

What's happening in the news this week?



Let's have a look at this week's poster!

19th - 25th January 2026

Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world?



This week's story looks at events related to ...

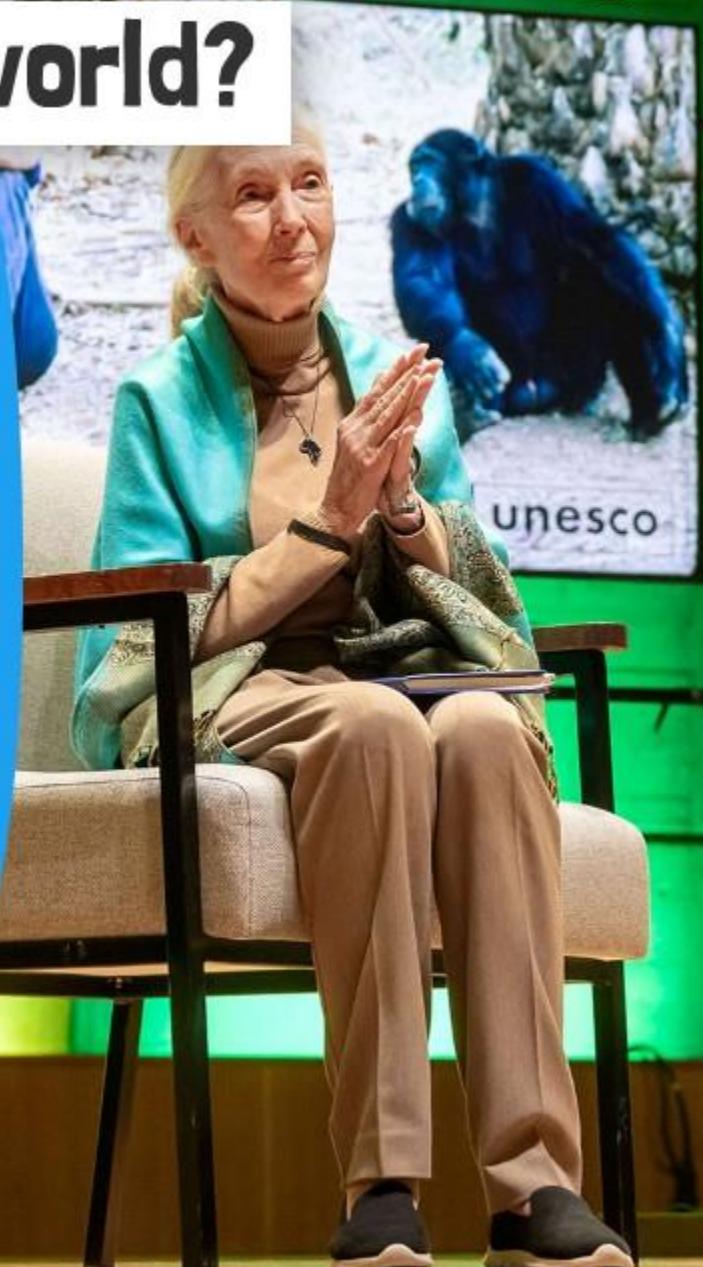


Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world?



Recently, a new award, called the Jane Goodall Earth Medal, has been created to celebrate people who work to help others and care for the world. It is named after Dr Jane Goodall, who spent her life protecting animals and encouraging people to look after nature. The award recognises kind and caring actions that make a positive difference, even when people are not looking for praise.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).



Do you have an emotional response you would like to share?



sad

despondent
disconsolate
dismal
doleful
downhearted
forlorn
gloomy
melancholic
miserable
woeful
wretched

angry

aggrieved
annoyed
discontented
disgruntled
distressed
exasperated
frustrated
indignant
offended
outraged
resentful
vexed

happy

beaming
buoyant
cheery
contented
delighted
enraptured
gleeful
glowing
joyful

confused

addled
baffled
bemused
bewildered
disorientated
indistinct
muddled
mystified
perplexed
puzzled

excited

animated
elevated
enlivened
enthusiastic
exhilarated
exuberant
thrilled

worried

agitated
anxious
apprehensive
concerned
disquieted
distraught
distressed
disturbed
fretful
perturbed
troubled
uneasy

overwhelmed

engulfed
inundated
overburdened
overloaded
saturated
submerged
swamped

afraid

alarmed
apprehensive
daunted
fearful
frantic
horrified
petrified
terrified

guilty

ashamed
compunctions
contrite
culpable
penitent
responsible
rueful

jealous

bitter
covetous
desirous
envious
envying
resentful
wary

thankful

appreciative
grateful
gratified
indebted
obliged
relieved

shocked

astonished
astounded
disconcerted
distressed
dumbfounded
horrified
staggered
startled
stunned
surprised

disgusted

affronted
appalled
horrified
repelled
repulsed
revolted
sickened

inspired

activated
encouraged
exhilarated
galvanised
influenced
motivated

embarrassed

ashamed
awkward
chagrined
demeaned
discomposed
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted



Questions

What are the purpose of awards?

