticed changes in the ocean. As he maps the coastlines, he sees more plastic waste and observes that the water temperature is slowly rising. Meanwhile, Nova the owl watches from the canopy, noting that the forest is becoming smaller as humans build new homes. Sustainability means meeting our current needs without preventing future generations from meeting theirs. We must think about how we use energy, transport, and materials to protect our planet.

Word bank: Renewable · Non-renewable · Carbon footprint · Conservation · Sustainability · Fossil fuels · Biodiversity · Recycling

1. Define the term 'sustainability' in your own words. Why is it important for the future of our planet? (2 marks)

2. List two examples of renewable energy sources and explain one advantage of using them compared to fossil fuels. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the environmental impact of purchasing a plastic water bottle versus using a reusable metal flask. Consider the full life cycle of the product. (4 marks)

4. Explain why biodiversity is essential for a healthy ecosystem. Use an example to support your answer. (3 marks)

5. Imagine a local park is being considered for a new car park. Justify your argument for or against this development, considering the needs of the community and the environment. (4 marks)

6. Max the monkey is helping a local shop decide how to price their eco-friendly goods. If a sustainable bamboo toothbrush costs £2.50 and a plastic one costs £0.80, why might some people still choose the more expensive option? Discuss the social and environmental factors. (4 marks)

7. Extended Writing Task: 'The choices we make today will change the world of tomorrow.' Write a short persuasive speech or report outlining three specific actions a Year 5 pupil can take to reduce their carbon footprint at school or home. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of a 'Sustainable School of the Future'. Include at least three features that help the school save energy or protect the natural environment, such as solar panels, a rainwater collection system, or a rooftop garden.



Extension challenge: Total: /25. Challenge: Research the concept of 'Fairtrade'. How does buying Fairtrade products contribute to global sustainability and social justice? Write a paragraph explaining the link between fair wages and environmental protection.