

Sustainable palm oil

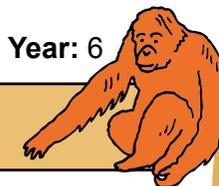
Conservation

Term: Autumn/ Spring/ Summer

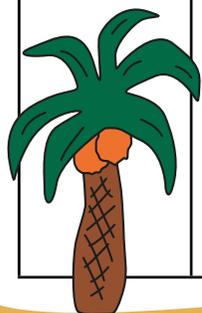
Subject: English 1

Topic: Researching information about sustainable palm oil

Year: 6



| | National Curriculum Links | Overview | Assessment / Questions | Resources |
|--------|---|--|---|---|
| LESSON | <p>English Writing - composition Plan their writing by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying the audience for and purpose of the writing, selecting the appropriate form and using other similar writing as models for their own. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft and write by: - Selecting appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning. <p>Learning Objective(s)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To plan a persuasive formal letter. <p>Success Criteria I can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise persuasive devices in a persuasive letter. • Include relevant information in a structured format. • Back up arguments with evidence. • Provide counter arguments. • Include powerful nouns and adjectives. • Include powerful verbs and adverbs. | <p>Prior learning The children should have been given lessons on research techniques in Year 5 or even in lower years. The children are expected to use these techniques within this lesson.</p> <p>The children may have been taught lessons related to palm oil in other year groups or even in another subject within the curriculum e.g. Science or Geography. However, this lesson is a good introduction to palm oil and its related issues.</p> <p>N.B. This research lesson could take up to two or more lessons.</p> <p>Introduction Use the PowerPoint: 'Researching info about SPO' to guide the teaching of the lesson.</p> <p>See slide 2. Briefly ask the children: <i>'What do you know about palm oil?'</i></p> <p>Review the children's knowledge of palm oil, but do not give too many details. If they have heard about palm oil and its issues in recent years regarding wildlife (such as orangutans and the Malaysian sun bear) and the environment, they may not be aware of sustainable palm oil. Explain that palm oil is the world's most widely used edible oil, found in everything from margarine to biscuits and soaps.</p> <p>See slide 3. Ask the question: <i>'Why are people against the use of palm oil in products?'</i></p> <p>Discuss the reasons on the slide. See slide notes also. The palm oil industry has been targeted because of rainforest deforestation and fires ('slash and burn' practices) to clear land for oil palm plantations, which has impacted the environment and decreased animal and plant numbers and their diversity. The industry has also been accused of exploiting the workers by not taking care of them or paying them adequately.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you know about palm oil? • Why are people against the use of palm oil in products? • What is good about palm oil? • What have you learnt about sustainable/ unsustainable palm oil plantations? • What reason(s) can you give as to why people are against palm oil? • What reason(s) can you give as to why sustainable palm oil is preferable to unsustainable palm oil? • Why has the RSPO been set up? • Can you explain any criteria needed to become a certified sustainable company by the RSPO? • Can you explain how a specific project is making a plantation more sustainable? • What would you like the future of the industry to look like? • What do you think you might use your research for? • Do you think there should be clear labelling on products containing palm oil? If so, what do you think should happen to the labelling of products containing palm oil? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint: 'Researching info about SPO.' • Video: Chester Zoo: Palm Oil Perspectives: Wildlife. www.chesterzoo.org/schools/resources/palm-oil-perspectives-wildlife/ • Chester Zoo: 'Important facts about sustainable palm oil/ sustainable plantations – short fact cards'. • 'Success Criteria sheet – To research info about SPO'. • Chester Zoo: 'The Sustainable Palm Oil Challenge Campaign Booklet'. • Chester Zoo: 'A Summary of Sustainable Palm Oil'. • Computers/ iPads for research. • Paper, pens and pencils. • Suitable websites: • RSPO Certification: https://rspo.org/certification • Green Palm: Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (2016): www.greenpalm.org/about-palm-oil/sustainable-palm-oil • Independent: 'The reasons why palm oil is so controversial' (12 Oct 2020): www.independent.co.uk/life-style/palm-oil-health-impact-environment-animals-deforestation-heart-a8505521.html |



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Show slide 4. This explains how some people have reacted to the negative information surrounding palm oil production.

Show slide 5. Ask the question:

'What is good about palm oil?'

In response to the children, emphasise that palm oil is preferable to other oil crops that require more land and therefore more deforestation to produce an equivalent amount of oil. Emphasise the fact that it is versatile and vital for the economy of developing countries. Relate this to the information on the slide.

Show slide 6. This gives information about how palm oil can be environmentally friendly, if grown sustainably. Discuss the information with the children. Emphasise that to be sustainable, plantations should not cut down more rainforest, wildlife corridors (of rainforest) should be kept connecting rainforest areas, plantation owners should follow 'best practice' procedures and the workers should be treated well.

Slide 7 gives details about the RSPO. Explain how the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil has been set up to make sustainable palm oil production the norm. Members of the organisation have to follow strict guidelines in order to be recognised as sustainable. The guidelines have become even stricter in 2018, following controversy about whether the rules were strict enough.

See slide 8. This discusses how restrictions in Indonesia have led to oil palm plantations being set up elsewhere in the world, e.g. in West Africa (from where oil palm came) and South America.

See slide 9. Introduce the learning objective and success criteria.

See slide 10. Prior to introducing this slide, ask the questions:

'What have you learnt about sustainable palm oil plantations?'

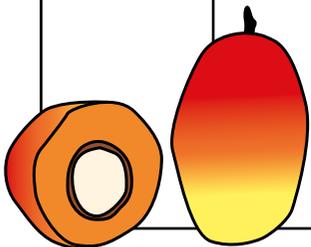
'What have you learnt about unsustainable palm oil plantations?'

