

Session title	Climate champions	
Key Q	How are wetlands affected by climate change & how do they help lessen the impact?	
Session description	Explore the causes of climate change and the impact this is having on wetlands. Investigate the role of wetlands in helping to 'prevent' climate change. What role does photosynthesis play and what can we do to help?	
Key Stage suitability	KS3	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS3 Science: Year 7 – 9 Nutrition and digestion - Plants making carbohydrates in their leaves by photosynthesis and gaining mineral nutrients and water from the soil via their roots Gas exchange systems - The role of leaf stomata in gas exchange in plants Photosynthesis - The reactants in, and products of, photosynthesis, and a word summary for photosynthesis - The dependence of almost all life on Earth on the ability of photosynthetic organisms, such as plants and algae, to use sunlight in photosynthesis to build organic molecules that are an essential energy store and to maintain levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere - The adaptations of leaves for photosynthesis. Relationships in an ecosystem - 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 the key processes in physical geography relating to: geological timescales and plate tectonics; rocks, weathering and soils; weather and climate, including the change in climate from the Ice Age to the present; and glaciation, hydrology and coasts - 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
	Understand the processes causing climate change Know some of the impacts of climate change on wetlands Know that wetlands store carbon dioxide Know that plants absorb carbon dioxide and that this can help mitigate the effects of climate change Know some of the steps they can take to reduce their impact	Be able to name carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas Understand the processes behind these impacts Understand the processes leading to carbon storage Understand the process of photosynthesis Understand how these steps reduce the amount of carbon dioxide being emitted into the atmosphere

Key vocabulary	Climate change Photosynthesis Stomata Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂) Greenhouse gases	Emissions Pollution Atmosphere Carbon sink Mitigation	Drought Evaporation Biodiversity Decomposition
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Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question and what will be covered.	
Activity 1: What is climate change?	10 mins
Learners investigate and explain what climate change is and what causes it through a simple activity using blankets to model the build-up of greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere.	
Activity 2: The impact of climate change on wetlands	5 mins
Learners look at the impacts extreme heat (drought) and intensive rainfall can have on wetland environments and their wildlife.	
Activity 3: The role of wetlands in mitigating the effects of climate change	25 mins
Learners take on the role of water, carbon dioxide, oxygen and sugars to model how plants absorb carbon dioxide and give out oxygen (through the process of photosynthesis). They discover that in wetlands the carbon is stored in the soil, helping to reduce the impacts of climate change.	
Activity 4: What can we as individuals do to help?	10 mins
Learners explore how we can all make small changes to our lives to help reduce the impacts of climate change.	
Plenary	5 mins
We refer back to the key question, reviewing what we have learnt. There will be time for learners to ask any remaining questions they may have.	