

# Unit 7

## Getting started

- Are you more of a city person or country-side person? Why?
- What ideas and tips do you have for being green and reducing waste?

## Skills

- What skills can you learn, or teach others, to help protect the environment?
- Are there any outdoor skills you have (like gardening or farming)?

## The local area

- What do you know about recycling in this area?
- Which local green spaces do you like going to?

## Around the UK

- Is the UK doing enough to help protect the environment?
- What natural areas in the UK have you visited or heard about?

## Around the world

- What do you know about Greta Thunberg?
- What are the biggest environmental issues we face and how do you feel about them?

## Staying safe

- What are your ideas for practical everyday action to help the environment?
- Are there any dangers to be aware of when you're enjoying nature (talk about anywhere you know)?

# Nature and the environment



## Useful apps and websites

- Local council's website for information on parks and recycling
- <https://uk.freecycle.org/>

## Taking the topic further

- Visit the local recycling centre.
- Invite a speaker to your club or centre, e.g. 'zero waste' expert or a representative from the Green Party or Extinction Rebellion.
- Go to a local green space or park together.

## Social / Community

- Agree some action you can take individually.
- Agree some action you can take at your centre.
- Agree some action you can encourage your friends or family to take.

## Our rights and responsibilities

- What are our rights and responsibilities as citizens to help protect the environment?
- Is it everyone's individual responsibility to protect the environment or do we need strong rules from governments?

## Personal view

- Where are your favourite nature places?
- What are your favourite plants, trees and flowers? Why?

# Nature and the environment

## Unit 7

### Introduction to the topic

This topic gives participants the opportunity to discuss personal views and issues relating to nature and the environment including places in nature, local parks, natural objects, recycling and how recycling works in their area.



### Session ideas at a glance

<b>Welcome</b>	If required, participants sign in or you record attendance on a register.
<b>Opening chat/ circle time</b>	Introductions for anyone new. General chatting. Anything to follow up or report back on from the previous session? Any news from anyone?
<b>Getting started</b>	Remind/tell new participants what the topic of the session is: <b>Nature and the environment</b> . Choose one or more warm up activities linked to the topic. See next page for ideas on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Nature</b> (using natural objects and photos of natural places)</li><li>• <b>Alphabet list</b></li><li>• <b>City or countryside?</b></li></ul> Ask some questions to get the conversation started and find out which aspects of the topic participants are most interested in talking about. (See mind map and next page for ideas.)
<b>Conversations</b>	Plan to have 2 or 3 main conversations linked to this topic, possibly with supporting activities. See next page for ideas for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Personal view: Places in nature</b></li><li>• <b>The local area: Improve your local park!</b></li><li>• <b>Social/Community: Recycling and waste</b></li></ul> If you have a large group, divide participants into small groups or pairs for each activity/conversation. Finish each conversation with the whole group reporting back and discussing further together.
<b>Closing chat/ circle time</b>	Feedback about today's topic and conversations. Discuss any ideas for any follow up action or research for taking the topic further, e.g. discussing the topic more, visiting a local park or recycling centre, inviting a speaker in. Share ideas for the main topic for the next session. Any reminders or important dates/events coming up?

**Level of English:** There are activities in this unit for participants with different levels of English. For lower levels, use the park pictures to check vocabulary that may be new and for participants to do picture-word matching activities.

**Things to consider:** There may be very different levels of awareness about recycling and environmental issues among the group.

## Getting started: Nature

- Bring in a few natural objects such as leaves, pebbles, flowers, etc. and photos or images of nature in the countryside and in an urban environment, e.g. parks, gardens. Put them on the table. Invite participants to pick up and say what they are, then talk about any of the objects or images they like.

## Getting started: Alphabet list

- Make an alphabetical list on the topic of nature (See *English conversation practice toolkit*, Section 1b).

