

## **‘Be the change you want to see in the world’**

- The world is a great place but there are a lot of issues we face as we develop it
- How will we make sure that people can share the planet and live happily?
- Most people say they want to help the world be a better place but don’t know how to
- Over the next few weeks hopefully you will learn how you can make a difference it is your planet!

Up to half term you will look at some of the issues we face and how charities and people are trying to make things better. The internet is a really good way of signing petitions and making others aware of what you believe in. For example, here is a petition some students started which changed something they believed in:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/seventeen-magazine-give-girls-images-of-real-girls>

After half term you will be designing a charity event or campaign to help raise money or raise the profile of something you care about. More on that later!

Look at each topic- one per week, especially the ones that interest you, and talk about it with your friends. Each week produce a mind map, video, pic collage, puppet pals or other media and email it to Mr Page. There will be prizes for the best or most interesting ones.

Click on these links to explore the issues: [People](#) [Food and Poverty](#) [Environment](#)

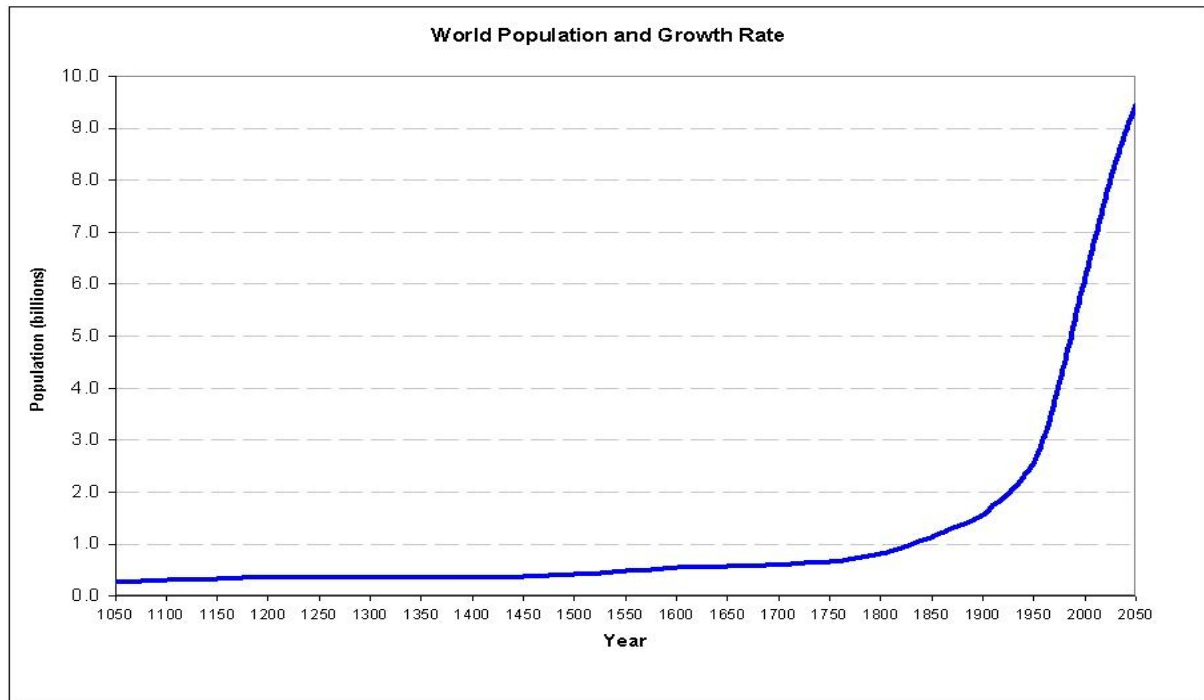
[Civil Rights](#) [How you can make things better](#) [Petitions](#) [Your event!](#)



## People!

You now share the planet with 7 billion (7,000,000,000) other people. That is enough to fill 3.5 million Writhlington Schools!

Click here to see what number person you are: [Your number!](#)



This number is growing really quickly, what effect do you think this has on the earth and its resources?

Produce a mind map or poster on what you think these effects may be. You can do this on paper or an ipad app.

Here are some ideas to get you started:

- energy (fossil fuels and renewable)
- food
- space to live
- climate change
- cars and transport
- disease and poverty
- fresh water
- recycling, nature and environment

How do you think we could solve some of these problems that might arise from over population? Do you think people should be able to have as many children as they want? Try to explain your reasons. It will be up to you guys to make these changes one day! Email your finished poster or videos to Mr Page.

