Planet Botanic

Planet Botanic introduces pupils to sustainable actions. They will see some of the steps for sustainability that the Garden has taken and mark us on our efforts. Pupils will:

• Explore The Palm House, Arid House, Lily House and outside collection.
• Discuss the concept of sustainability and being ‘green’.
• Cover the following topics: wise use of water, local food/healthy eating, reducing energy consumption, conservation of plants, Fairtrade, renewable energy, green transport and recycling/composting.
• Be guided by two members of the Botanic Garden education team.
• Helpers and teachers are asked to be prepared to support pupils and to participate in the activities as much as possible.

Learning objectives:

• Pupils will gain an appreciation of all the different things that can be done to make an organisation greener and how these cover all aspects of our lives.
• Pupils to decide if the Garden has done enough in order to be as green as possible or if other actions can be taken.
• Pupils will be made aware of the variety of plants that are grown in a botanic garden and the diversity of life.

Pre visit activities

Have a discussion about your upcoming visit:
What do pupils think that a botanic garden is? Does a botanic garden just collect plants from this country or from around the World? What would they expect to see whilst they are there?

Now look at the Virtual Tour on the Botanic Garden website.
http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/Virtual%20Tour/obg-virtual-tour.html
**Oxfam’s Cool Planet**
Find out more about people around the World, how they live and how they help to keep planet and people healthy.


**Waste a week**
Collect as much waste (clean or rinsed) for one week from home and school. At the end of the week discuss what types of waste you have collected. Make a wall collage to show how we could cut down on the amount of waste made.

OR Make one huge model of a giant recycling robot. Check out the Eden Project’s WEEE Man (Waste from Electrical & Electronic Equipment).


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**Post visit activities**

**Green inspect your school**
Is everyone doing as much as possible to be eco friendly? Carry out a basic green inspection at your school. If people need a hand, why not organise a school assembly where you can give everyone some tips and reminders.

**Help your school habitat**
Improve the habitat of your school grounds. Let some grassed areas grow long, make a log pile for insects, make room for a compost heap. Get more ideas for improvements from: [www.bbc.co.uk/breathing places/schools](http://www.bbc.co.uk/breathing places/schools)

**Badger a grown-up**
Show them your hints and tips sheet from the Botanic Garden. Ask them if you can do one of the suggestions each week in your house.

**Customise the Wheel of Waste**
Devise your own Wheel of Waste to help your class or family remember which items are composted, recycled, re-used or put in the bin. Draw pictures of the different things you regularly find in your waste.

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**Resources**

Take the challenge and become an eco school!

A site to encourage school gardening, Campaign for Scholl Gardening, hosted by the Royal Horticultural Society.