

## Lesson 3

L.O: I recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

# Impact of changes made by humans to an environment






# 1. Deforestation



**Forests are  
amazing and  
support so many  
living things.**





**Palm oil plantation  
in an area that was  
once forest.**

Click <https://orangutan.org/orangutan-facts/why-is-the-orangutan-in-danger/> to see how much the forest cover in Borneo has changed.

# **What does it mean?**

**Deforestation contributed to India's deadly mudslide, experts say. "Deforestation leads to land erosion, which leads to landslide."  
— Medha Patkar, environmental activist**

# What can we do?



Choose recycled or certified sustainable wood products.



Look for products that no longer use palm oil





# 2. Urbanisation

**Urbanisation means that there are more and more people living in built-up urban areas, rather than in rural areas. This means that more houses and roads are being built on land that was once untouched.**



# What has happened?



**When we build another road, or housing estate, pave our back garden or make a driveway, we are taking away food sources from a hedgehog's environment, because worms, slugs and snails don't live on roads!**



**It is thought that their numbers have declined from about 30 million in the 1950s to about 1.5million now.**



**Hedgehogs are nocturnal and can travel between 1 and 2 miles at night foraging for food. When we put fences between each garden, we cut off their chance to move around and look for food or find a mate.**



# What can we do?



Watch this clip

[https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x4zf79h\\_bbc1-countryfile-autumn-diaries-episode3-26oct16-helping-the-hedgehog-from-extinction\\_animals](https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x4zf79h_bbc1-countryfile-autumn-diaries-episode3-26oct16-helping-the-hedgehog-from-extinction_animals) to find out some ways that we could help hedgehogs.

**Put out some food for them. Leave an area in your garden for them to forage in, talk to your neighbours about making a 'hedgehog highway' between all of your gardens.**





# 3. Global Warming



The world is getting warmer because we are burning more fossil fuels. The carbon dioxide this produces is a greenhouse gas – this means that when it is in our atmosphere, it acts like a greenhouse to warm up the world.



# What is the impact?



Glaciers and sea ice are shrinking, which is causing sea levels to rise. If this continues there could be flooding in areas near the coast. Polar bears hunt from the sea ice, less sea ice means a smaller area for hunting.

Some scientists think that global warming will also cause more extreme weather such as hurricanes, drought and flooding in different areas.





# What can we do?

*Make some small changes, for example...*

**Keep an eye on your food miles. The transportation of food burns a lot of fossil fuels. If possible, buy local, seasonal produce (unfortunately strawberries don't naturally grow in December)**

**Make fewer car journeys – walk if you can, or use public transport.**



# 4. Intensive farming

**Farming is getting more and more intense as the demand for food by a growing population increases.**





# What is the impact?

Hedges are being removed to make fields larger. Wildflowers were much more abundant before the changes to the environment.

Click here -

[bumble bee conservation](#)

to find out how this change has harmed bees.



# What can we do?



**Plant some more  
wildflowers –  
anywhere you can!  
Encourage others to  
do the same.**



# 5. Nature Reserves



Are humans making any positive changes to environments?

Yes!



# What is the impact?



**These areas are being allowed to flourish once again. When we manage an area by protecting native species, encouraging growth, stopping pollution and invasive species then the living things in that area can thrive.**

**Click here**  
<http://butterfly-conservation.org/2401-1947/broadcroft-quarry-portland-dorset.html> **to find out about how a disused quarry became a nature reserve.**



# What can we do?

**Help nature reserves by volunteering or picking up litter, or learning about what they are doing and telling others, or respecting the area and the signs.**



**Get a bit muddy! Encourage others to work with you to protect your own little space. What is happening in your garden, or you park, at the local allotments? Is there anything that you could do to help?**

# Weblinks

[Clip about impact of environmental issues on our planet](#) from [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

[Why the orangutan is in danger](https://orangutan.org) from <https://orangutan.org>

[Why bees need our help](http://bumblebeeconservation.org) from <http://bumblebeeconservation.org>

[Countryfile clip on how to help hedgehogs](http://www.dailymotion.com) from [www.dailymotion.com](http://www.dailymotion.com)

[Butterfly conservation project](http://butterfly-conservation.org) from <http://butterfly-conservation.org>