How does your community celebrate people?

Are awards always helpful? Why?





- Think of some people that have significantly impacted others and the world? What was it about their actions that made a difference?
- What new awards could you create in your community to encourage people to help one another and protect the environment? In what ways would these awards create a positive impact?
- What can you do within your community to help others and care for the world? Is it important everyone makes contributions rather than just a few individuals? Why?
- How can people be encouraged to action without awards?





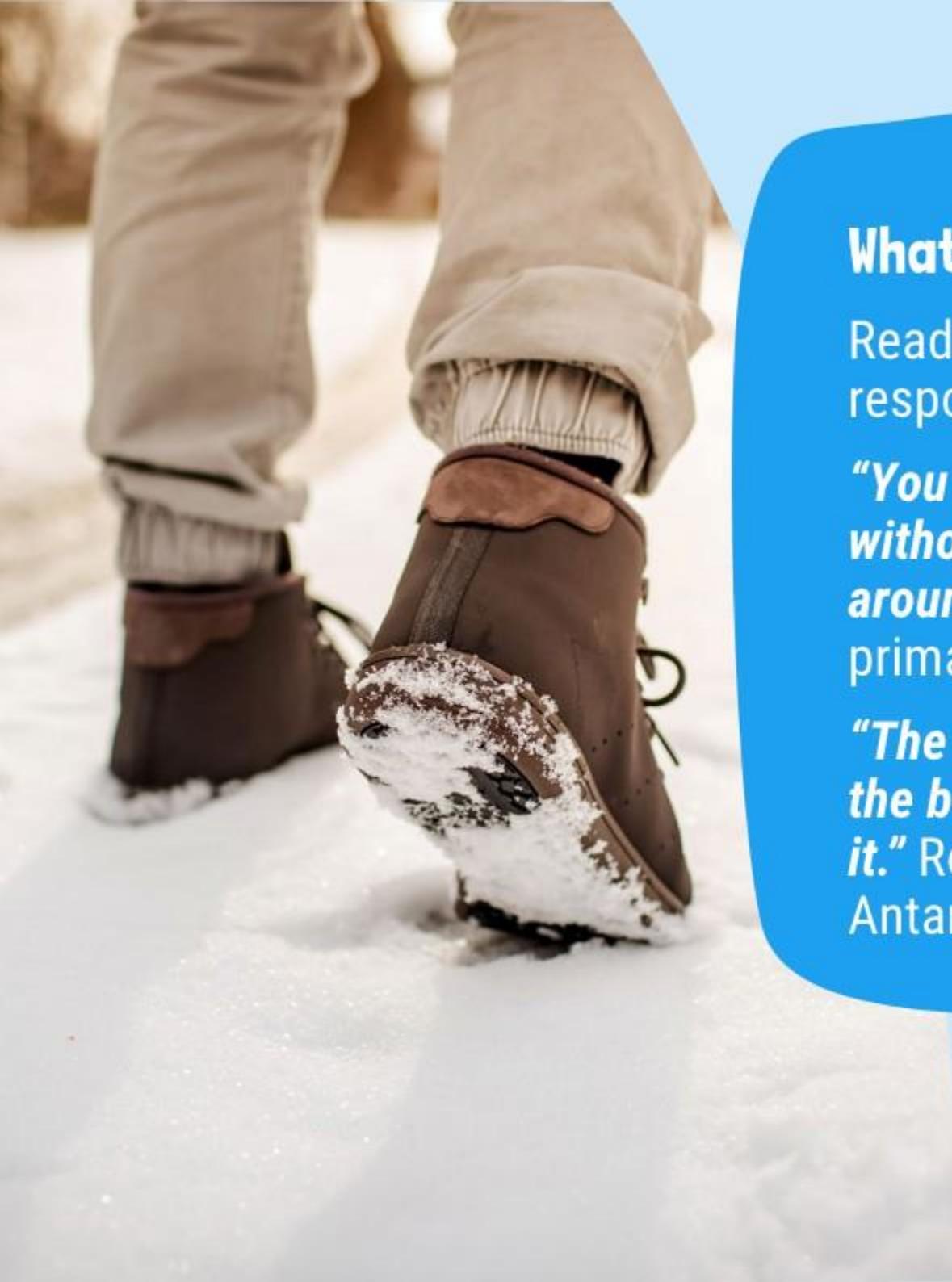
Vital statistics

According to an Office for National Statistics survey from 2024, around three quarters (76%) of adults in Great Britain reported having made some, or a lot of changes, to their lifestyle, to help tackle climate change. However, among those who have not made changes, the most common reasons are not feeling their changes would have any effect (42%), or thinking large-scale polluters should change first (37%).