Record the children's responses under the following headings on a class whiteboard:

'Sustainable palm oil plantations'

'Unsustainable palm oil plantations'.

- Chester Zoo: Sustainable Palm Oil: Act today to protect wildlife:
www.chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/our-campaigns/sustainable-palm-oil/
- Chester Zoo Project to help biodiversity threatened by habitat fragmentation: Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary:
www.chesterzoo.org/what-we-do/our-projects/kinabatangan-wildlife-sanctuary/
- Chester Zoo: Co-existence for orangutans and agriculture:
www.chesterzoo.org/news/coexistence-for-orang-utans-agriculture/
- Chester Zoo: Our Position on palm oil:
www.chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/our-campaigns/sustainable-palm-oil/our-position-on-palm-oil/
- Chester Zoo: Demand sustainable palm oil:
www.chesterzoo.org/news/sustainable-palm-oil-statement/
- Chester Zoo: Sustainable palm oil shopping list
www.chesterzoo.org/what-you-can-do/our-campaigns/sustainable-palm-oil/sustainable-palm-oil-shopping-list/
- Reuters: 'No Palm oil or green palm oil? Retailers face labelling dilemma'
www.reuters.com/article/asia-palmoil-consumers-idUKL5N2611XX?edition=redirect=uk





Introduce the slide, explaining the first activity.

Activity 1

The children should be told to draw a line down the centre of their white boards and are to write the headings (shown above):

‘Sustainable palm oil plantations’

‘Unsustainable palm oil plantations’.

The children are to be asked to take notes, if possible, under these headings, whilst they are watching the Chester Zoo video:

‘Palm Oil Perspectives – Wildlife’

Mini Plenary

Following the video, review the information found out by the children, highlighting the main points from the video, adding brief notes to the information on the class whiteboard (see above). Clarify misconceptions.

See slide 11. Introduce Activity 2.

Activity 2

Referring to the slide, introduce the differentiated tasks:

*All the children will continue to research sustainable palm oil (palm oil produced from sustainable palm oil plantations).

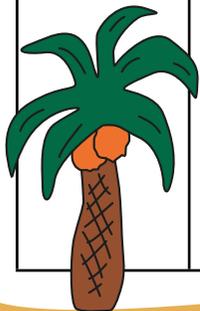
/ *The children will be researching reasons why sustainable palm oil is preferable to unsustainable palm oil. They are to include information about how a palm oil company becomes a CSPO company (certified sustainable palm oil company).

***The children should give examples of how projects are helping palm oil plantations become more sustainable.

Explain how the children should expand on the points about sustainable palm oil that were created earlier in the lesson. It would be helpful to give the children a copy of the success criteria (shown earlier). (See ‘Success Criteria sheet – To research info about SPO.’).

See slide 12. Explain that the children will use a range of resources and introduce some of these, particularly the resources shown on the slide. The resources given to specific ability groups depend on the ability within the class.





However, the following may be suitable:

*To use the Chester Zoo sustainable palm oil/ sustainable palm oil plantation fact cards and 'The Sustainable Palm Oil Challenge Campaign Booklet'.

/ * See above (*), 'A summary of sustainable palm oil' and suitable websites (see 'Resources'). (CZ to insert suitable images/ graphics)

Model how to highlight/ underline, annotate and how to take notes prior to the children undertaking the activity. You may suggest and model writing the main points in bullet points

Plenary

See slide 13. Review the work achieved by the children so far and what they have learned.

Ask the children differentiated questions:

'What reason(s) can you give as to why people are against palm oil?'

'What reason(s) can you give as to why sustainable palm oil is preferable to unsustainable palm oil?'

'Why has the RSPO been set up?'

'Can you explain any criteria needed to become a certified sustainable company by the RSPO?'

'Can you explain how a specific project is making a plantation more sustainable?'

'What would you like the future of the industry to look like?'

Emphasise the need for sustainable palm oil plantations, for the economy of the countries involved and the workers, and the fact that palm oil is more efficient and versatile compared to other oils. Emphasise the need for the continued further development of sustainable practices to maintain populations of plant and animal species and biodiversity. Explain that the negative issues relating to palm oil generally apply to unsustainable palm oil, which is not to be encouraged.

Ask the children:

'What do you think you might use your research for?'

It is hoped that some children might recognise how important the information could be in other forms of writing e.g. they can use the information about sustainable palm oil

to create a non-chronological report about sustainable palm oil, for debates, newspaper reports, for persuasive letters etc.

If time allows, ask the children:

'Do you think there should be clear labelling on products containing palm oil? If so, what do you think should happen to the labelling of products containing palm oil?'

It is hoped that the children will recognise the importance of labelling for people to make choices as to whether they will eat food containing (unsustainable/ sustainable) palm oil. They should be able to determine whether the food contains sustainable palm oil.

Possible ongoing work

The children could use their notes to write a non-chronological report about sustainable palm oil. Most children will be able to write how it is preferable to unsustainable palm oil and should try to include the information about how to be certified by the RSPO. It is hoped that some will include information about projects, designed to support plantations to become more sustainable (e.g. the Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project (KOCP).

Using the information about becoming a CSPO company, the children could start a debate about the reasons for and against the use of (sustainable) palm oil in food and household products.

See lesson 'Discussing issues related to the labelling of products'. This discussion will relate to products that may or may not be labelled as containing palm oil or palm oil derivatives.

The children could write a letter to local MPs about the importance of clear labelling of products containing palm oil and CSPO palm oil. See lesson: 'Y6 Planning a persuasive formal letter'.

The children could write a letter to local suppliers to ask them to only stock products which contain CSPO, giving reasons why.

The children could plan and write a newspaper article about how they have had an impact on local suppliers to only stock products which contain sustainable palm oil.

See lessons in other subject areas related to palm oil e.g. Geography.

