

CONNECTING CLASSROOMS through Global Learning

ENHANCING YOUR SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

Collaborating with schools in other countries allows pupils to explore global themes with their international peers to create positive change in their communities. The British Council has curated a range of innovative project ideas that are compatible with the aim of the programme and eligible for use of grant funding, if applying for a grant. The British Council, however, does not endorse these products – the responsibility for using these resources lies with the school

As you can see all the partners featured in the guide provide ways for you to teach about the Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs (also called the Global Goals) are a set of internationally agreed targets designed to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Each country in the world has made a commitment to develop an education system that prepares young people for the world of the 21st Century and make positive contributions locally and globally. By your school focusing on the SDGs as part of your school link, you are playing an important part in educating for a fairer and more sustainable world.





Purpose of this guide

The purpose of this guide is to give ideas to schools on how to enhance your partnership work under the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme by providing you with:

- inspiring ideas for both virtual and face-to-face partnerships to enhance work with your partner
- the ability to make even more use out of the budget lines within cluster partnerships for pupil projects and outreach events.
- a choice of areas/providers to meet your needs/priorities

Some ideas are aimed at both schools working on a new project and learning and reflecting together (through a unique experience of organising a campaign, meeting a scientist, or setting up an enterprise.) Other ideas will help you structure your interactions with your partner school in order to practice skills like respectful communication, perspective taking, cooperation, and critical thinking.

Of course, the organisations featured and ideas suggested are not exhaustive but aim to give you some starting points to discuss areas of mutual interest that you share with your partner school. This will enable you to build mutually beneficial learning for students from both schools. More partners will be added to this guidance over time, and some partners will also be featured on our website and newsletters.

Please bear in mind that some of these ideas are heavily reliant on excellent levels of internet connectivity of you and your partner school.

Version 3, written May 2020

All images featured are screenshots of the organisations websites and the lightbulb icon is sourced from Pixabay



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Empatico



SDGs? 7- Renewable Energy

Who are they? Empatico is a free tool for educators to connect their classrooms with others around the world. Empatico make it simple for virtual connections to exist in classrooms by combining everything needed in one platform: live video, file sharing, a partner classroom, and activities.

Website: <https://empatico.org/>

Suitable for: Primary Schools

How can it help my partnership? IDEAS:



1. You can use Empatico to find a class to connect with based on similar interest in activities, classroom schedules, and student ages.

2. Additionally, you can use the range of free activities (Getting to Know You, Folk Tales, School Tours, Everyday Energy etc.) to work with an existing partnership. Each of these activities follow a pattern of Prepare, Interact and Reflect. Activities are designed to promote greater understanding of similarities and differences and

help students practice important Empatico skills.

3. Empatico Skills of Respectful Communication, Perspective Taking, Critical Thinking, and Cooperation Skills are invaluable for any equitable partnership. Click here <https://empatico.org/activity-plan/ways-we-play#first> and scroll down to 'Supporting the Empatico Experience' to download the free Empatico Skill mini lessons. These will enhance your students' interactions, whatever other project you choose to do.

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The screenshot shows the Global Citizen website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'About Us', 'GLOBAL CITIZEN', a search bar, and 'Sign In / Sign Up'. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with 'Take Action', 'Rewards', 'Festival', and 'Impact'. A main content area features a blue box with the headline 'These Kids Have a Better Chance at a Healthy Life Thanks to Vaccines' and a photo of a woman holding a baby. Below the headline, it lists authors: 'Diana Kestin, Erica Sanchez and Jackie Marchildon'. The article is categorized under 'Health' and dated 'April 30, 2019'. A social media share box is visible below the article, with a Facebook icon and a quote: 'The United Nations' Global Goal 3 focuses on achieving good health and well-being for all — and vaccines, which save millions of lives every year, play a vital role. This World Immunization Week, join Global Citizen and take action on this issue now.'

