

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 you we do to help?	
Key Stage Suitability	KS2	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	Year 4: Science (Living things and their habitats, Animals, including humans) - 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: Science (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...
	- Be able to recognise that there are many everyday items made from plastic some of which may not be immediately obvious. - Be able to understand some of the problems that plastic pollution causes wetland wildlife and habitats. - Be able to recognise that plastics take a long time to break down. - Be able to share some simple things that they can do to help improve the current situation.	- Be able to understand that plastic pollution in wetlands comes from a range of sources. - Be able to explain that microplastics can be passed through the food chain.
Key vocabulary	Pollution Reduce Refuse Microplastics Reuse Wetlands Decomposition Recycle	

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question (Which everyday objects are made from plastic and why is this a problem?) and the wetlands.	
Activity 1: Contains plastic or not?	10 mins
Learners investigate everyday items and sort them into two piles, one with items they think contain plastic and another for those they think don't.	
Activity 2: How does plastic impact wetlands?	5 mins
After hearing plastic related facts and figures, learners think about how this material affects wetlands.	
Activity 3: How long does plastic last in the environment?	10 mins

Learners investigate how long different materials take to decompose and how plastics can remain in the environment for a long time.	
Activity 4: How does plastic impact animals?	10 mins
Learners investigate how plastics can accumulate in environments and the food chain. They explore the impact this has on wildlife and people.	
Activity 5: Alternatives to plastic	10 mins
By taking part in everyday scenarios, learners use the knowledge gained throughout the session to explore plastic alternatives.	
Plenary	10 mins
Learners and teachers make a plastic-related pledge and have a chance to ask any questions they may have.	