



GRETA AND THE GIANTS

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Greta and the Giants — UK Teacher Notes

Depending on the age of the children, the following lessons can take place over more sessions than are outlined in the notes. The lessons are pitched at children in lower key stage 2 in primary school but can be adapted across the primary curriculum to suit the needs and ages of the children in your school.

Learning in this area is not designed to be specifically taught, but to create either flexible cross curricular opportunities such as English, particularly guided reading and writing, Geography, Design and Technology, Geography, Maths and PE.

By using this book and following the suggested activities, children will begin to understand:


- Who Greta Thunberg is and what she is doing to inform the next generation about the impact of climate change.
- What the climate is and how climate change affects all of us.
- That some human activity causes pollution which affects the climate and makes the world hotter.
- That the climate is changing faster than it has before.
- That trees help to keep the world cool and provides a home for animals, insects and birds.
- Some ways that we can make changes both at home and at school, to positively impact a better future.

Session 1: What is climate? What is climate change? Who is Greta?

Introduction and discussion:

Begin by asking the pupils 'Have you heard of Greta Thunberg'? Take some responses and then turn to the end of the book and read aloud to the class the page titled, '*This Story is Inspired by a Real Girl called Greta Thunberg.*'

Explain that this is a fiction text with a story about a character called Greta. Read the story out loud to the class.



Explain that climate is the patterns of weather conditions that we live in. Ask, what is the climate here in December – what are the conditions? What is the climate like here in the summer? What are the conditions? Explain that climate isn't the daily weather, it is the conditions over a long period of time.

Ask, what is climate change? Have you heard of it? Take the opportunity to clarify any misconceptions and allay any anxieties.

Explain that climate change is any important and lasting long-term change in the expected patterns of weather and conditions over a long period of time. Tell the children that we will be talking about things that cause climate change in later sessions

Activity: Character study of Greta

Give each child a piece of paper divided into four clearly marked boxes with a circle in the middle. Ask them to draw a picture of Greta in the circle in the centre of the paper and write her name underneath. Reinforce some of the facts that we know from the book and ways that the author of *Greta and the Giants* uses to describe Greta's challenges. Label the four boxes in advance for the children: Where does she live? Who are her friends? What problems does she face? What does she achieve? Encourage and support the children to write some sentences under the heading in each box using copies of the book to help them.

Reflection:

Ask children to think about changes in the expected climate as they happen during the year. Recap on the evidence given at the end of the book relating to the climate changing.

Session 2: Causes of Climate Change

Introduction and discussion:

Read the story of *Greta and the Giants* again to the class. Ask for suggestions as to what damage was happening in the story and who was causing it? Ask children to work in pairs to think about and discuss why the Giants were doing what they were doing. Ask one of the pair to report back.

Ask for suggestions as to what else can cause changes to the climate that are more directly related to our daily lives. Make notes on large sheets of paper, display in the classroom and to the children themselves when new information emerges.

Give prompts:

Food – think about how and why?


Travel – think about why and how?

Clothes – think about where our clothes come from and how they get to us?

Waste – think about what and where?

Materials – think about which?

How much we know – think about what?





Activity: Making Posters

Give the children materials to make a poster with a message relating to one of the topics discussed in the introduction. Ask them to think of a simple message that can make a difference for example 'Recycle your plastic!' or 'Cycle to School!' or 'Buy Your Shopping Locally!' Encourage them to decorate the poster in a striking way and display in the classroom or around the school

Reflection:

Give children opportunities to share their posters and talk about why they chose their particular messages.

Session 3: What can we do to help?

Introduction:

Go back to yesterday's ideas and posters and then encourage thinking about what we can do to help. Recap on what Greta did in the story. What did she do that helped the situation that she was in? We might not be able to form a protest, but we could think about changes that we could make more easily.

Activity: Learning Walk

Ask the children to think about the situation that we are in right here. In the same way that Greta noticed what was going on in her environment, say that we are going to look at what's going on in ours. Organise a 'Learning Walk' around the school or the local community. Give children pencils, paper and clipboards to make notes on what they see.

