

The Climate Connection



Lesson plan

The 5 Rs of sustainability

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and...?

Suitable for use with primary learners of English aged 9-11

CEFR level A2 and above

#TheClimateConnection

www.britishcouncil.org/climate-connection

The 5 Rs of sustainability

Topic

Reduce, reuse, recycle and ...?

Outcomes

- To raise awareness of sustainability issues
- To review and learn vocabulary related to sustainability
- To practise language for asking and answering questions
- To promote communication and collaborative skills
- To develop listening, speaking and reading skills

Age group and level

Primary learners aged 9–11 years at CEFR A2 level and above

Time

60 mins approximately

Materials

The teacher will need:

- the five Rs fact file (one per learner)
- a copy of the five Rs fact file on the board
- the transcript for reading out loud (available below).

Introduction

Children often learn about ‘the three Rs’ at school: reduce, reuse, recycle. But in recent years, more sustainability-related Rs have appeared. By teaching children more about this topic, we can help them to develop the vocabulary they need to take part in important dialogues around sustainability in the future and help them understand that there are many things we can do to help the planet.

The lesson begins with a warmer to recycle keywords that learners already know. This is followed by a listening task where learners transfer information into a fact file with the support of a word box.

Learners think of more examples to add to their fact file and share their ideas with their classmates and teacher.

The lesson finishes with learners writing a pledge to do more Rs at home and at school.

There is an optional extra task where learners prepare and give a short presentation in pairs of groups.

Procedure



1. Warmer (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the board, write: The three Rs: R _____ R _____ R _____ Ask learners to help you write the missing words. Help, if necessary, by filling in a few more letters. Answer: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
2. Listening 1 (10 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell learners they are going to listen to you talking about five Rs. Play the audio once for learners to listen and identify the extra two Rs. <p>NOTE: Do the listening activity as a 'live listening' exercise. The teacher reads out the audio 'live' to the students using the transcript. Live listening is an opportunity for the teacher to read out the transcript at a pace which is better suited to the learners' level. The accent and pronunciation are also more familiar to the learners so may help with their understanding.</p> <p>Answer: <i>Repair, Refuse</i></p>
3. Introducing the fact file (5 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give each learner a copy of the Five Rs fact file. If you are unable to make a large number of copies, display a few examples around the classroom and ask learners to copy them into their notebooks. Draw a copy of the fact file on the board or on a large piece of paper. Ask learners to look at the fact file. Explain that there are some parts missing. The missing parts are in the box above the fact file.
4. Listening 2 (10–15 minutes)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell learners that they are going to listen to you reading the transcript again. They should listen and complete the fact file using the words in the box. Read out the transcript, pausing after each paragraph to give learners time to think and write. Ask learners to compare their answers in pairs. Then say each number in turn (e.g. One) and eliciting an answer (e.g. Reduce). <p>Answers: 1 Reduce 2 Recycle 3 Refuse 4 again 5 breaks 6 library 7 jar 8 bag 9 comic 10 tools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As learners provide the answers, write them in the fact file on the board.



- Give learners an opportunity to ask any questions. Make sure they understand the information in the fact file (and audio). If necessary, explain the meaning of any new words.

**5. Writing more examples
(10–15 minutes)**

- Ask learners to look at the bottom (empty) row in the fact file. Ask them to think of another example for each R. Give them some thinking time. Then ask them to help you complete this row with an extra example for each R.
- As learners share their ideas, choose one for each R and write it in the appropriate place in the fact file. If necessary, help with ideas (see suggestions below). Learners complete their fact files too.
- Completed fact file with suggested answers in the last row.

1	Rs	Reduce	Reuse	Recycle	Repair	Refuse
2	Meaning	Use or buy less of something	Use something again	Give something a new use	Mend something when it breaks	Say 'no' to something
3	Example 1	Don't buy a book. Borrow a book from the library.	Use two sides of a piece of paper.	Use an old jar to keep pencils tidy.	Sew a hole in an old sock.	Always carry your own bag for shopping.
4	Example 2	Don't buy a new toy. Swap toys with a friend.	Use an old comic to wrap a present.	Use bottle tops to make a game.	Use tools to mend a broken car.	Say no to a plastic straw.
5	Example 3	<i>Don't buy a new pen. Buy a refill for your pen.</i>	<i>Use an old towel as a blanket for a pet.</i>	<i>Use an old box to make a doll's house.</i>	<i>Ask for help to mend a broken toy.</i>	<i>Always carry your own bottle for water.</i>

**6. Thinking and writing a pledge
(10 minutes)**

- On the board write: My Rs pledge. Explain that a pledge is the same as a promise. Tell learners that you are going to make them a green pledge. Go through some of the information in the fact file and personalise it by saying five things that you are going to do.

E.g. *I'm going to mend an old jumper.*

I'm going to borrow books from the library.

I'm going to carry my own water bottle.



I'm going to say no to plastic bags.

I'm going to reuse paper for shopping lists.

- Ask learners to write a pledge of three to five things that they are going to do.

Contributed by

Katherine Bilborough

