

BORN FREE'S GREAT DEBATE

Is wildlife vital in our fight against climate change?

About Born Free

An international wildlife charity, we work tirelessly to ensure that all wild animals, whether living in captivity or in the wild, are treated with compassion and respect, and are able to live their lives according to their needs. We seek to have a positive impact on animals in the wild and protect their ecosystems in perpetuity, for their own intrinsic value and for the critical roles they play within the natural world.

Born Free's Great Debate

Our free programme provides teachers with tools to engage school students in meaningful debate about key wildlife or environmental topics. Students gain knowledge about the debate topic, plus extensive skills to research, frame and deliver an argument.

Debating encourages research, reasoned argument and application of facts, and ingrains 21st Century Skills – 12 abilities today's students need to succeed in their careers during the Information Age (namely: critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, information literacy, media literacy, technology literacy, flexibility, leadership, initiative, productivity and social skills).

Armed with these skills, young people are more equipped to reduce their impact on biodiversity and the environment by making simple lifestyle changes, and encourage others to follow. By engaging young people on this topic, we also hope they can develop the skills so every individual can have a voice.

Topic 4: Climate Change, is linked to the KS2, 3 and 4 National Curriculums in Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, English, Geography, Citizenship and SMSC. See full list, learning objectives and content notes below. Full resources will be available as a free download via [our website](#) from August 2022.

Climate Change & Wildlife

We are currently in the midst of both a biodiversity crisis and a climate crisis. The 2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change¹ (IPCC) has found that half of the global human population are 'highly vulnerable' to the effects of climate change, with many already experiencing increased extreme weather events including droughts, flooding and increased hurricanes. Global temperatures have risen by 1.1°C compared with pre-industrial levels, and many species are under threat. If global temperatures continue to rise as predicted by the IPCC, key ecosystems including forests, will collapse, turning them from carbon sinks into carbon sources.

This year, students will have the opportunity to delve deeper into the issue of climate change, and decide how we can harness the power of nature to reduce, or adapt to its impact. What are nature-based solutions, are all environmental initiatives what they say they are and can our rush to be green ever have a negative impact on wildlife? Your students will decide.

¹ [The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#)

What will Born Free's Great Debate deliver?

Lessons	Learning Objectives	Content	KS2 Curriculum Links	KS3 Curriculum Links	KS4 Curriculum Links
<p>The impacts of climate change</p> <p>(One hour)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand some of the causes of climate change To understand some of the impacts of climate change, including impacts on wildlife To understand and be able to explain different terminology related to climate change To begin to explore nature-based solutions used to combat climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recap the causes and impacts of climate change, including the impact on wildlife Introduce and evaluate nature-based solutions, such as tree planting and nature friendly farming Discuss the importance of the 1.5°C climate threshold Define key terminology around the topic of climate change. 	<p>Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Living things and their habitats (Yr. 4) Evolution and inheritance (Yr. 6). <p>English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading – comprehension Writing – composition Writing – vocabulary, grammar and punctuation Spoken language. <p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locational knowledge Human and physical geography. <p>Citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing confidence and responsibility and making the most of their abilities Preparing to play an active role as citizens Developing good relationships and respecting the differences between people. <p>SMSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage respect for other people Ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making Consider the role of extracurricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British values. 	<p>Biology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationships in an ecosystem Inheritance, chromosomes, DNA and genes. <p>Chemistry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth and atmosphere. <p>Physics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculation of fuel uses and costs in the domestic context. <p>English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Writing Grammar and vocabulary Spoken English. <p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locational knowledge Place knowledge Human and physical geography. <p>Citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The way in which citizens work together to improve their communities, including opportunities to participate in school-based activities. <p>SMSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage respect for other people Ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making Consider the role of extracurricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British values. 	<p>Biology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecosystems Evolution, inheritance and variation. <p>Chemistry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Earth and atmospheric science. <p>Physics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy. <p>English</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reading Writing Grammar and vocabulary Spoken English. <p>Geography</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locational knowledge People and environment: processes and interactions Physical geography: processes and change Human geography: processes and change Place: processes and relationships Formulating enquiry and argument. <p>Citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The different ways in which a citizen can contribute to the improvement of his or her community, to include the opportunity to participate actively in community volunteering, as well as other forms of responsible activity. <p>SMSC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage respect for other people Ensure that all pupils within the school have a voice that is listened to An understanding of how citizens can influence decision-making Consider the role of extracurricular activity, including any run directly by pupils, in promoting fundamental British Values.
<p>Biodiversity, climate change and nature-based solutions</p> <p>(One hour)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand and be able to explain the term 'biodiversity' To understand how biodiversity and wildlife can help to mitigate against climate change To describe how climate change can impact on species survival To further explore green and nature-based solutions and any possible impacts on wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the term 'biodiversity' and how it can mitigate against climate change Explore how wildlife and individual animals can help mitigate against climate change and how climate change can impact species survival Evaluate climate-based scenarios and assess the consequences of such scenarios. 			
<p>Researching the issue</p> <p>(Homework)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To analyse a range of arguments To summarise and organise the material to support arguments with factual detail To justify viewpoints. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The class can be divided into groups, advocating for each of the following views of the future: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife IS vital in our fight against climate change Wildlife IS NOT vital in our fight against climate change The lesson aims to offer the students the opportunity to research and plan their arguments in groups. 			
<p>The Great Debate</p> <p>(One hour +)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To speak confidently and effectively by participating in formal debates and structured discussions To listen and learn from others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To hold a student debate either in class time or to a wider school audience. 			
<p>Action planning – where do we go from here?</p> <p>(One hour and/or homework)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make sustainable choices To take actions to reduce human impact on local and global environments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does 'sustainability' mean? Identify the way in which individual choices and actions can make a difference Develop a take responsibility action plan Share your outcomes, plans and ideas via #BFGreatDebate. 			