## Getting started: City or countryside?

- Ask some questions to get the conversation started and find out which aspects of the topic participants are most interested in. You can use some questions from the mind map, e.g. *Are you a city or a countryside person? Why? Where are your favourite places in nature?*

## Personal view: Places in nature

**Resources and preparation:** Collect/print out and cut up the images - one set for each group - and prepare handouts of the question sheet. If it's a large group, divide participants into small groups.

- Give each group a set of images and ask them to identify the place each image represents. Some participants may need help with vocabulary.
- Give out and go through the question sheet. In groups, participants discuss and choose a picture for each answer. If they can't find what they are looking for, they can tell each other about a place, or find images on a smart phone or tablet, if available. N.B. The UK pictures are the snowy park and two of the beaches.

## The local area: Improve your local park!

**Resources and preparation:** A3/flipchart paper, colour pens for park designs. Create or print the set of images and matching words for each group.

- Ask participants to discuss and expand on these questions in small groups: *Do you go to a local park? Can you describe it? What's good about it? How could you improve it?* Talk about what features good parks have. Lower level participants may want to match the images and words. Ask participants to share ideas about how to improve a local park or design a new park if there isn't one in the area. Prompt questions: *What will you put in your park? Think about the people who will use it. Is it good for children and adults of all ages?* Give out A3/flipchart paper and colour pens if participants would like to draw their ideas and designs.
- Ask groups to display their plans and describe their ideas to each other. They can then discuss the different ideas as a whole group. Then can also talk about how to take their ideas further, e.g. write to the council or their local MP about their local parks and ideas for improvements.

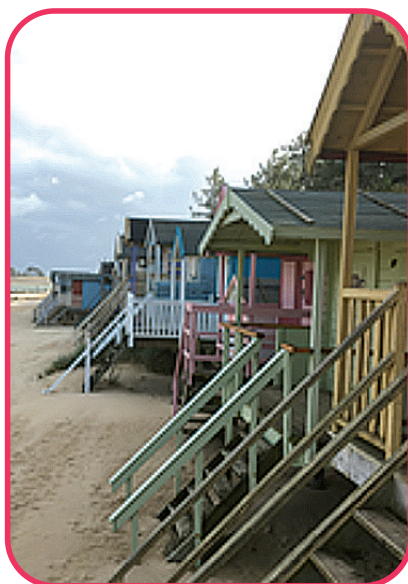
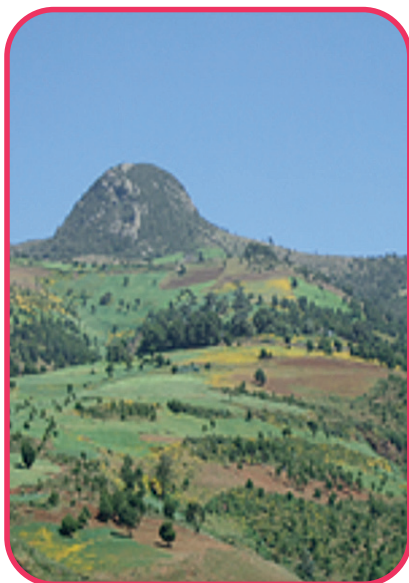
## Social/Community: Recycling and waste

**Resources and preparation:** Collect or print some local recycling information to give out or project. Bring a bag of (clean) rubbish with 10-20 items - include things that can and cannot be recycled. If possible, include a battery and a plastic carrier bag. Prepare a handout of the questions and images sheet.

- Start a conversation about recycling using the mind map questions, e.g. *What do you know about recycling in the area? Do you recycle? What do you recycle? Do you have bags, bins or containers? What is each one for? When are the collection days?*
- Empty your bag of rubbish on the table. Ask participants to select different items, say what they are, whether you can recycle them and, if so, into which recycling container. Continue until all the rubbish has been discussed.
- You can extend the discussion by using the additional questions and pictures handout.



