



# WASTE

EXPLORING THE NATURAL WORLD

## KEY STAGE 1 & 2

Exploring the human –  
nature relationship and  
finding ways to build a more  
balanced future

## Aims and Objectives

Students will practise skills of critical thinking & questioning, deep listening and empathy building by engaging in a wide range of learning stimulus, discussion ideas and creative exercises.

Lessons in this topic will examine some of the issues surrounding the rubbish that we make, helping pupils to understand why we produce so much rubbish as well as the impact of it on our natural landscape. Discussions will explore the ways in which nature deals with waste, thinking about the different sorts of waste that humans produce and ways we can all cut down on our waste. Students will work on a range of creative projects to explore, engage, inspire and empower others to cut down on the waste they are producing in their daily lives.

## Questions explored:

- Where does our rubbish go when we throw it away (because there is no such place as 'away')?
- Why are we all producing so much rubbish?
- Why is there no waste in nature?
- What is the impact on the natural world of human rubbish?
- How does so much plastic pollution end up in the ocean?
- Whose responsibility is it to deal with our rubbish?
- How can we reduce the amount of rubbish we throw away?
- What does 'Zero-waste' mean?

## Contents of the topic

A downloadable box of lesson plans for KS1&2, with each week offering a 60 minute lesson on the following:

WEEK 1 | What is all this stuff?

WEEK 2 | Where is 'away'?

WEEK 3 | How long 'til it's gone?

WEEK 4 | Waste-free living



## Seagull's Ordinary Nest

A THOUGHTBOX STORY



**Key Stage 1:** Our KS1 curriculum is all based around animal stories. Each of our topics is explored through a bespoke picture-book story at the beginning of each lesson, engaging children in some of the key themes and ideas of the topic in simple, accessible and exciting ways. All of the stories contain non-human creatures as the central characters and engage children in learning about wider social issues through metaphor, symbols and themed narratives. Lessons develop key skills of discussion, active listening, critical thinking, empathy building and global citizenship.

**Key Stage 2:** Our KS2 curriculum follows a similar structure to KS1, with each topic starting with a short video or activity (whereas KS1 lessons all start with a story). All KS1 and KS2 topics contain four separate 1-hour lesson plans exploring a range of activities to help pupils to engage, understand, explore perspectives and feel empowered about the topic.

Each ThoughtBox topic comes with a scheme of work which links to PSHE and SMSC learning objectives as well as wider learning objectives within key National Curriculum subjects.

**KS1 STORY SUMMARY:** It is the annual nest-building competition on the beach, and Seagull is excited to enter for the first time. However, he soon realises that his nest-building skills are very different to the rest of the birds on the beach who all seem to be using plastic. Will he learn to build his nest in time in order to stand a chance of winning the grand nest-building prize?