Global Citizen

SDGs? 1- No Poverty, 2- No Hunger, 3- Good Health, 4- Quality Education, 5- Gender Equality, 6- Clean Water and Sanitation, 9- Innovation and Infrastructure, 13- Climate Action

Who are they? Global Citizen is a movement of engaged citizens who are using their collective voice to end extreme poverty by 2030. Global Citizens can learn about the systemic causes of extreme poverty, take action on those issues, and earn rewards for their actions — as part of a global community committed to lasting change

Website: <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en>

Suitable for: Secondary Schools

How can it help my partnership? This website, full of topical stories, quizzes and ideas for taking action are a great way to make the SDGs real for your students.



IDEAS: Navigate around the website with your class, to give them a sense of some of the good news stories that are featured. Take a topic that interests you (Girls and Women, Health, Education, Finance and Innovation, Food and Hunger, Water and Sanitation, Environment, Citizenship) and create your own news story (about your local food bank/ homeless shelter/period poverty group) about it modelled on the website (including photos, video footage and quiz). Invite your partner school to do the same and exchange. Email back what you liked about your partners story and any questions your students have. This would be a good way to counter stereotypes that everyone in the UK is affluent, which your partner

school may find surprising.

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Plastic Oceans UK



SDGs? 12- Responsible Production and Consumption, 14- Life Below Water

Who are they? Plastic Oceans UK have been experts on plastic pollution for nearly a decade. This began with their award-winning documentary A Plastic Ocean, now available for streaming on Netflix. They are currently working on solving the plastic crisis through science, sustainability and education programmes. Through changing attitudes, behaviours and practices on the use and value of plastics, they believe plastic pollution can be stopped within a generation.

Website: <https://plasticoceans.uk/>

Suitable for: Primary and Secondary Schools

How can it help my partnership?

Blue Planet has inspired schools across the country to address issues around plastic pollution. This website (with a 2-minute film overview and free presentation (see link below) could enable this passion for our oceans to be shared (particularly if both schools are near the coast)

<https://education.plasticoceans.uk/presentations/School-Assembly/index.html#/> (Suitable for KS2 and 3)



IDEAS: 1. Schools run a 'plastic audit' to see how much plastic is used at school (and/ or at home) results are shared with the partner school. Students from both schools come up with ideas about how they can reduce their plastic use (ideas for the UK school are in lesson 6 of the School Assembly above.)

2. Students come up with creative ideas to re-use plastic which are shared with the partner school (students vote for their favourite idea in both schools?)

3. Students create an awareness raising campaign about reducing plastic use for their local community

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School Enterprise Challenge



SDGs? 8- Good Jobs and Economic Growth, 9- Innovation and Infrastructure

Who are they? Teach a Man to Fish provide training, step-by-step guides, mentoring, and peer networks to help schools set up and run a profitable student-led business.

Website: <https://www.schoolenterprisechallenge.org> which is run by

<https://www.teachamantofish.org.uk>

Suitable for: Primary and Secondary Schools

How can it help my partnership?

If your school partnership are interested in starting enterprises, then this could be for you! There are School Enterprise Challenge lessons and guide for you to download here

<https://www.schoolenterprisechallenge.org/get-support/educational-materials/>

IDEAS:



