

Session title	Plastic Planet	
Key Q	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 can we do to help?	
Key Stage suitability	KS2	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS2 Science 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	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 Bioaccumulation	Microplastics Decomposition

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question 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.	