Nature and the environment ESL lesson plan (B2)

B2 (upper 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
biodiversity	the variety of plants and animals in an area	The rainforest has amazing biodiversity.
ecosystem	all the living things in an area and how they affect each other	Plastic is harming marine ecosystems.
carbon neutral	producing no more carbon dioxide than you remove	The company aims to be carbon neutral by 2030.
offset	to balance a bad effect with a good one	Some airlines let you offset your emissions.
greenwashing	making a company look more environmentally friendly than it is	The ad was accused of greenwashing.
conservation	the protection of nature and animals	She works in wildlife conservation.
depletion	reducing something until little or none is left	The depletion of fish stocks is serious.
contaminate	to make something dirty or poisonous	Chemicals contaminated the water supply.
degrade	to damage something and make it worse	Plastic takes centuries to degrade.
biodegradable	able to break down naturally without harm	These bags are biodegradable.

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 B2 nature and the environment vocabulary page on englishcue.app has a self-correcting quiz with all 22 words.

Nature and the environment (B2)

Student handout · Name: _____ · Date: _____

A. Word bank

irreversible · Rewilding · landfill · drastic · circular economy · tipping point · eco-anxiety · phase out

B. Complete the sentences

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

1. Scientists warn we are near a _____.
2. _____ has brought wolves back to the region.
3. Most plastic ends up in _____.
4. We need _____ action now.
5. A _____ creates less waste.
6. Many young people suffer from _____.
7. The country will _____ coal by 2035.
8. Some of the damage is _____.

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 tipping point · 2 Rewilding · 3 landfill · 4 drastic · 5 circular economy · 6 eco-anxiety · 7 phase out · 8 irreversible