

Session title	Plastic Planet	
Key question	How does plastic pollution affect organisms and the environment and what can we do to help?	
Session description	Discover the main sources of plastic pollution and the problems this is causing for wetlands. Explore the dangers of microplastics, focusing on how they can lead to the accumulation of toxic materials through a food chain. What can we do to help?	
Key Stage suitability	KS3	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS3 Science Year 7 – 9 Relationships in an ecosystem ▪ The interdependence of organisms in an ecosystem, including food webs and insect pollinated crops ▪ How organisms affect, and are affected by, their environment, including the accumulation of toxic materials KS3 Geography Year 7 – 9 Human and physical geography Understand how human and physical processes interact to influence, and change landscapes, environments and the climate; and how human activity relies on effective functioning of natural systems	
Learning outcomes	Most learners will...	More able learners will...
	▪ Recognise that there are many everyday items made from plastic, some of which 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 Bioaccumulation

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 objects 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, leading to bioaccumulation.	
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	