Nature and the environment ESL lesson plan (B1)

B1 (intermediate) · 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)

- What environmental problem worries you most?
- What have you changed in your daily life to be greener?
- What is your city doing well, and what is it doing badly?

2. Vocabulary (15 min)

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

Word	Meaning	Example
climate change	changes in the earth's weather, mainly caused by people	Climate change is causing more storms.
global warming	the increase in the earth's temperature	Global warming is melting the ice at the poles.
greenhouse gas	a gas, like carbon dioxide, that traps heat in the atmosphere	Cars produce greenhouse gases.
carbon footprint	the amount of carbon dioxide your activities produce	Flying less reduces your carbon footprint.
renewable energy	energy from the sun, wind or water that never runs out	The country gets half its power from renewable energy.
fossil fuel	coal, oil or gas, formed in the earth over millions of years	We need to stop burning fossil fuels.
deforestation	cutting down large areas of forest	Deforestation is destroying the Amazon.
species	a group of animals or plants of the same type	Thousands of species are in danger.
extinct	no longer existing	Dinosaurs are extinct.
habitat	the natural home of an animal or plant	Pollution is destroying their habitat.

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 B1 nature and the environment vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Nature and the environment (B1)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

cut down · environmentally friendly · sustainable · run out of · damage · emissions · destroyed · reduce

B. Complete the sentences

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

1. We must _____ our use of plastic.
2. Use _____ cleaning products.
3. We need a more _____ way of life.
4. Oil spills _____ the ocean.
5. The city wants to cut _____ by 50%.
6. One day we will _____ oil.
7. The fire _____ the forest.
8. They _____ hundreds of trees.

C. Talk with a partner

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

1. Would you pay more for a product that is better for the environment?
2. Have you seen a place change because of pollution or building?
3. Is it possible to live without a car where you live?
4. What do young people think about the climate that older people do not?
5. What would you ban tomorrow if you could?

Write

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

Answer key

B. Complete the sentences: 1 reduce · 2 environmentally friendly · 3 sustainable · 4 damage · 5 emissions · 6 run out of · 7 destroyed · 8 cut down