Encourage children to look out for anything that is potentially affecting climate change, traffic, litter, chopped down trees and anything that is helping such as solar panels, recycling bins, washing hung out on washing lines, electric car charging points etc., Have two headings on their papers. What is Positive and what needs to change.

When the children return to class, they can record their notes into two pieces of writing entitled, 'What is Positive' and 'What Needs to Change'. Try to encourage them to give an explanation as to why something is positive or why something needs to change.

Reflection:

Share the writing in the class and if you have walked around the school perhaps share with the Head teacher.

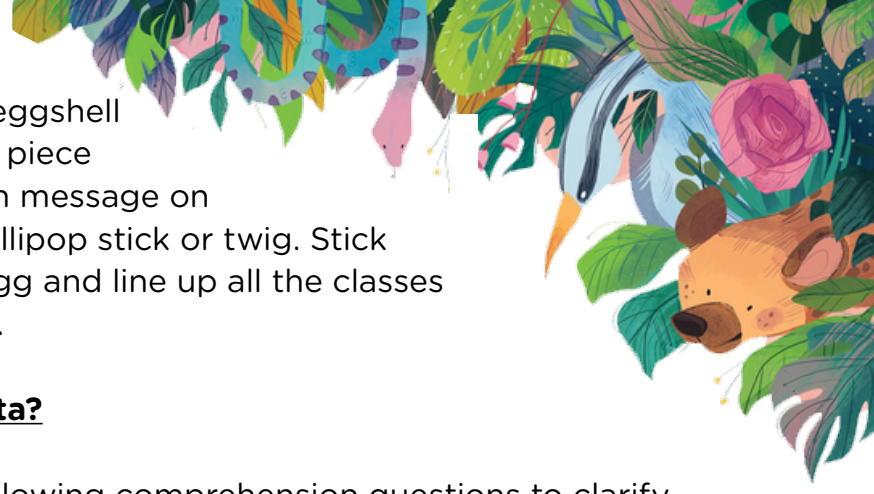


Session 4: Messages of Protest

Ask the children to turn to look at the messages on the signs that were held up by Greta's friends in the forest when they were trying to get something changed. Discuss what the messages say and how these messages could be helpful in letting people know what is happening.

Activity: Mini Protest Model

Each child will need: an empty eggshell, a piece of an egg box to stand the egg shell in, a lollipop stick or twig, a small piece of card and coloured pens.



Ask each child to draw a face on their eggshell with a black felt pen and stand it in the piece of egg box. Ask them to write their own message on the piece of card and attach it to the lollipop stick or twig. Stick the sign on either the egg box or the egg and line up all the classes contributions into a mini protest model.

Session 5: What would you say to Greta?

Introduction:

Read the whole book again. Ask the following comprehension questions to clarify understanding.

- Where did Greta live in this book?
- Why were the animals in the forest needing Greta's help?
- Who are the giants?
- What will happen if people like the giants keep chopping down trees?
- What happens to the animals if there are no forests left for them to live in? Think about how Greta has educated the giants.

Activity: Writing a Letter to Greta Thunberg

Ask for volunteers to sit in the 'Hot Seat' and pretend that they are Greta from the book. Ask the rest of the class to think about questions to ask to clarify her feelings. Give examples of questions, How are you feeling about what you achieved? How do you think the giants are feeling? Ask the class to think of something positive to say to Greta that would encourage her to continue her action. Ask the class to give her some advice that would relate to climate change? This activity can be repeated with a different volunteer, but the same questions posed as some pupils will have different views on the situation.

Provide a writing template and ask the children to write a letter to Greta Thunberg explaining what you think you can do at your school, at home or in the community to help with climate change.

Reflection:

Allow the children to read out their letters to each other.


Session 6: Make a pledge for change


Introduction and discussion:

Ask the children to think about what they have learned in these sessions. Ask them to think about and discuss in pairs one thing each that we can do to help. Record ideas and give your own, for example, not eating meat one day a week or trying to make sure you recycle all your plastic or not wasting paper.

