

## Preview to Our Planet Guided Reading Play Scripts

This set of 6 Guided Reading Play Scripts looks at man's impact on the environment - in the context of five different habitats: a pond, the rainforest, the poles, the desert and the ocean - and what we as the human race can do to undo the harm done.

Poison in the pond, fire in the forest, no anti-freeze in the Arctic, oil pollution in the oceans and deserts - is there no end to man's destruction of his environment? Can the human race be trained to look after the planet Earth? And what do all the animals in these diverse habitats have to say about it all? Read on and find out!

### Sample Texts from Our Planet Guided Reading

#### **Play 1 Life in a Pond**

##### Speakers

Frog	Great Diving Beetle
Newt	Snail
Stickleback	Dragonfly

Frog: Nasty vicious beasts of the pond!

Dragonfly: But not as nasty as that toxic substance I see making its way, right now, towards our pond! It's pure *poison* to the likes of us. Best run whilst you can!

Snail: What *is* he talking about? *Poison* indeed! Where on earth *from*?

Dragonfly: From the fields, around us. Those fertilizers and insecticides might help the *farmer's* crop, but they'll be the end of *us*!

Newt: But why would he want to *harm* us? Doesn't he *care*?

Stickleback: Not *enough*, it would seem. All he cares about is doubling his crop and doubling his money.

Beetle: What? Even if that means poisoning our home and us in it?

Dragonfly: 'Fraid so. Sometimes these humans just can't see what harm they're doing.

#### **Play 2 Life in a Rainforest**

##### Speakers

Narrator	Jaguar	Red-bellied Piranha
Howler monkey	Vampire Bat	

Macaw                      3-Toed Sloth

(Enter 3-Toed Sloth)

Narrator:        Well, here's someone definitely *not* in a hurry!

Monkey:         Would you two care to *hang around* for a bit?

Bat:                Sounds good to me!

Macaw:           Certainly looks like *he* (pointing to sloth) could do with some *beauty* sleep!

Sloth:             (Speaking very slowly). We can't *all* dash around in dazzling bright colours. I'm quite happy with my 18 hours sleep a day.

Jaguar:           (Yawning). He's making me feel sleepy, just listening to him!

(Enter Red-Bellied Piranha, snapping at others' heels)

Piranha:         Just as well *I*'m here, to keep you on your toes! No dozing off around me – not unless you want to see what your skeleton looks like!

### **Play 3 Life at the Poles**

#### Speakers

Narrator	Walrus
Polar Bear	Blue Whale
Penguin	Albatross
Seal	

Polar Bear:       Like, who is the largest *bear* in the world?... Why, me of course!

Albatross:        And who has the largest *wingspan* of any bird in the world?... Why, me of course!

Whale:            And who is the largest *animal* that has ever lived?... *That's* me! Longer than a jumbo jet! And heavier than 30 elephants!

Albatross:        Well, *I* can glide for days at a time!

Whale:            And I can talk to other whales up to 50 miles away!

Albatross:        Well, I can live for over 80 years!

Whale:            And I ...

Narrator:        (Interrupting). OK. OK. I think this has gone on long enough. I don't mean to spoil your fun ..

Penguin: No, that *would* be mean. After all, if he's a *blue* whale, he needs all the cheering up he can get!

#### **Play 4 Life in the Ocean**

##### Speakers

Manta Ray	Dugong
Box Jellyfish	Great White Shark
Giant Squid	Turtle

Ray: I'm *huge* – up to 23 feet across.

Turtle : Hmm. Not much 'depth' to that one.

Jellyfish: Some might say 'as flat as a pancake'!

Squid: Or cow pat!

Dugong: Well, don't look at me! Us dugongs might be *called* sea cows but that's just because we graze on sea grass, growing on the ocean floor!

Jellyfish: Ooh! (Shark glides past). Watch out! That great white shark is looking a bit hungry!

Shark: What's that? Afraid of *me*? You *spineless* creature!

Jellyfish: I may not have any backbone, but watch out for my long tentacles. With their deadly sting, you really wouldn't want to tangle with me!

#### **Play 5 Life in the Desert**

##### Speakers

Scorpion	Camel
Kingsnake	Meerkat
Locust	Tarantula

Camel: King-showoff, if you ask me!

Kingsnake: Pardon!

Camel: Oops! Sorry! Slip of the tongue!

Kingsnake: Careful! Otherwise *you'll* be hissssssstory!

Camel: And *then* how would those poor humans get around the desert?

Meerkat: Yes, a useless lot! They wouldn't survive any time in the desert! Not like us lot!

Scorpion: Me with my wax coating!

Camel: Me with my fat-filled hump or humps! To say nothing of my long eyelashes and closing nostrils – against the sand.

Meerkat: And *how* long is it you can survive without water?

Camel: Up to 8 weeks!

### **Play 6 Humans!**

#### Speakers

Narrator

Worldwide Fund for Nature Campaigner

Greenpeace Campaigner

National Trust Campaigner

Woodlands Trust Campaigner

Adult

Child

Narrator: OK. So I'm not going to argue with you lot! But what can us humans do to save the planet? We've heard all about how we're wrecking it! Surely it's too late!

Child: So! You're just going to sit back and do nothing? What about future generations?

Adult: He's got a point. We all now *know* what's going on. Shouldn't *we* do something about it *now*?

Narrator: Like *what*?

Greenpeace: Well, *we*'re really good at putting pressure on governments to change their ways.

Child: So should *I* just leave it to you guys? Nobody is going to listen to *me*!

Adult: That's where you're wrong! Do you remember you telling me to turn off the lights?

Child: And replace our light bulbs with long-life ones!

Adult: And to turn off the taps!

Child: And to take a shower instead of a bath!

WWF: Sounds like you're making a difference already!