



This document is designed to inform you of the learning planned for your child's next unit of inquiry. In addition we offer you some optional ideas for supporting your child at home.

Y1 Unit Overview

Sharing the Planet

In their fifth unit of inquiry, the year 1 students will inquire into the Science Strand “*Materials and Matter.*” The students will investigate the concepts of *choices* and *conservation* through the central idea “**People’s choices can help or hurt the Earth.**” Through this unit the students will gain an understanding of the 5R’s (reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse, repair), their purpose and how they work. They will explore the choices they make with regards to the 5R’s and become more knowledgeable about how those choices can affect the Earth in both positive and negative ways. We will ask students to consider the choices they are currently making and to think about ways that they could make even better choices that will help conserve Earth’s natural resources. Throughout the unit the students will become more **knowledgeable** about the 5R’s and they will also show that they can be more **principled** with the choices they make when using different materials. Through the responsibility concept we want students to recognise the choices they can make and personally **commit** to taking action to help conserve Earth’s resources. Students will gain the self-management skill of making **informed choices**. Along with that we will work on the thinking skills of **synthesis** and **analysis**. These skills will help students with bringing together information from a variety of sources, looking at them closely for necessary information, and putting it all together in ways that make sense for them.

You may wish to support your child at home in the following ways:

Developing vocabulary:



Key vocabulary used in this unit will be: recycling, reducing, reusing, repairing, replacing, refusing, responsibility, reasons, effects, principled, commitment, choices, conservation, materials, properties, systems, consequences, resources, finite, waste, paper, plastic, wood, trees, garbage, rubbish. **Please consider using your Mother Tongue to develop your child’s understanding of these words.**

Conceptual questions:



*This unit will be addressed through the lens of **function, causation and responsibility**. Through the lens of function students will be exploring questions such as what are the 5R’s and how do they work? To explore the concept of causation students will answer questions such as how do our choices with regards to the 5R’s help or hurt the Earth? What are the consequences of the choices we are making? When looking through the lens of responsibility students will asking questions such as what choices can I make with how I use materials in order to have a positive impact on the Earth? How can I make sure I keep my commitment? Any conversations you can have with your child around these questions will help support their inquiries.*

Fun things to do:



Do some investigations into the materials you use in your home. How much of it is reused, recycled, repaired and how much of it can be reduced? Collect all of your waste for a day or two to see how much waste you accumulate in your home. Sort it into the 5R’s and have a chat about what choices your family can make to reduce the amount. Model for your child how to make a commitment and stick with it. Take some of your waste and create things from them that can be used in different ways around your home (50 Recycling Ideas here: <https://www.favecrafts.com/Earth-Day-Crafts/16-Recycle-Crafts-for-Kids>).

Look for action:



ACTION is a key element of the Primary Years Programme. We are always looking to see how children take their learning and apply it independently. This can take many forms - from a discussion about the unit of inquiry at home initiated by your child, role-play or even a request to bring a book or artifact in to school because it relates to the work we have been doing in school. Now that you know what the unit is all about please keep your eyes open for evidence of action and let us know! **Any action that you tell us about will be kept as part of your child’s records.**



“Success for Every Child”



Alongside the key concepts, attitudes, learner profile attributes and action elements of the Primary Years Programme there is a body of knowledge that will be taught during the course of each unit. The main learning outcomes are outlined below for your reference. The children's understanding of each objective is assessed before each planned learning experience in order for us to pitch the work according to your child's ability and needs:

ENGLISH:

During this unit our writing focus will be on writing to persuade and writing to inform. As children learn more about the 5R's and how their choices can make a difference we will introduce different ways to write in order to inform others about what we have learned and also to persuade those around us to make better choices to protect the planet. Students will be involved in shared writing experiences where they observe the teacher's writing and make suggestions. Students will learn how to express a personal opinion within their text and will draw from a bank of key vocabulary words to support their writing. We are hoping that the products of their learning will take the form of persuasive letters encouraging others to make positive choices and/or posters which will inform others about recycling and choices that can be made when using different materials.

In our reading we will continue to practice the reading strategies we have learned and focus on learning how to use *chunking* to help us when we are reading large pieces of text or when we need to break words into manageable chunks in order to decode. We will also continue working on the strategy *go back and read*, which encourages children to re-read texts or sentences that they might not understand the first time.

MATHS

Students will continue working on the data handling and number strand throughout this unit of inquiry.

In data handling we will focus on being able to:

- Interpret graphs to compare quantities, for example, more, fewer, less than, greater than.

For number we will focus on being able to:

- Solve simple addition and subtraction problems using part/ whole strategies.

SCIENCE and SOCIAL STUDIES

This unit will be addressed through the science strand "*Materials and Matter*". Through that strand we will be addressing the following outcomes:

- Objects can be sorted based on observable properties
- The physical properties of things can change
- Identify Earth's natural resources

This unit will also be explored through the Social Studies strand "*Resources and the Environment*". Through that strand we will be addressing the following outcomes:

- People use resources to meet needs and wants in different ways.
- There are consequences of the depletion of resources.

Your child will learn best of all when school and home work as a team. If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to contact us.



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