Activity: Class Display

Make a class display entitled 'The World is in Our Hands'. Place a colour photocopy of the front cover of *Greta and the Giants* and a photograph of Greta Thunberg in the centre. Around the outside, display any artwork or writing from the sessions. Give each child some coloured





sugar paper and ask them to draw around one of their hands and cut it out. Ask them to write in coloured pen their personal pledge to helping climate change and add to the display.

Additional Resources:

Video:

[‘Watch a book being printed sustainably | Greta and the Giants’](#) QuartoKnows YouTube

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tFIhTKExCAE>

Activity Sheets:

‘Bug Hotel’ activity sheet

‘Colouring’ activity sheet

‘Maze’ activity sheet

‘Recycling Poster’ activity sheet

‘Wordsearch’ activity sheet



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Bug Hotel Activity



You can make a bug hotel to go on the ground, or to hang from a tree, or both - to see if they attract different insects.

What you need:

- A large plastic bottle (makes 2 bug hotels)
- String (for a hanging bug hotel)
- Materials to fill the bug hotels

Ask the children to collect natural materials from around the school grounds. You can also use recycled objects. Here a few suggestions:

Natural Materials

- Sticks and twigs
- Dry leaves
- Pine cones
- Stones
- Bark and dead wood
- Hollow stems and canes
- Straw or Hay

Recycled objects

- Rolled up pieces of card
- Scrunched up pieces of paper
- Pieces of broken plant pots
- Strips of fabric



How to make a bug hotel:

Cut the top and bottom off the bottle, leaving into 2 cylinder shapes (for hanging bug hotels, loop some string or garden twine round the cylinder) and give one to each child or group.

Ask the children to lay out their materials in groups. Long twigs can be snapped and leaves or stems folded or scrunched up to make them smaller. Carboard should be rolled up and paper scrunched.

Start filling the bug hotels! Tell the children to squeeze and stuff in as much as possible to make them really firm, so their materials won't blow away.

Discuss where would be a good spot for the bug hotels. Insects like cool and moist conditions, on the floor in the shade of a tree or hedge is ideal.