Footprint Data Platform says it takes 1.7 Earths to provide the resources we currently use, meaning nature cannot regrow fast enough to keep up with us. People in high income countries use 10 times more raw materials (like water, metal, and fuel) than those in low income countries.





What others think

Read through and share your responses to the two quotes below.

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you.” Dr Jane Goodall, primatologist and anthropologist.

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.” Robert Swan, conservationist and Antarctica advocate.

Further questions for discussion



- Thinking about climate change, should we always help? What are some situations when it might be better to not do anything?
- Should we prioritise helping local communities or those far away? How?
- In a world where we are increasingly connected, does distance matter?



Can awards encourage people to help others and care for the world?



Reflection



While kindness comes from people, not awards, they can help us to notice it, value it and feel inspired to do more.





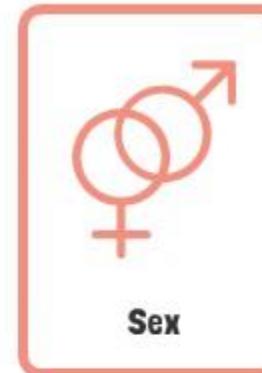
Mutual Respect and Tolerance

The Jane Goodall Earth Medal shows us that being respectful means looking after all living things. It encourages tolerance by focusing on a goal that brings different cultures and beliefs together to protect our world.

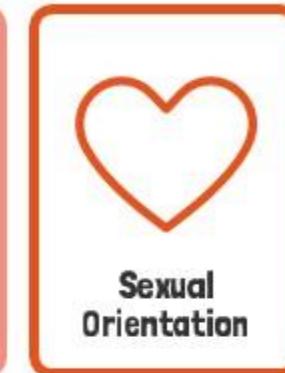
Protected Characteristics



Many religions and beliefs see that humans have a special duty to protect nature and animals. The Jane Goodall Earth Medal celebrates those who put their beliefs into action by being kind to the planet and each other.



Sex



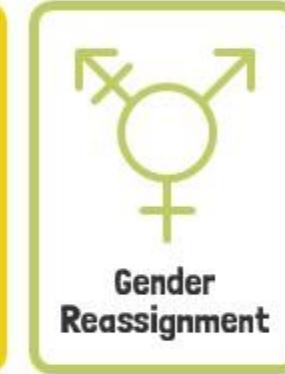
Sexual Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender Reassignment



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion or Belief



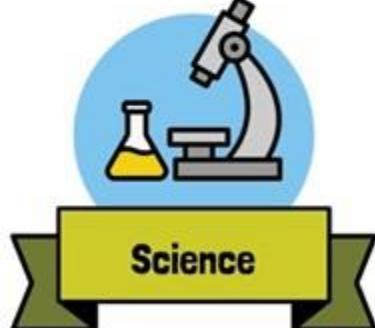
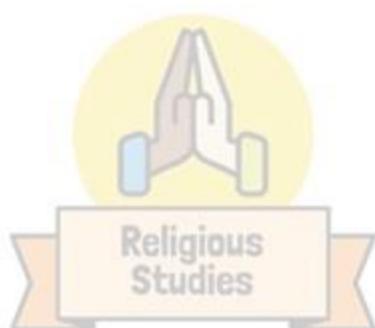
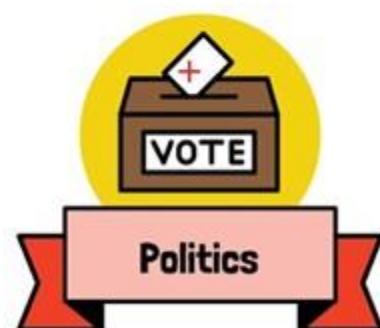
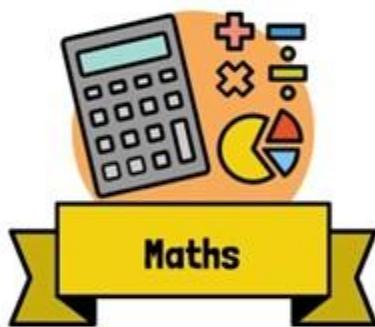
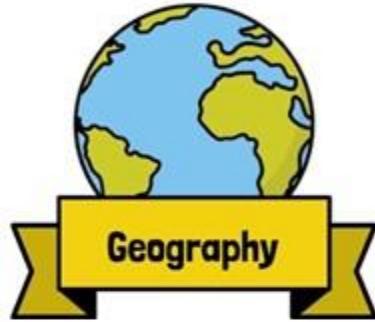
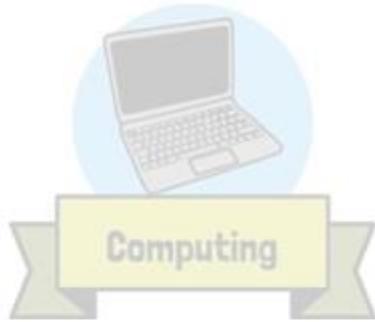
UN Rights of the Child



Children have the right to speak out on matters that affect them and are encouraged to be active citizens. Society should take children's concerns for nature and others seriously and value their ideas.



