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### Deforestation - Jasmin Hanley-Wildman, year 8

Are you interested in knowing what deforestation is? Do you want to know how deforestation has an impact on climate change? Do you want to know how it is affecting animals across the world? Well read on to learn more about what is happening all around the world right now!

So firstly, what is deforestation? Deforestation is the removal and decrease of forest areas across the world. Some examples of why this is happening could be: to expand agricultural space, wood extraction (to make fuel and other things) and for infrastructure expansion (roads and houses). Can you guess how much forest is lost every day? Surprisingly, a huge 200,000 acres of rainforest are burnt around the world every day. About 36 football fields worth of trees are lost every minute due to deforestation! Now, forest covers only 31% of the global land area.

How is deforestation impacting on climate change? Trees help with slowing climate change due to the fact that trees capture greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, which prevents them from accumulating in the atmosphere and warming the planet. However, deforestation on its own causes about 10% of emissions worldwide. By cutting down trees, we are creating emissions because trees release all of the carbon they have been storing into the atmosphere.

How is deforestation affecting animals? Forests are home to lots of species of animals who rely on the trees and climate to survive. Deforestation is also one of the leading causes of species extinction. It reduces the available food and shelter that animals need. Without this, animals may not survive due to the fact that they may not be able to find adequate shelter, water and food to survive within the remaining habitat. This is quite dangerous for animals as the vehicles and machines are dangerous and could easily hurt them.

What is reforestation? Reforestation is the process of replanting an area with trees. It is important because it helps preserve various species of animals and plants that are affected due to deforestation. Even though deforestation is making a big impact on the planet, people around the world are working to help reforestation. For example, a Brazillian couple planted 2.7 million trees to restore Brazillian forest.

This year took an unexpected turn back in March and our plans had to be put on hold. Unfortunately, we were unable to continue with a few of the initiatives the club was very eager to implement.

One of these was to promote 'eco bricks' and start a project which would allow us to build bins out of them to place around the school. 'Eco bricks' are made by stuffing plastic bottles (usually around 1 to 2 litres) with cut up plastic from lots of different sources, to a certain weight. For example, you could make an 'eco brick' by filling it with fruit nets from oranges and lemons.

I would like to say a massive thank you to all of the students who joined Eco Club this year and helped promote sustainability and raise awareness of our impact on the environment. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Staddon, as without her help, Eco Club would not be able to run.

In January, I will be leaving the leadership of the club in the very capable hands of Lara and Amy. I look forward to seeing what they will achieve!

- Maddie

You can also go onto google earth and see time-lapsed deforestation of different parts of the world. It shows how much forest has been lost yearly.

If you would like to visually see how much forest is being cut down then I highly recommend watching this short video - <https://youtu.be/L9zWdtDKDS8> - and you will be amazed at the results of deforestation.





## The Eco Club Board!

Pictured above is the Eco Club information board that can be found in the science corridor, by the new Head Of Year office.

We are hoping that in the new year we will be able to develop it further and add lots more information, particularly about the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Schools Award. This was also something that we were hoping to have achieved in the summer term, but are hopeful that next year we will be able to complete it. It is a student-led initiative that works towards five objectives, including stopping use of single-use plastics, conducting a single-use plastic audit in school, and writing to the government.

The award is an incredibly important milestone towards the school's journey to becoming more environmentally friendly and sustainable.

## More Changes You Can Make!

- Consider using a reusable facemask - hundreds of disposable facemasks end up in the environment each day! If you do need to use a disposable mask, cut the ear loops off before you bin it, in case they do end up in the environment to protect wildlife.
- Invest in a good reusable water bottle - this can reduce the number of single-use bottles you need to buy.
- Consider buying second hand - whether its books or clothes, anything helps!

## Recommended reading:

- **Silent Spring, Rachel Carson** - published in 1962, it documents the effects of pesticides on the environment and its message is still relevant today.
- **There Is No Planet B, Mike Berners-Lee** - "a big picture perspective on the environmental and economic challenges of the day."
- **The Uninhabitable Earth, David Wallace-Wells** - "an urgent manifesto for a wholesale environmental revolution, from everyday behaviours to government policy and international cooperation."
- **Sustainability Made Simple, Rosaly Byrd and Lauren DeMates** - an introduction to sustainability that explores the relationship between everyday life and the global environmental issues we face.
- **Save The World, Louise Bradford** - a guide with tips on how to incorporate changes into our everyday lives and how they can help the environment.
- **How To Give Up Plastic, Will McCallum** - another guide on how to reduce your plastic consumption and how it affects the environment.

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