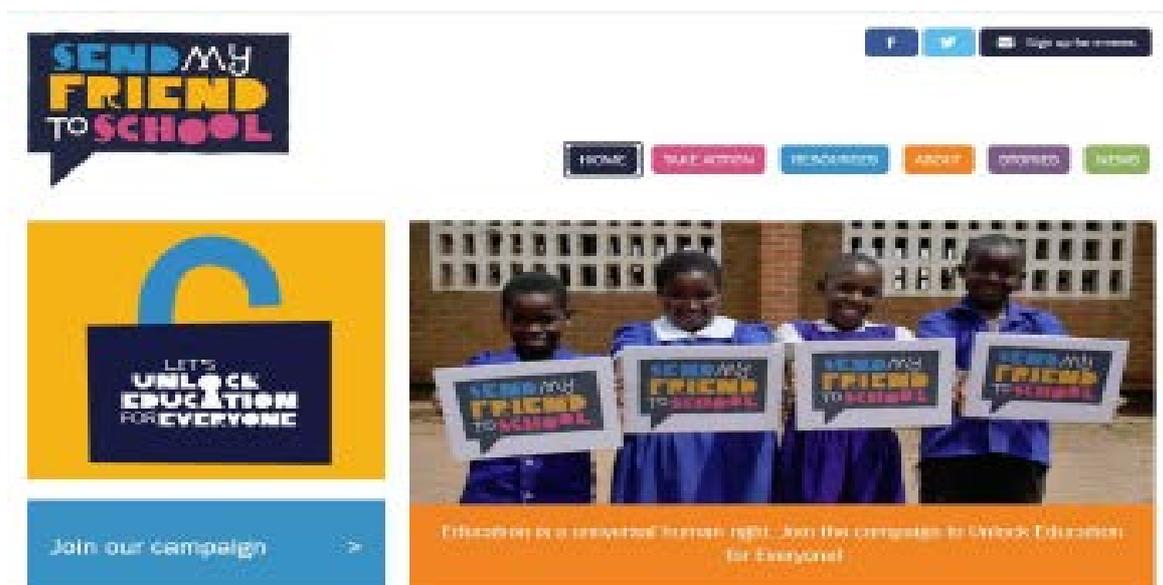
1. Each school can share their ideas, market research and implementation of their business ideas with the other to compare their progress!

2. Both schools together could participate in an enterprise as a fundraising activity for aspects of the school link. This would enhance financial equity in the partnership, instead of the UK school only raising money for the partner school.

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Send my Friend to School



SDG? 4- Quality Education

Who are they? Send My Friend to School is a UK civil society coalition of international development NGOs, teachers' unions and charities. It brings together young people, politicians, teachers, civil society and the media in join campaigning to demand quality education for all children across the globe.

Each year, Send My Friend has a different focus to engage children in campaigning for the right to education.

Website: <https://sendmyfriend.org>

Suitable for: Primary and Secondary Schools

How can it help my partnership? Send My Friend provides opportunities for your schools to collaborate on a global learning project around the accessible topic of education.



IDEAS: Children in each school identify the benefits and barriers to education and discuss the consequences of children not being able to go to school. These can be compared with your partner school. Download the free teacher pack (it has a different emphasis each year) and use the resources with your class. Take photos of your campaign and send to your partner school with a write up from your class reflecting on what went well and what could be improved. Keep them updated about any letters/ actions you receive from your MP as a result! This work would be an ideal way to promote your school link to the press and invite your local elected representatives to exchange emails/ letters on the topic of quality education for all.

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Skype in the Classroom



SDGs? 17- Partnerships for the Goals

Who are they? Skype in the Classroom is a free community that offers live transformative educational experiences for students including Virtual Field Trips, talks from Guest Speakers, classroom to classroom connections, and live collaboration projects. Skype in the Classroom is an online community that enables thousands of teachers to inspire the next generation of global citizens through transformative learning over Skype.

The author found some of the content on this site reinforced a charitable and unequal approach to partnerships (e.g. inviting U.S. students to solve a water problem for a Nairobi School)— in the interests of an equitable partnership, it's important to ensure that learning opportunities provided by the link are there for both partner schools. However, there are also positive technology and lesson ideas that could benefit your link.

Website: <https://education.microsoft.com/skype-in-the-classroom/overview>

Suitable for: Primary and Secondary Schools

How can it help my partnership?

- IDEAS:** 1. There's a useful introduction to the many ways Skype can be used here <https://education.microsoft.com/skype-in-the-classroom/getting-started> including using Skype translator <https://education.microsoft.com/skypetranslator> which allows you to connect over Skype and chat via a video call with live translation. Currently live voice translation is available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.
2. If you are looking for an innovative way to introduce a new partnership, you could use Mystery Skype <https://education.microsoft.com/GetTrained/skype>

Mystery Skype is an educational game that connects two classrooms who are somewhere in the world. Teachers will know where (and who) they're calling but students will not. The goal of Mystery Skype is to locate the other class geographically. Students must ask Yes/No formatted questions.

