Session title	Plastic Planet KS3
Key Q	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 and Technology: Science ▪ Investigate the effects of pollution, for example, water, air, land, sound etc. and specific measures to improve and protect the environment, for example, renewable energy, efficient use of resources, waste minimisation, etc. ▪ Explore the importance of biodiversity, how it impacts on our lives and how it is affected by human activity KS3 Environment and Society: Geography ▪ Investigate the impact of conflict between social, economic and environmental needs, both locally and globally	
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners
	Recognise that there are many everyday items made from plastic some of which may not be immediately obvious Understand the problems that plastic pollution causes for wetland wildlife and habitats 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	Pollution Microplastics Decomposition Bioaccumulation	

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to the session title and what we will be focussing on in today's session	
Activity 1: What is the issue?	15 mins
Learners investigate different items that create plastic pollution and where these come from	
Activity 2: What problems does this cause?	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?	15 mins
Learners investigate how long different materials take to decompose and how plastics can remain in the environment for a long time	

Activity 4: What can we do to improve the situation?	10 mins
Learners explore some of the alternatives to plastic and some of the small steps they can take to reduce plastic pollution	
Plenary	5 mins
Learners review what they have learnt and have a chance to ask any questions they may have	