

all you need for a **SUSTAINABILITY ASSEMBLY**

What's our impact on the planet we all share? What can we do to reduce it?

These assemblies are designed to engage pupils in thinking about these questions, about the choices we make and about their impact locally and globally. Each assembly can stand alone or they can be used in sequence.

One of the key aims of the National Curriculum is to promote pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. It should develop pupils' awareness and understanding of, and respect for, the environments in which they live, and secure their commitment to sustainable development at a personal, local, national and global level.

By exploring sustainability issues relating to food, waste and climate change, these assemblies aim to:

- raise pupils' awareness of ways in which their everyday choices affect their own environment and the environments of others
- encourage pupils to think critically about what influences the choices they make and choose wisely
- ensure pupils understand that individuals working together can make a difference and bring about change for the better
- empower pupils to take action and make a positive contribution as Global Citizens

Although designed for the age groups indicated, the assemblies can easily be adapted for older or younger pupils. Each should take about 20 minutes to run, depending on the level of pupil participation.

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KS 1/2

FOOD shopping for planet earth

aim

To raise awareness of the impact our choice of food in the supermarket has on the planet.

time	activity	resources
5 mins	<p>Introduction This is an assembly about food – ask for show of hands...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who's had something to eat today? • Who's had cereal for breakfast? • Who's had a biscuit? • Who's had some bread? • Who's had a bit of fruit? <p>This assembly is for you!</p> <p>Person 1 holds and slowly turns the globe Person 2 cuts up apple as described below, holding up pieces as appropriate Person 3 tells audience</p> <p>This apple represents the world: $\frac{3}{4}$ of it represents the sea and $\frac{1}{4}$ of it represents the land. If we cut the land quarter into 8 pieces, just 1 of these pieces represents the land upon which we can grow our food. If we peel the skin off that piece it represents the soil in which all our food grows...it's a precious resource.</p>	<p>globe, apple, plate, knife</p> <p>three volunteers</p>
10 mins	<p>Tell the audience they are to keep a close eye on what's going on in the supermarket where many of us buy our food...</p> <p>Planet Earth is at the checkout today and wants your help in deciding what will be good for her. Person 1 asks audience for thumbs up or down for each item... whichever way audience reacts, she shakes her head... sighs... groans and gives a brief explanation of the problems each item creates (see p4).</p> <p>Shopper at the checkout, Person 2, empties basket, holds up each item and says what it is and then packs it into supermarket carrier bag.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plantation bananas • imported veg (something which could be grown locally) • biscuits with lots of packaging • factory farmed eggs • can of cola • dried fruit with lots of packaging 	<p>inflatable or soft globe to go on Earth's head – or an appropriate sign, table and chair for check out, toy till – or just mime it, 2 x shopping baskets with products in them, supermarket carrier bag, 2 volunteers to be the Earth and the Shopper</p>

	<p>Shopper comments on trying to save time, effort and money, but never thought about it from the earth's point of view...</p> <p>A week later</p> <p>Planet Earth again asks audience to help in deciding what will be good for her... however audience react, she nods her head... smiles... cheers and gives a brief explanation of why items in this basket are an improvement (see p5).</p> <p>Shopper at the checkout again empties basket holds up each item and says what it is... and this time packs it into own canvas bag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fairtrade bananas • locally grown veg • biscuits with less packaging • free-range eggs • local apple juice • packet of organic raisins. <p>Shopper comments on trying to be earth-friendly and then shakes Earth warmly by the hand!</p>	<p>reusable cloth bag</p> <p>1 volunteer holding a sign saying <i>A week later</i></p>
3 mins	<p>What can we do?</p> <p>Our lunch boxes and school dinners can make a difference – empty out an earth-friendly lunch box: local, organic, fair trade. Talk about earth-friendly school dinners.</p>	lunchbox to empty
2 mins	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Hold up sliver of apple peel from the introduction.</p> <p>All the food we produce in the world depends on a thin layer of soil.</p> <p>There is only one planet earth. If everybody in the world lived in the same way as we do by 2050 we'd need 8 more planet earths to provide enough resources. (Person with globe turns slowly.).</p> <p>Key messages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we all need to be earth-friendly • reduce amount of packaging: if it is necessary try to reuse it, then recycle it • buy local, organic, fairtrade • tell other people • we can all make a difference 	<p>sliver of apple peel, 1 volunteer with globe</p>



suggestions for what the Earth and the Shopper could say

Shopping basket 1

Bananas

- **Earth** Grown on a plantation, mass produced using lots of pesticides to kill the bugs which like bananas. Workers' homes get sprayed with pesticides too – from the air. Many workers get sick from handling bananas soaked in pesticides
- **Shopper** But these bananas last longer than the others
- **Earth** That's probably because they're covered in chemicals

Imported veg

- **Earth** They've arrived in England by air! Think how much pollution planes cause and the effect that they have on global warming – they've travelled too many food miles for my liking
- **Shopper** But I want to eat them all year round – English ones are only available for a short time
- **Earth** Why not try eating local food that's in season? It won't have travelled by air – it's better for me and for you

Biscuits with lots of packaging

- **Earth** Look at all the packaging! There's layers of it – if it gets thrown out with the rubbish it'll get put in a hole in the ground and take hundreds of years to rot away
- **Shopper** Yes but it's OK if I recycle it
- **Earth** Recycling doesn't mean things disappear! Energy is still used to make packaging and then to recycle it. It's much better to use less packaging

Eggs

- **Earth** The hens who laid these are kept in small cages where they can hardly move – factory farming uses lots of antibiotics to try to keep the birds and other animals healthy but this can be unhealthy for you. They're often fed on waste products too
- **Shopper** But these eggs are much cheaper than the others
- **Earth** They may be cheaper for you, but the hens suffer as a result and so do I

Can of coke

- **Earth** Coca Cola is made all over the world. In countries like India local people are running out of water – my precious water! Wells used by local people are running dry because the company are using the water to make the coke
- **Shopper** But the children really like it
- **Earth** What would you think if children here didn't have enough clean water because it was being used by a Coca Cola factory? Would you be happy? Why not find something that's better for children and better for me?

Dried fruit

- **Earth** These look healthy, but they're in layers of packaging like the biscuits
- **Shopper** But it's so much more convenient for me to buy it like this – they can go straight in the children's lunch boxes
- **Earth** Just a little more effort from you would really make a difference... and DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE A NEW CARRIER BAG EVERY TIME?! Every year millions of carrier bags find their way into our seas via drains and sewage pipes and this does terrible damage to wildlife