3. If you want to learn about a new topic together you could take part in a Virtual Field Trip <https://education.microsoft.com/GetTrained/skype> and speak to marine biologists, zoologists and scientists

4. There are lots of lessons on themed days you can download and use jointly with your partner school, for example <https://education.microsoft.com/earthday>





Tale2tail



SDG? 15- Life on Land

Who are they? Tale2tail aims to inspire, encourage and persuade young people to become 'animal ambassadors' to help endangered species threatened by the illegal wildlife trade. It's a flexible scheme of work with a range of cross-curricular activities that can be used across the school and year groups and for themed days or weeks (e.g., world wildlife day, science week).

Website: <https://www.tale2tail.org/educational-packs>

Suitable for: Primary Schools

How can it help my partnership?

These free stories and activities can be used by both schools to learn more about endangered species.

IDEAS: 1. Students from both schools choose their favourite character from 'An Elephant for Breakfast' and write what they like about them, what their point of view is on the ivory trade (An Elephant for Breakfast, Exercise 5: Story analysis – Perspectives on the illegal wildlife trade, p15) Schools share their stories, reflect on who were the most popular characters in both schools and create displays using their own and their partners reflections.



2. Draw an elephant! (Understanding Endangered Animals, How to Draw an Elephant, pg. 16) take photos of your artwork and swap with your partner to add to your display.

3. If you have access to a video link, use <https://helloinelephant.com/> to invite your partner school to act out a message 'in elephant' they would like to say to you! (Children can use their arms as trunks!)



The Economist Educational Foundation (The Burnet News Club)



HOME ABOUT US SCHOOLS ▾ RESOURCES ▾ SUPPORT US IMPACT ▾ BLOG CONTACT



Burnet News Club

SDGs? 1- No Poverty, 3- Good Health, 4- Quality Education, 5- Gender Equality, 7-Affordable and Clean Energy, 8-Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9- Innovation and Infrastructure, 10-Reduced Inequalities, 11-Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12-Responsible Consumption and Production, 13- Climate Action, 15-Life on Land, 16-Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Who are they? The Foundation enables discussions about the news in, and between, schools. Discussions that invite young people to be curious around the world's biggest ideas and challenges and consider what should be done about them.

Website: <https://economistfoundation.org/>

Suitable for: students ages 8-14

How can it help my partnership? The Economist Educational Foundation gives teachers everything they need to have for inspiring discussions about the news with their students via their core programme, the Burnet News Club. Each year, the Club invites schools from around the world to join a Global Conversation where students spend six weeks discussing a topical issue, develop their critical thinking skills and share their perspectives on an online learning platform, the Hub.



IDEAS:

1. Enquire about the [Burnet News Club](#) and how your school could receive a fully resourced, six-session scheme of work every half-term on a topical news issue. Students in the club make 150% more progress in news literacy skills: reasoning, open-mindedness and scepticism, than their peers and the club has a proven impact on communication and confidence. **Membership is open for UK state primary and secondary schools.**
2. [Sign up for mini resources](#) emailed every week. Activities cover topics such as the Climate Emergency. This could enable a discussion between you and your partner school in which students are invited to be curious about the big ideas and challenges and consider what should be done about them.

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The Politics Project



DIGITAL SURGERIES OUR POLITICIANS RESOURCES ABOUT

Starting Powerful Conversations



SDGs? 1- No Poverty, 3- Good Health, 4- Quality Education, 5- Gender Equality, 8-Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9- Innovation and Infrastructure, 10-Reduced Inequalities, 11-Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12- Responsible Consumption and Production,13- Climate Action, 16- Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Who are they? The Politics Project supports young people to use their voice by providing them with outstanding democratic education. They specialise in digital democracy, supporting young people, teachers and politicians to use digital tools to learn, teach and engage in politics. They deliver workshops to young people and train teachers using a variety of dynamic techniques, resources and events.

