

Protecting Our Planet: A Sustainable Future

Learning objective: To understand the concept of sustainability and identify how human choices impact the Earth's natural resources.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Use full sentences and provide evidence from the text to support your reasoning.

Finn the dolphin has spent years mapping the world's oceans, but recently he has noticed significant changes. Sustainability is the practice of using natural resources—like water, timber, and energy—in a way that ensures they do not run out for future generations. When we consume products, we leave an environmental 'footprint'. For instance, purchasing items with excessive plastic packaging increases landfill waste, which can eventually drift into Finn's ocean home. To live sustainably, we must shift towards renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar power, rather than relying on finite fossil fuels. Additionally, conserving water and choosing locally sourced food reduces the carbon emissions created by long-distance transport. Nova the owl often reminds her friends that the Earth is a delicate system; if we harvest resources faster than they can replenish, we risk damaging the biodiversity that keeps our ecosystems healthy. Making small, conscious changes, such as recycling correctly or repairing broken items instead of discarding them, is essential. By acting responsibly today, we protect the vibrant, healthy world that children will inherit tomorrow.

Word bank: Sustainability · Renewable · Resources · Conservation · Biodiversity · Footprint

1. Identify two types of renewable energy mentioned in the text. (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what is the main goal of sustainability? (2 marks)

3. Explain why buying locally sourced food might be better for the environment than buying food transported from far away. (3 marks)

4. What might happen to marine life if humans continue to produce high levels of plastic waste? Use evidence from the text to support your inference. (3 marks)

5. Justify your answer: Is it the responsibility of individuals or governments to ensure a sustainable future? Explain your reasoning. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'Sustainable Future' scene showing a balance between human homes and the natural world, including elements like solar panels, wind turbines, and thriving wildlife.



Extension challenge: Research a local project in your community that promotes sustainability, such as a community garden, a recycling initiative, or a bike-sharing scheme. Write a persuasive letter to your local council explaining why they should fund or expand this project to help the environment.