## Food, farming and poverty

As the world has more people, we need more food to feed us.

There are many different views on what is the best way to feed us all. [Why do you think there are hundreds of millions of people who are starving](#) when there should be enough to feed everyone?

Some people think that genetically engineered food and intensive farming are the way to go; however, some people think this is cruel to the animals and helps destroy the environment and that we should go back to organic, Fair Trade and free range farming. What do you think?

As well as being hungry people, many people die of preventable diseases every day. As many as 8 million of these are children under the age of 5. Many charities try to help by providing fresh water, toilets, food and medicine. One hundred have come together on this campaign: <http://enoughfoodif.org/>

Talk with your friends about what you think, produce a resource and send it to Mr Page

- Do you think people should eat less meat to save water and food and to reduce carbon?
- Do you think land should be used to grow [biofuels](#) (petrol from food) rather than food for humans? Is this a waste of land or better for the environment than oil?
- Do you think we should try to eat food that is organic or [Fair Trade](#)?
- Do you think changing the genetics of food is good or are you worried about what that might mean for the future?
- Do you think factory farms are cruel to animals? (more info here: <http://www.raw.info/>)
- [What do you think of all the food that is wasted every day](#) and things like [fish discards](#) is which is a massive waste?
- [UNICEF](#) is a charity that helps to provide for children in areas they need it
- [ONE helps with similar issues](#)
- [Can you imagine life without a toilet or fresh water?](#)
- [Oxfam](#) and [Christian Aid](#) are some of the many charities that help in poorer areas.



## The Environment:

### Energy, Animals and Pollution

Climate change and the environment always seem to be in the news. We all know importance of recycling and saving energy but it seems things are changing slowly. We are still heavily dependent on fossil fuels for energy and transport and many scientists say climate change is biggest threat to the planet.

Combine this with the number of people living on our planet and it is not hard to see why the environment is suffering. Animals and plants are going extinct quickly. Our water is polluted and running out. Air is polluted too. Does it seem strange to you that this is still such a big issue in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Why are we still so reliant on fossil fuels?

The good news is that people power can make a real difference and regularly does.

Many celebrities also support animals and the environment and help charities that stand up for them.

There are too many issues to mention them all but here are some examples:

- <http://www.savethearctic.org/en> 2 million people have signed to try to save it
- <http://ran.org/rainforest-action-network-responds-asia-pulp-and-paper%E2%80%99s-new-forest-commitments>
- Many toy companies stop using paper that destroys rainforests e.g. <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/forests/mattel-and-barbie-drop-deforestation-20111005>
- Tuna fishing made more sustainable <http://www.greenpeace.org.uk/blog/oceans/and-then-there-were-none-john-west-changes-its-tuna-20110726>
- Ivory: [http://wwf.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/species/problems/illegal\\_trade/wildlife\\_trade\\_campaign/brighter\\_day.cfm](http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/species/problems/illegal_trade/wildlife_trade_campaign/brighter_day.cfm)
- Plastic is a real problem as it doesn't biodegrade: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17991993>
- Britain lags behind in renewable energy: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable\\_energy\\_in\\_the\\_European\\_Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Renewable_energy_in_the_European_Union)

What is your opinion on this topic? Do you think things are OK? If not, what would you like to change? Produce something using an app and email it to Mr Page.

Charities that help with the environment include: [Greenpeace](#) [Friends of the Earth](#) [WWF](#)  
[Woodland Trust](#) [RSPB](#) [Wildlife Trusts](#)

There are many others that support pretty much anything you can think of.

## Civil Rights

### Freedom of action & speech, slavery & child labour, voting and many others

It might not always seem like it but we are very lucky to live in a country where we can do or say a lot of what we want and everyone can go to school. We take a lot for granted.

It is not like this in some other countries. There are so many issues relating to civil rights around the world, here are only some:

- Some people get put in jail for speaking against their government or sending a tweet
- Some countries have harsh punishments for minor offences
- Some countries are badly in debt so do not have the money to spend on school and other important things
- Modern day slavery exists in vast numbers- did you know that companies that sell things in this country do not have to know where their items come from- so they could be made by slaves!
- Many people cannot vote for which government they want to be in power

Here are some links:

[Woman can't drive in Saudi Arabia](#)      [Modern Day Slavery](#) (over 200 million children are forced to work)

[19 teenage girls forced to marry every minute](#)      [100 million children don't go to school](#)

Here are some of the charities that help civil rights:

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk>

<http://www.walkfree.org/>

<http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk/>

Produce a poster or video etc on civil rights and email it to Mr Page.

