

UK KS2 NATIONAL CURRICULUM CORRELATION MATRIX

Our Living World Series

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UK KS2 NATIONAL CURRICULUM CORRELATION MATRIX

Our Living World Series

This correlation matrix demonstrates how the “Our Living World” series supports the Key Stage 2 (KS2) National Curriculum in England, particularly focusing on the science programmes of study. The series promotes environmental awareness, sustainability, and active participation in protecting our planet—all presented in an age-appropriate, engaging manner for KS2 students (ages 7-11).

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Curriculum Alignment Overview

KS2 Curriculum Focus Area	Plastic Pollution	The Environment & Ecosystems	Environmental Pollution
Working Scientifically	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
Living Things & Their Habitats	✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓
Animals, Including Humans	✓	✓✓	✓✓
Evolution & Inheritance	✓	✓✓	✓✓
Geography - Human & Physical	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓
PSHE & Citizenship	✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓✓✓

Key: ✓ = Supports curriculum area, ✓✓ = Strong alignment, ✓✓✓ = Comprehensive coverage

Detailed Correlation by Book

Book 1: Plastic Pollution

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Book Content	KS2 Curriculum Connection	Learning Outcomes	Inquiry-Based Learning Opportunities
What is Plastic? / History of Plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science: Materials and their properties History: Changes over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the development of plastic as a material Recognize different types of plastic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research how materials have changed over time Compare and classify different plastic items
Microplastics / Plastic Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science: Living things and their habitats Geography: Human impact on environments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify how pollution affects ecosystems Understand the impact of human activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate microplastics in everyday products Observe the impact of pollution on local habitats
How Long Until it's Gone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science: Properties and changes of materials Maths: Time and measurement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand decomposition rates Compare timeframes for different materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create timelines for decomposition Test biodegradability of different materials
Top 10 Trash Found / The Great Pacific Garbage Patch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography: Locational knowledge Science: Living things and their habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpret data about ocean pollution Understand ocean currents and waste accumulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map ocean gyres and garbage patches Research marine debris impact on wildlife
7 Single-Use Swaps / 10 Ways to Help	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PSHE: Taking responsibility Design & Technology: Designing solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop sustainable habits Create personal action plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design alternatives to single-use plastics Plan and implement a classroom waste reduction project
Top 10 Countries Dumping / Plastic Pollution in The UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography: Place knowledge Citizenship: Local and global issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare global and local pollution issues Understand UK's plastic footprint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research local plastic pollution Survey plastic use in school community
The Plastic Ban in Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography: Place knowledge Citizenship: Environmental legislation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand policy approaches Compare different countries' solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debate plastic ban policies Design a school plastic policy



Book 1: Plastic Pollution

Plastic Recycling Symbols / New Products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Properties of materials • Design & Technology: Recycling processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify recycling codes • Understand product lifecycles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sort and classify plastics by recycling code • Visit or research local recycling facilities
UK Plastics Pact / Great British Beach Clean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography: Local fieldwork • Citizenship: Community action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand national initiatives • Recognize collective impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize a school clean-up event • Analyze and report on collected waste
Biodegradable Alternatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Properties and changes of materials • Design & Technology: Innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore sustainable materials • Understand biodegradation processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test and compare biodegradable materials • Design products using sustainable materials
Make Your Own Skipping Rope / T-Shirt Designer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design & Technology: Making products • Art & Design: Creative reuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply creative problem-solving • Develop crafting skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upcycling workshops • Design competition for sustainable products
My Plastic Pledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE: Personal responsibility • Citizenship: Taking action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to personal change • Develop agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set measurable goals for plastic reduction • Track and report on progress

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Detailed Correlation by Book

Book 2: The Environment & Ecosystems

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Book Content	KS2 Curriculum Connection	Learning Outcomes	Inquiry-Based Learning Opportunities
What is the Environment? / Natural & Man-Made	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science: Living things and their habitats Geography: Human and physical features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distinguish between natural and built environments Recognize interconnections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast local environments Map natural and man-made features in the local area
What is an Ecosystem? / Your School's Ecosystem	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science: Living things and their habitats Working scientifically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand ecosystem components Identify local ecosystem interactions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a school ecosystem map Conduct fieldwork in school grounds
Biodiversity / Food Chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science: Living things and their habitats Science: Animals including humans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the importance of biodiversity Construct and interpret food chains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create food chain models Biodiversity survey of local area
Extinction, Biodiversity & Food Chains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Science: Evolution and inheritance Geography: Environmental change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the impact of extinction Recognize threats to biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research extinct and endangered species Debate conservation priorities
Biomes and Ecosystems / Various Ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography: Location knowledge Science: Living things and their habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify major world biomes Compare different ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create biome dioramas Research adaptation in different ecosystems
The UK's Unique Ecosystems / UK Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography: Place knowledge Science: Living things and their habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognize UK's diverse habitats Identify native UK species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey local biodiversity Create field guides for local species
Green Spaces in the City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geography: Human geography PSHE: Community responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate urban planning Understand the importance of urban nature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design ideal green city spaces Survey local green spaces



Book 2: The Environment & Ecosystems

Humans' Impact on the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography: Human and physical processes • Science: Living things and their habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze human environmental impact • Identify positive and negative changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate human impacts case studies • Environmental impact assessment of school
Create Your Own Ecosystem (Growing from Scraps)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Plants • Design & Technology: Growing food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply ecosystem knowledge • Develop sustainable gardening skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and create a classroom garden • Experiment with food scrap regeneration
My Earth Pledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE: Personal responsibility • Citizenship: Taking action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to environmental stewardship • Develop agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set measurable environmental goals • Design a class environmental charter