Cross Curricular Links



This week's story explores the creation of a new award, honouring people for their selfless work in protecting nature and helping others.



Who Does This Work?



Job of the Week

Corporate responsibility and sustainability practitioner

These experts ensure businesses grow in a way that is fair to their workers and kind to the environment.



Did you know?

Sustainability jobs are growing three times faster than conventional jobs. Experts predict that sustainability specialists will be one of the fastest-growing careers, with a 33% increase by 2027.



Pathways Into This Career

- An undergraduate or postgraduate qualification that covers corporate responsibility and sustainability.
- A Level 4 or Level 7 apprenticeship in sustainability and corporate responsibility.
- Experience in fundraising, volunteering, or managing volunteers.



Skills Needed

- Communication, teamwork, and leadership skills.
- Initiative, creativity, and determination.
- An understanding of business management and computer skills.



Discussion Prompt

Can a business really be 'green' if its main goal is still to make money?

LET'S DISCUSS

This week's news story

<https://bit.ly/4qxEK4g>

This week's useful video

<http://www.youtube.com/shorts/Z9UwlSDlYxM>



In the news this week

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Notes

CHRISTOPHER FEELEY/TESSON/ERIK ERIKSEN/SHUTTERSTOCK

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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Questions

- What are the purpose of awards?
- How does your community celebrate people?
- Are awards always helpful? Why?
- Think of some that have significantly impacted others and the world? What was it about their actions that made a difference?
- What new awards could you create in your community to encourage people to help one another and protect the environment? In what ways would these awards create a positive impact?
- What can you do within your community to help others and care for the world? Is it important everyone makes contributions rather than just a few individuals? Why?
- How can people be encouraged to action without awards?

Vital statistics

- Around three quarters (76%) of adults in Great Britain reported having made some, or a lot of changes to their lifestyle, to help tackle climate change in late 2024. However, among those who have not made changes, the most common reasons are not feeling their changes would have any effect (42%), or thinking large-scale polluters should change first (37%).
- It takes 1.6 Earths to provide the resources we currently use, meaning nature cannot regrow fast enough to keep up with us.
- People in high income countries use 10 times more raw materials (like water, metal, and fuel) than those in low-income countries.

What others think

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Further questions for discussion

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 Listen

 Think

 Share

Additional Activities



Activity 1

Waste Audit

Ask pupils to tally one full day using the four categories below.

Plastic Usage: Every time they use single-use plastic (bottles, crisp packets, fruit mesh etc.)

Power Hours: Every hour a device (phone, console, laptop) is plugged in or on standby.

Water Minutes: Total minutes spent with a tap running (showers, brushing teeth).

General Waste: How many items they throw in the general waste bin versus recycling.

As a class, count the data to show the collective impact.

Create a Wall of Waste: Have pupils write their plastic usage, power hours, water minutes and general waste number on a sticky note. Then, calculate the impact of their carbon footprint across a year through multiplying each category by 365. Place it on a wall or board to show this waste number across the whole class.

Ask the class: How does tracking your plastic usage, power hours, water minutes and general waste help you understand your carbon footprint? After creating the 'Wall of Waste', what was the most surprising thing you noticed about the class's collective impact? How does this connect to the values celebrated by the Jane Goodall Earth Medal?



Activity 2

The Green Dragon's Den

Give each group a 'problem' product (e.g., a plastic bottled drink, a fast-fashion t-shirt, or a battery-powered toy).

The group should then find three reasons as to why product is currently not environmentally or ethically sustainable. Examples might include:

- The packaging is made of single-use plastic.
- The workers making it aren't paid a fair wage.
- It has to travel 5,000 miles to get to the shop.

Each group should then work together to make changes to the product, so it helps people and the planet while still making a profit.

The group can then present their new idea to the class in a 60 second Dragon's Den style pitch. They must explain:

- How they used their initiative to solve the problem.
- Why the new version is better for the environment.
- How it helps other people.
- How the business can still make money (profit).

Ask the class: Which was harder to fix, the impact on the planet or the impact on people? Why?