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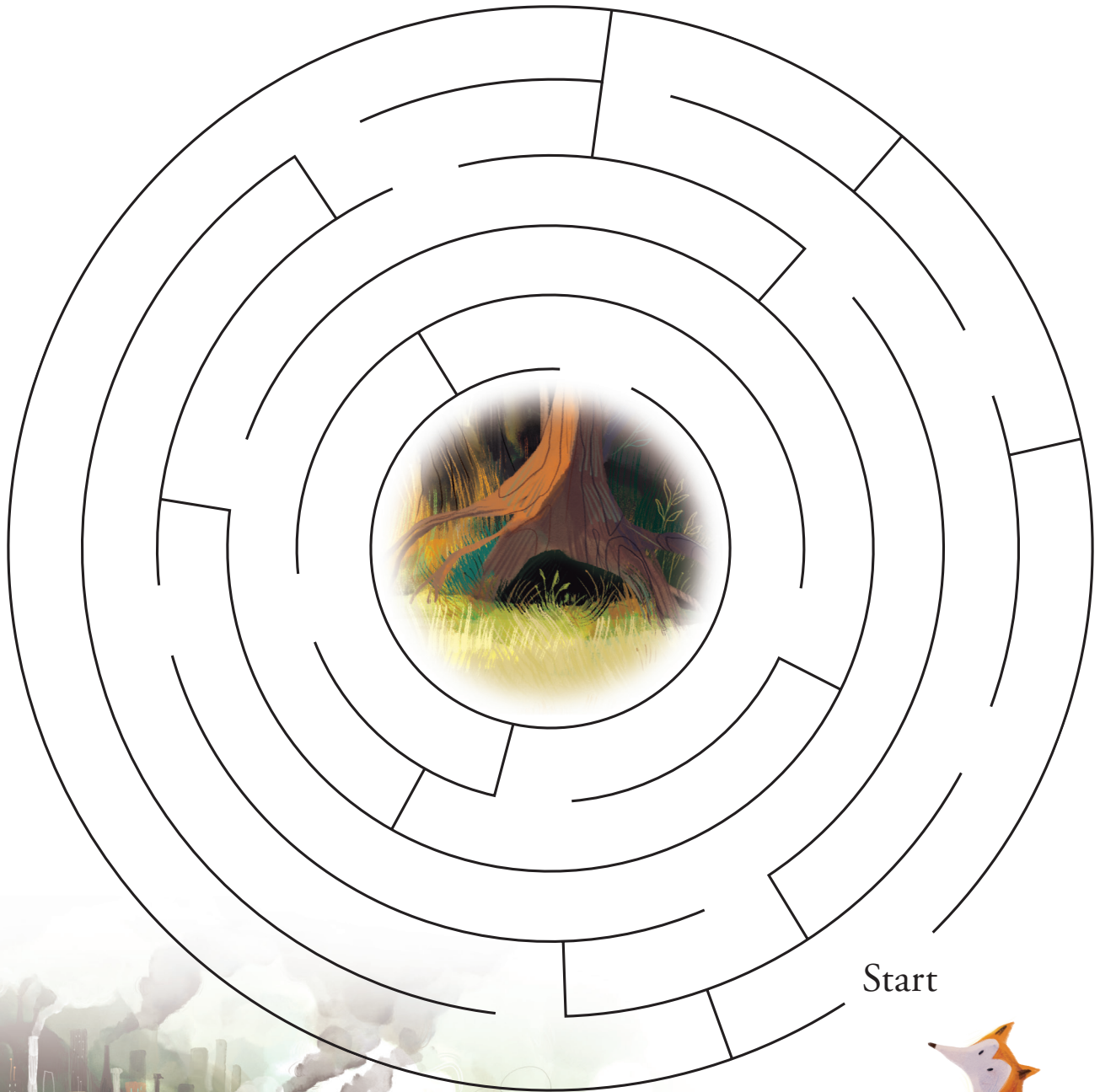
Colour in this picture of Greta
and her animal friends



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Can you help Fox find his way
around the city, back to his den?



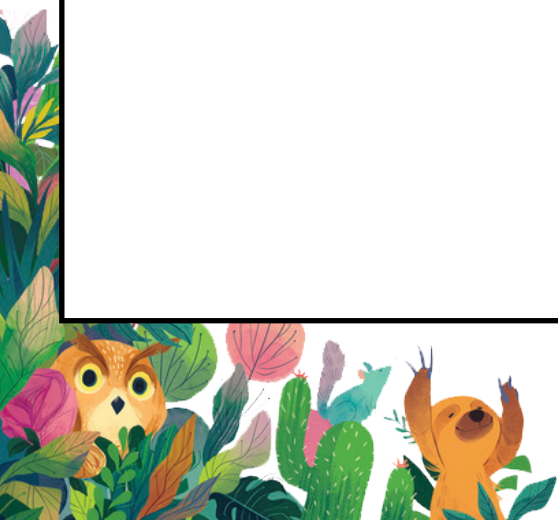
Start



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Design your own Recycling Poster

Design a poster to display at home,
that will encourage your family to recycle.



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Recycling Wordsearch

b	r	e	c	y	c	l	e	o	r
a	e	q	a	h	g	c	p	d	u
f	d	c	n	r	t	l	k	t	b
i	u	o	s	d	f	i	a	m	b
d	c	e	h	s	r	m	e	s	i
r	e	u	s	e	m	a	l	w	s
a	g	k	p	i	v	t	t	n	h
c	n	a	f	j	i	e	t	g	z
e	p	l	a	n	e	t	o	x	i
c	i	t	s	a	l	p	b	e	y

Can you find these words?

Reduce

Reuse

Recycle

Paper

Glass

Climate

Plastic

Card

Cans

Rubbish

Bottle

Planet