**Personal view:** Places in nature (images)



Images: © H Rankin



**Personal view:** Places in nature (questions)

## Places in nature



**Task:**

- Work in pairs or small groups.
- Find some pictures to help answer each question.
- Tell each other your answers for each question.

**Questions:**

**1. Hot places and cold places.**

Which do you like best? Why?

**2. Mountains, flat countryside and seaside.**

Which do you like best? Why?

**3. Places you would like to live.**

Why?

**4. Places you wouldn't like to live.**

Why not?

**5. Places you would like to visit on holiday.**

Why?

**6. Places you wouldn't like to visit on holiday.**

Why not?

**7. Places you think are in the UK – and not in the UK.**

Which ones? What helped you decide?

**8. Places you have lived in or visited that look like these pictures?**

Where were they? Describe them to your group.

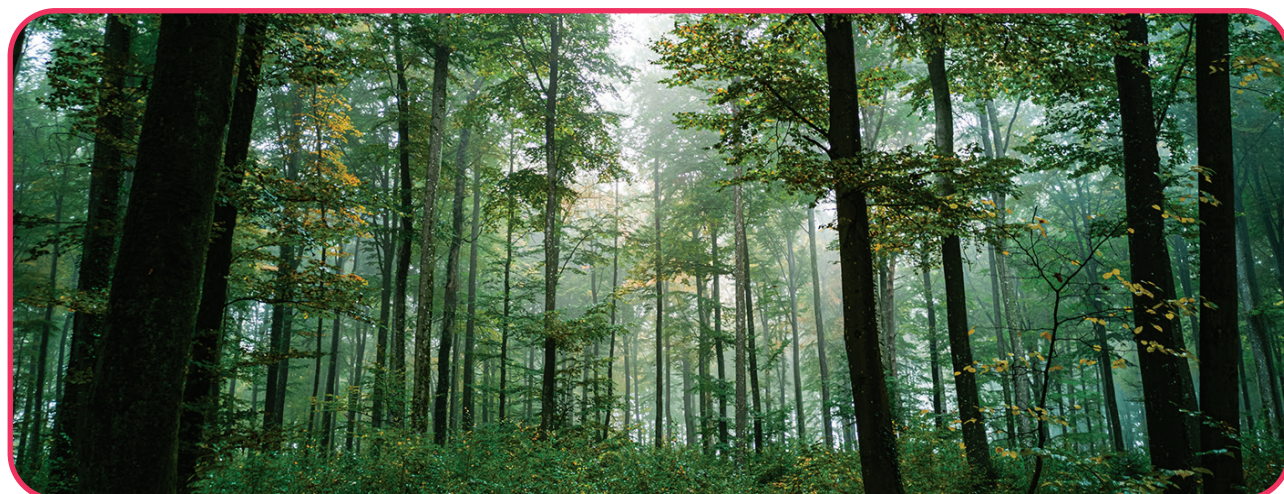


Image: Unsplash.com



## Social and community:

Improve your local park (images)



Images: © H Rankin



Images: © H Rankin



Images: © H Rankin



Images: © H Rankin



Images: © H Rankin



Image 7: Unsplash.com



**Social and community:**

Improve your local park (matching words)

comfortable  
seating

picnic area /  
cafe

dog friendly

sports area

lake or  
pond

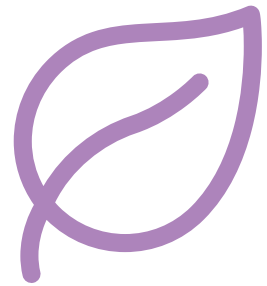
children's  
playground

trees and  
flowers

entertainment  
area

skateboarding  
area





## Recycling and waste

- **Do you always recycle?**  
Why? Why not?
- **Do you think it is important to recycle?**
- **What happens to recycled plastic?**  
Does it always get recycled?
- **How can we reduce waste?**  
(e.g. not taking plastic bags, using soap instead of shower gel).  
Tell each other your ideas.



Images: Unsplash.com