

# Sir David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough is a very well-known English broadcaster and natural historian. He was born on the 8th of May 1926, in London. He studied natural sciences at Cambridge University and joined the BBC in 1952.

Sir David Attenborough has produced, written and narrated over 100 groundbreaking natural history documentaries.



## Have you seen any of these?

- Life On Earth (1979)
- The Private Life of Plants (1995)
- Blue Planet (2001)
- Planet Earth (2006)
- Blues Planet II (2017)

# Sir David Attenborough

## Did You Know...?

Sir David has visited every continent on earth. He is thought to be the most-travelled human in history!



WWF-UK / David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet

'David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet' is a culmination of his extraordinary experiences and a reflection on the changes he has witnessed during more than 90 years on earth.

# A life on Our Planet



Netflix / David Attenborough: A Life On Our Planet

‘David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet’ is a powerful first-hand account of the impact humanity has had on nature and a message of hope for future generations.

Over his lifetime, David has witnessed a serious decline in the living world.

## Did You Know...?

In 2014, the WWF calculated that populations of wild animals had reduced by more than half since 1970.

# A life on Our Planet

He is dedicated to trying to stop this human-made devastation and believes, if we can change to live in a more sustainable way, we can reverse the damage.

Every single one of us has a responsibility to look after earth - for ourselves and future generations.

We can all play a part, however small, in repairing the destruction.



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## What Do We Need to Do?

In 'A Life on Our Planet', David Attenborough tells us how to build a new kind of life on earth.

# The Four Imperatives

In 'A Life on Our Planet', four **imperatives** will be covered. They are:

## Use Less Space

What can we do to reduce deforestation?

## Eliminate Waste

How can we reduce, reuse and recycle waste?

## Go Carbon Net Zero

How can we generate and use renewable energy?

## Revive Our Oceans

How can we look after our oceans?

In this presentation, we will be introducing the series by looking at the current geological age - the Anthropocene.

**Imperatives** are important issues that need urgent attention or action.

# The Anthropocene

## What Does This Mean?

'Anthropocene' is the scientific term for the geological age that we are living in now. It is viewed as the period where human activity has had a dominant influence on the planet's climate and ecosystems.

The word Anthropocene is derived from the Greek words 'anthropo', meaning man and 'cene', meaning new.

Watch this **video** which introduces the documentary 'David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet'.

What impact do you think humans have had on the earth?

Discuss this with someone sitting near you and make some notes to report back to the class.

# How Many People Are There in the World?

This **video** is all about the world's population growth. You may like to make notes to answer the following questions.

What was the global population in 1800?

**1 billion people**

What is it predicted to be in 2045?

**9 billion people**

In 1960, how long did the average person live for?

**53 years**

In 2010, how long did the average person live for?

**69 years**

# How Many People Are There in the World?

There are currently about 7.8 billion people living on our planet. By 2050, this figure is predicted to grow to around 9.6 billion people.

The population isn't growing at the same rate across the world though; developing countries in Asia and Africa contribute to more than half of this growth.

Why do you think the world's population is growing so dramatically?

What do you think contributes to this growth?

Answers could include:

- people living longer;
- better medical care;
- more children surviving childhood because of vaccinations and better healthcare.



# How Does It Affect the Planet?

The source of all the resources humans need, such as food, metals and fuel, is earth.

Humans are very successful creatures. We compete with other organisms for many natural resources, such as:

- land for agriculture, buildings and roads;
- trees and plants for timber, food and fabric;
- animals for food and products, such as leather and ivory;
- water for drinking, irrigation and industry.

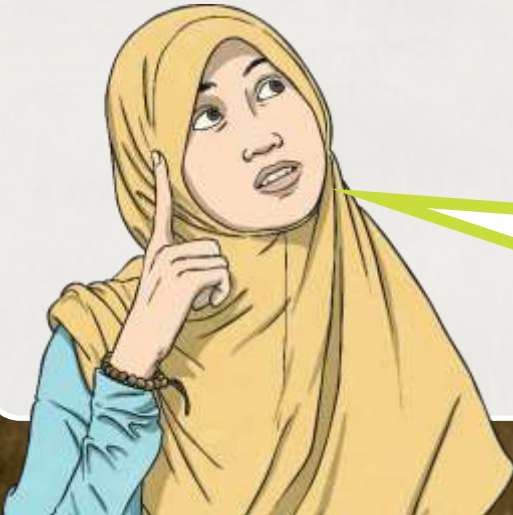


# How Does It Affect the Planet?



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As the world's population continues to rise, more and more of these resources are being depleted.



Can you think of any more examples of resources that humans and other organisms compete for?

# How Does It Affect the Planet?

As well as depleting the world's natural resources, a growing population also contributes to increased pollution levels.

Levels of pollution are increasing due to the amount of waste we produce and global warming (caused by burning fossil fuels to generate energy).



# How Does It Affect the Planet?

This pollution contributes to the destruction of wildlife habitats throughout the world.



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Can you think of some human actions that cause pollution?

# Biodiversity

## What Is Biodiversity?

Watch this **video** to help you and a partner come up with a definition for the word 'biodiversity'.



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Biodiversity means all of the plants and animals in the world or in a particular habitat.

# Why Do We Need Biodiversity?

Different plants and animals are reliant on each other. If an animal or plant within an ecosystem becomes **extinct**, it has an impact upon all other living creatures within that food web.

A lack of biodiversity can also affect resources that humans rely on, such as water sources (needed for drinking), industry and farming.



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**Extinct** means a species, family or group with no living members remaining.

# Why Do We Need Biodiversity?

Changes to how animals and humans live together can also contribute to the spread of diseases.

The Bornean orangutan is critically endangered due to habitat destruction. Orangutans play a critical role in keeping seed distribution in the rainforest. Without them, the plants in their habitat would suffer.



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# How Have Humans Affected Biodiversity?

Thinking about what we have discussed on the previous slides, how do you think humans have affected the biodiversity of life on earth?

Humans have significantly reduced the number of plants and animals on earth through a number of actions, such as:

- pollution;
- habitat destruction, such as deforestation;
- over consumption, such as unsustainable hunting and fishing;
- killing animals for resources, such as fur, ivory or for ingredients used in traditional medicines.



# Why Does This Matter?

If humans continue living like this, there is a real danger that more animals could become extinct.

The Amur leopard is probably the world's rarest cat, with only around 100 adults left in the wild. Having been hunted for their skins, and due to the destruction of their habitats, they were on the brink of extinction.



Thankfully, numbers appear to be rising due to conservation work.

# What Can We Do?

There are many ways you can help to protect earth and its biodiversity, some of which will be explored in the other presentations.

Why not find out more about an animal species which is critically endangered, such as the red wolf or the black rhinoceros?

You could make a poster about them, including information about:

- why they are endangered;
- where they live;
- what they eat;
- what has been done already to help save them from extinction;
- what more we can do to help them.



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# What Can We Do?



After decades of successful conservation work, giant panda numbers are starting to increase. However, they still remain at risk.

They are now classed as 'vulnerable', rather than 'endangered'.