Website: <https://thepoliticsproject.org.uk/>



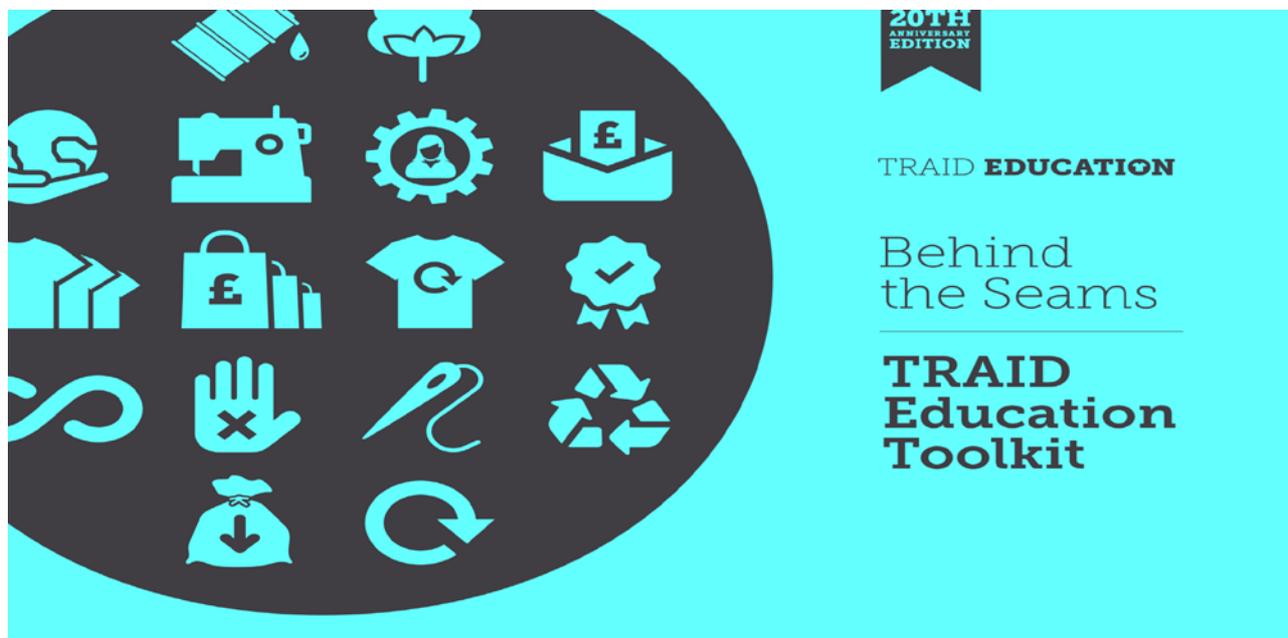
Suitable for: Secondary Schools

How can it help my partnership? The Politics Project can support your students to engage with local politicians through video calls as part of their Digital Dialogue series.

IDEAS: Set up a digital surgery. This would be an exciting platform to encourage your students to discuss social and political issues with the politicians that represent them. The Politics Project can provide support to reach out to politicians, and engage students to discuss issues with decision-makers with their teaching resources. You can access thematic versions of the programme on: gender and Identity, climate change, Peterloo and protest and select committees. <https://thepoliticsproject.org.uk/digitalsurgeries>

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TRAID

SDGs? 12- Responsible Consumption and Production, 13- Climate Action,

Who are they? TRAIID is a charity working to stop clothes from being thrown away. TRAIID promotes Education for Sustainability by offering free resources and delivering workshops and assemblies to schools, as well as giving tailored talks for universities and civil society groups

Website: <https://www.traid.org.uk/>

Suitable for: Secondary Schools

How can it help my partnership? TRAIID recognise that young people's voices on environmental and social issues are getting louder and want to inspire and empower students to make more sustainable choices and to share this with their peers, networks and communities. TRAIID has launched Behind the Seams – a toolkit to support educators to promote education for sustainability.

