

Session title	Plastic Planet	
Key question	How does plastic pollution affect wetlands and what can we do about it?	
Session description	Discover the main sources of plastic pollution and the problems this is causing for wetlands. How long does plastic stay in the environment and what you we do to help?	
Key Stage suitability	KS2	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS2 Science Year 4 Living things and their habitats - Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things - Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey Year 5 Properties and changes of materials - Give reasons for the particular uses of everyday materials, including metals, wood and plastic	
Learning outcomes	Most learners will...	More able learners will...
	- Recognise that there are many everyday items made from plastic, some may not be obvious - Understand the problems that plastic pollution causes wetlands and their wildlife - Recognise that plastics take a long time to break down - Know some simple things that they can do to help improve the situation	- Understand that plastic pollution in wetlands comes from a range of sources - Understand that microplastics can be passed through a food chain
Key vocabulary	Wetland Habitat	Microplastics Pollution Decomposition

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	2 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question and what will be covered.	
Activity 1: Hidden plastic - Where does plastic pollution come from?	16 mins
Learners examine a selection of familiar household items and predict which include plastic and which don't.	
Activity 2: Problem plastics	10 mins
Learners look at the impact this has on wildlife including how microplastics can be passed through a food chain.	
Activity 3: How long does the problem last?	16 mins

Learners investigate how long different materials take to decompose and how plastics can remain in the environment for a long time.	
Plenary - What can we do to help?	16 mins
Learners recap and explore some of the alternatives to plastic and some of the small steps they can take to reduce plastic pollution.	