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Detailed Correlation by Book

Book 3: Environmental Pollution

Book Content	KS2 Curriculum Connection	Learning Outcomes	Inquiry-Based Learning Opportunities
What is Pollution? (Air/Water/Land/Light/Noise)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Materials and their properties • Geography: Physical geography 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify different types of pollution • Understand pollution sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct pollution surveys • Test for air or water quality
Transport Pollution / Industrial Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Materials • Geography: Economic activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze pollution sources • Understand industrial processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic surveys and data analysis • Research local industry impact
Cows and Climate Crisis / Deforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Living things and their habitats • Geography: Human and physical processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand methane emissions • Recognize deforestation impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate carbon footprints • Debate sustainable farming
The Greenhouse Effect / Global Warming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Earth and space • Geography: Climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the greenhouse effect • Understand climate change science 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model the greenhouse effect • Track temperature data
Coral Bleaching / Overfishing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Living things and their habitats • Geography: Oceans and marine life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand marine ecosystem threats • Recognize sustainable fishing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research coral reef conservation • Sustainable seafood investigation
Natural Disasters / Water Scarcity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography: Physical processes • Science: States of matter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect climate change to extreme weather • Understand water conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural disaster case studies • Water conservation challenge

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Book 3: Environmental Pollution

Bees and Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Plants • Science: Living things and their habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand pollination • Recognize biodiversity importance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create bee-friendly gardens • Monitor local pollinator populations
Climate Change in the UK / Environmental Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography: Place knowledge • Citizenship: Local issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify UK environmental challenges • Understand local climate impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research local climate adaptation • Interview community environmental leaders
Waste Management in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography: Human geography • Science: Materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand UK waste processing • Recognize waste hierarchy implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit local waste management facilities • Design waste reduction campaigns
Top 10 English Cities with Cleanest Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography: Place knowledge • Citizenship: Local governance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare environmental quality across cities • Identify successful environmental policies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research city environmental initiatives • Design an ideal clean city
Keeping UK Waterways Clean and Healthy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography: Physical geography • Science: Living things and their habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand river and coastal ecosystems • Recognize water pollution sources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality testing • Waterway clean-up project
Renewable Energy in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science: Physical processes • Geography: Energy and sustainability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify UK renewable energy sources • Understand energy transition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research local renewable projects • Design renewable energy models
How You Can Help Prevent Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE: Taking responsibility • Citizenship: Taking action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop sustainable habits • Create personal action plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon footprint calculation • Climate action campaign
My Earth Pledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSHE: Personal responsibility • Citizenship: Taking action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to environmental action • Develop agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create measurable climate action goals • Start a school environmental campaign

Cross-Curricular Connections

The “Our Living World” series supports cross-curricular learning through:

1. **Mathematics:** Data analysis, measurement, statistics of pollution, graphing trends
2. **English:** Environmental vocabulary, persuasive writing, debate, report writing
3. **Art & Design:** Creative reuse, environmental art, awareness campaigns
4. **Computing:** Researching environmental issues, data logging, digital mapping
5. **Design & Technology:** Designing sustainable solutions, upcycling projects
6. **History:** Evolution of materials, industrial revolution impacts, conservation history

Addressing UK National Curriculum KS2 Requirements

Science

The series directly supports these KS2 Science objectives:

- “Recognising that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things”
- “Identifying how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment”
- “Explore the requirements of plants and animals for life and survival”
- “Compare and group together different kinds of rocks/materials on the basis of their appearance and properties”

Geography

The series addresses these KS2 Geography requirements:

- “Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle”
- “Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water”
- “Use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area”

PSHE/Citizenship[←... Back to Contents](#)

The series supports these KS2 PSHE objectives:

- “Know what positively and negatively affects their physical, mental and emotional health”
- “Understand that resources can be allocated in different ways and that these economic choices affect individuals, communities and the sustainability of the environment”
- “Research, discuss and debate topical issues, problems and events”

Local UK Environmental Context

The books provide strong UK-specific content that makes environmental issues relevant to KS2 students:

- The Great British Beach Clean connects students to nationwide coastal conservation efforts
- UK Plastics Pact introduces students to national policy initiatives
- UK’s Unique Ecosystems helps students appreciate local biodiversity
- Top 10 English Cities with Cleanest Environments highlights positive environmental action
- Keeping UK Waterways Clean and Healthy connects to local geography and conservation
- Renewable Energy in the UK introduces students to the energy transition happening in their country

Inquiry-Based Learning Implementation

The series naturally supports the KS2 emphasis on “Working Scientifically” through:

1. Asking Questions: Each book encourages curiosity about environmental processes and impacts
2. Setting Up Simple Practical Enquiries: Activities like water quality testing and biodegradability experiments
3. Making Systematic Observations: Monitoring local environments, tracking waste, and observing decomposition
4. Gathering and Recording Data: Surveys, measurements, and fieldwork activities
5. Reporting Findings: Opportunities to present research through various formats
6. Using Evidence to Answer Questions: Developing informed conclusions about environmental issues
7. Identifying Differences, Similarities and Changes: Comparing ecosystems, pollution levels, and conservation approaches