

Subject	Year	Term
Geography	9	Autumn term 1
Topic		Concept
How and why are ecosystems important?		Physical and Human Interactions
Content + skills (Intent)		
Prior Learning (Topic) <i>KS2- human and physical geography biomes, vegetation belts,</i> <i>KS3 at Balcarras - Sustainability of Balcarras and Charlton Kings (Year 7), Oceans (Year 7), Human Impacts on Physical Landscapes (Year 7), Climate Change (Year 8), Antarctica (Year 8),</i>		
Students will explore and develop the location of the world’s major biomes and ecosystems contextualising them with locational knowledge of named ecosystems. Maps and atlas skills will be built on to describe patterns of location and key terminology will be introduced alongside this. They will explore key physical and human features within specific ecosystems at a range of scales. Food webs and food chains will be explored within named ecosystems. They will explore and build on previous knowledge how human and physical processes interact to influence and change landscapes and environments. Once they have gained an insight into the biomes and ecosystems pupils will focus on one specific biome in greater depth – tropical rainforests. We will investigate the characteristics including climate, soils, vegetation, animal and plant adaptations, and nutrient cycling. Students will then look at the human uses, threats and management of this environment.		
Future Learning (Topic) KS3 at Balcarras - Conflict or Opportunity (Year 9) KS4 at Balcarras - Year 10 Living World KS5 at Balcarras - Year 13- Water and carbon, Coasts Cross curricular - Science		
How will knowledge and skills be taught? (Implementation)	How will your understanding be assessed & recorded (Impact)	
A series of lessons covering the location and characteristics of the world’s major ecosystems and biomes. Investigation of the systems at play including nutrient cycling, water cycling and food web dynamics. Focus on the key biome of tropical rainforests including climate, soils, vegetation, animal and plant adaptations, and nutrient cycling. Students will then look at the human uses, threats and management of this environment. Potentially a debate / role play activity on the concept of deforestation so that students can engage with different perspectives towards deforestation.	Regular marking and feedback from both the teacher and their peers. Pupils will complete a guided reading homework task and a knowledge quiz homework task as part of the topic.	
How can parents help at home?		
Support with homework and revision techniques for graded assessments. Discuss current affair issues by watching/reading the news. Download the BBC or Guardian news app and set to environmental notifications to receive the most update articles. Watching relevant documentaries e.g. David Attenborough, wildlife/environments. The virtual rainforest- http://www.virtual-rainforest.org/ Virtual tour of the Amazon rainforest https://historyview.org/library/amazon-rainforest/ Cotswold wildlife park		

Bristol zoo (soon to be Wild place project 2024)

Feed the dingo ecosystem survival game- <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/plum14.sci.life.feeddingo/feed-the-dingo-an-ecosystem-game/>

Video- How environmental issues are impacting our planet

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XDvAGDgZX0&t=6s>

Conversation Starters:

Animals should have the same rights as humans

Climate change is the greatest threat to animals' survival in an ecosystem

The sale of fur should be banned

Zoos should be banned

Should we hold back development for the sake of saving a single species?

Helpful further reading/discussion

Reading

The vanishing Rainforest – Richard Platt
Bloomin' Rainforests (Horrible Geography)
National geographic kids
Gorilla dawn- Gill Lewis (in school library)
Sky dancer- Gill Lewis (in school library)
What a Wonderful World- Leisa Stewart-
Sharpe and Lydia Hill

Island – Nicky Singer

Little Bird Flies by Karen McCrombie (in
school library)

Little Bird Lands by Karen McCrombie (in
school library)

Tiger Wars by Steve Backshall (in school
library)

Vocabulary Lists

Biome, ecosystem, biotic,
abiotic, biotic, food web,
food chain, producer,
consumer, decomposer,
recycling,

Careers Links

Jobs linked to themes within the topic
within lessons.

Eco-Tourism Guide

Biologist working in the Rainforest
Volunteer opportunities also explored.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/ecologist>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/ecologist>