Nature and the environment ESL lesson plan (A1)

A1 (beginner) · 60 minutes · for English teachers · englishcue.app

Stage	Time
Warm-up	5–10 min
Vocabulary	15 min
Controlled practice	10 min
Grammar focus	10 min
Speaking	15 min
Wrap-up and homework	5 min

1. Warm-up (5–10 min)

- Do you recycle at home?
- How do you travel to work?
- Is your city clean?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

Elicit each word before you give it, model the pronunciation, then check meaning with a quick question.

Word	Meaning	Example
nature	plants, animals and the world not made by people	I love walking in nature.
tree	a tall plant with a trunk, branches and leaves	There's a big tree in our garden.
flower	the colorful part of a plant	She gave me some flowers.
plant	a living thing that grows in soil, like a tree or flower	I have three plants in my room.
grass	the green plant that covers fields and gardens	The children are playing on the grass.
river	a long line of water that flows to the sea	The river goes through the city.
lake	a large area of water with land all around it	We swam in the lake.
forest	a large area of land covered with trees	There are bears in the forest.
hill	a high area of land, smaller than a mountain	Our house is on a hill.
field	an area of land with grass or crops	The cows are in the field.

Grammar focus (10 min): Passive: present and past simple

A group visits the Brightwell chocolate factory. The guide says: “This factory was built in 1890. Today, more than a million bars are made here every week. The cocoa beans are grown in Ghana.” By the end of this lesson you can describe processes and history with the passive.

Form	Pattern	Example
Present	am / is / are + participle	Chocolate is made from cocoa.
Past	was / were + participle	The factory was built in 1890.
By	by + who did it	It was painted by Picasso.
Why?	the thing is the topic	My bike was stolen.

Watch for: ~~The castle built in 1300.~~ → **The castle was built in 1300.**. Passive needs be.

Speaking (15 min): The town meeting

The town has money for one project: a bike lane network, a new park or cheaper public transport. The learner chooses one, gives three arguments and answers your objections as a citizen who disagrees.

Useful language

- to recycle · to waste · to reduce · to ban
- We should… / We ought to… / We’d better…
- In my view… / As far as I can see…
- It’s harmful to… / It’s good for…
- pollution · rubbish · a drought · renewable energy
- I see your point, but…

Wrap-up and homework (5 min)

- Each learner says the three new words they will remember, and one sentence with each.
- Homework: write 80–120 words about nature and the environment using at least six words from the lesson and the grammar point.
- Self-study: the A1 nature and the environment vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 21 words.

Nature and the environment (A1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

rubbish · birds · air · Earth · trash · animals · clean · sky

B. Complete the sentences

Use a word from the word bank. Then compare with a partner.

1. The _____ goes around the sun.
2. Keep the beach _____.
3. The _____ is clean in the mountains.
4. The _____ are singing.
5. Take out the _____, please.
6. I love _____.
7. Put the _____ in the bin.
8. The _____ is very blue today.

C. Talk with a partner

Ask and answer. Make notes of one interesting answer to report to the class.

1. Do you use plastic bags?
2. What do you do to save water or energy?
3. Are there parks near your home?
4. Do you like being in nature?
5. Is the air good where you live?

Write

Write 80–120 words about nature and the environment. Use six words from the lesson.

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 Earth · 2 clean · 3 air · 4 birds · 5 trash · 6 animals · 7 rubbish · 8 sky