IDEAS:

1. Access and download the toolkit

https://traid.org.uk/education/education_resources/ to explore the socio-environmental impacts of how we produce, consume and waste clothes to equip young people with the knowledge and actions needed to shape a more sustainable society. It contains six lesson plans across three themes – production, consumption and waste – and includes worksheets, slideshow presentations and factsheets to support educators to deliver lessons

2. Subscribe to TRAIID's quarterly online newsletter supporting educators

integrating sustainability into the classroom and beyond.

<https://traid.org.uk/educationnewsletter/>





World Speech Day



SDGs? All of them!

Who are they? World Speech Day is a day to celebrate speeches and speech making through live public speaking events across the globe. World Speech Day will be hosted in 100 countries on March 16th, 2020, creating a unique global network of people who can come together to share ideas through speech making

Website: <http://www.worldspeechday.com/>

Suitable for: Primary and Secondary Schools

How can it help my partnership?

The theme for 2020 will be the Sustainable Development Goals, and schools across the world will connect with other schools to debate about these topical global challenges!



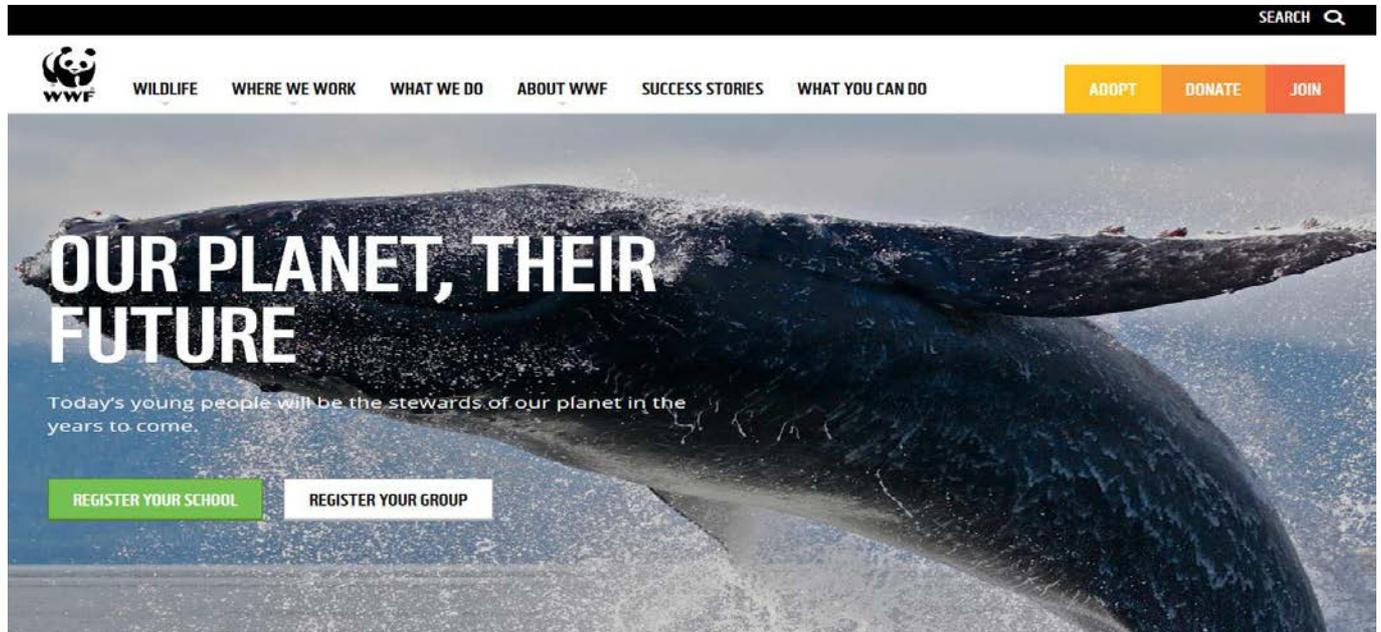
IDEAS: 1. Your class could access online resources such as video training and public speaking guides

2. Your class could research the SDGs and students could choose one that's important to them and write a speech about it explaining why. Your partner school could do the same. You could share your speeches via livestream (a method which a number of participating schools use).

3. In the run up to WSD 2020, debate training for students is being developed, which schools participating via the "CCGL" programme can take advantage of.

Please contact Simon Gibson at simon@worldspeechday for any further information

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WWF

SDGs? 13- Climate Action, 14- Life Below Water, 15- Life on Land

Who are they? WWF is an independent conservation organisation whose mission is to create a world where people and wildlife can thrive together

Website: <https://www.ourplanet.com/en/schools-and-youth>

Suitable for: Primary and Secondary Schools

How can it help my partnership? There are *lots* of opportunities to use this website to enhance your link.



IDEAS: 1. Joint projects both schools set up *Green Ambassadors* (creating a Green team for KS2 and doing work such as surveying the plants and animals in the school grounds <https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/green-ambassadors>)Pupils findings could be swapped and compared.

2. Joint learning and project work such as food growing (as part of the Classroom Resources section of the site <https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/resources/food-resources>)

3. There are Education Downloads on 'Our Seas' 'Our Frozen Worlds' 'Our Freshwater' 'Our grasslands' 'Our Forests and Jungles', featuring a range of SDGs

here http://wwf.panda.org/our_work/projects/our_planet_netflix_wwf_nature_documentary/education/

One good idea for a joint school project is in the 'Our Freshwater' pack. The activity is for young people to keep a log of how much water they use in one day. This can be compared with the class and with the partner school and strategies for saving water can be discussed. After a week, do the same thing and see who has lowered their water use by the most!

4. Watch one of the high quality videos with your partner school, such as e.g. a 6 min film on How to Save Our Frozen Worlds by David Attenborough <https://www.ourplanet.com/en/video/how-to-save-our-frozen-world> and reflect on your impressions together.

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World's Largest Lesson introduces the **Sustainable Development Goals** to children and young people everywhere and unites them in action.

**END EXTREME POVERTY.
FIGHT INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE.
TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE.**

17 Global Goals to achieve these 3 extraordinary things by 2030:



World's Largest Lesson

SDGs? 1- No Poverty, 2- No Hunger, 3- Good Health, 4- Quality Education, 5- Gender Equality, 6- Clean Water and Sanitation, 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy, 8- Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9- Innovation and Infrastructure, 10 – Reduced Inequalities, 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, 13- Climate Action, 14 – Life Below Water, 15 – Life on Land, 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, 17 – Partnerships for the Goals.

Who are they? The website introduces the Sustainable Development Goals to children and young people and offers lesson plans and creative resources for teaching. WLL encourages children to find their own individual ways of taking action for the Global Goals.

Website: <http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/>

Suitable for: Primary and Secondary Schools

How can it help my partnership? There are *lots* of opportunities to use this website to enhance your link and also connect with schools and educators all over the globe!



IDEAS: 1. Click on a Global Goal to find and download cross-curricular lessons and use jointly with your partner school, such as <http://cdn.worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/2017/07/Reducing-Food-Waste-for-the-Global-Goals-May-2018-Edit.pdf>

2. Put yourself and your partner school on the map and become part of the story by sharing your lessons with global community and explore the interactive map to see what lessons global partners are doing.

3. Combine forces on a project to enter in 'do your: bit' a global micro: bit challenge for children and teens to use technology to design and make a solution to a problem that affects them and their community or another community somewhere in the world.

4. Watch one of the high quality animated videos with your partner school, <http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/animated-films/> and reflect on your impressions together.