## **Make things better: it is your choice!**

There are thousands of charities that do an amazing job supporting all the issues you have seen and many more. There are many ways to donate to them. As a school we do a great job supporting many different events such as the shoe box appeal, MUFTI days, cake sales, Red Nose Day and the Downside charity concert. Many teachers also support charities: Mr Fieldhouse & Miss Bessell run half marathons and fun runs, Mr Page has collected money to save the rainforest, Mr Marshall has collected it for the Poppy Appeal. Others raise money for families in Romania, carnival and cancer charities.

Here are some other ways you can make a difference to the world that you will inherit:

### **You can make a difference by using technology:**

[Give as you live app](#) donate money by shopping      [By playing on free rice](#)

[By clicking here: the hungersite etc](#)      [Shopping on Amazon through links like this](#) –does your favourite charity also have a link?

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/money/2007/nov/28/charitablegiving.consumeraffairs>

[Start living more sustainably](#)

### **You can make a difference about how and where you shop:**

Bringing your own bags is a good start!

Some companies have a really good attitude towards the planet and are doing all they can to become more sustainable e.g. <http://plana.marksandspencer.com/>

Some, however, are not. Even if they seem to be ethical in this country, they may not be so in countries where the environment does not have such good protection:

<http://www.greenpeace.org/international/en/campaigns/toxics/water/detox/>

<http://www.ecotricity.co.uk/> is a good place to get cleaner gas and electricity

<http://www.uk.freecycle.org/> lets people swap unwanted items rather than throwing them away

[One billion raised through Just Giving](#)      [Virgin Giving](#)

### **You can make a difference by sponsoring an animal or buying an ethical gift:**

Most charities have online or high street shops. Many have gifts that help others- you don't always have to give a normal present! If you do, try one that will also support a charity

[Oxfam Unwrapped](#)      [Present Aid](#)      [Wateraid](#)      [Amnesty](#)      [WWF](#)      [Send an ecard](#)      [Plant a tree](#)

[Send a cow](#)      [Make your garden better for wildlife](#)      [Make your own bee hotel](#)

See if you can find some others!

## Petitions

It can be confusing to know how to change things. The internet has made it so much easier!

People power can change companies or governments to get more in line with your beliefs; all it can take is a simple letter to get started. [12 year old girl writes letter so save a forest](#)

You can also contact your local MP or MEP really easily to let them know how you feel about something: <http://www.theyworkforyou.com/>

One major way people are making a difference is through online petitions. There are many sites that let you start your own on a topic you care about. Many are successful; at the very least they draw attention to the issue. Social media like Facebook and Twitter are also a great way of spreading the word.

Many students at school have made a real difference, so you don't have to be an adult to make a difference, in fact, people may be more likely to listen to young people sometimes!

Here are some examples:

- <http://www.change.org/petitions/mpaa-don-t-let-the-bullies-win-give-bully-a-pg-13-instead-of-an-r-rating>
- <http://www.change.org/petitions/seventeen-magazine-give-girls-images-of-real-girls>
- Teenage boys raise \$9000 to save sea creature <http://savethenautilus.com/>
- One girl has raised thousands of dollars for saving wolves and tigers by making and selling cushions online.
- [Town bans carrier bags from all shops](#)

You saw some petitions that worked in the sections above. Recently other petitions have:

- saved people lives
- protected sharks, elephants and rhinos
- got the first world arms treaty
- saved Britain's forests
- stopped factory farms and many, many others!

If you care about it you can try!

What would you change? Try to get less plastic in oceans, get Radstock to ban plastic bags, change your local politicians mind, save an animal, get a new park in Norton, get something else changed?

Here are some petition sites with some great ideas- there are loads out there....

[38degrees](#)   [Avaaz](#)   [Change](#)   [Credo](#)   [The Petition Site](#)   [Sign On](#)   [Watchdog](#)

<http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions> (direct to the government!)

[The hungersite etc](#)

## **Your event or campaign**

Hopefully you now know a bit more about the topics you have seen so far. There are many issues out there. Some charities are local and some international but most do a good job helping a huge variety of things.

This term you will need to decide on a charity or issue you are interested in. You will already know several ways to raise money for charities. You should know now other ways of making things better.

You have one week to get into teams to decide what you want to do. Will you:

- run a charity event to make money for your chosen charity (try to be inventive!)
- start a petition to help something or someone
- do you have a business idea to raise money to help support something.

It is up to you but try to think how you can make a real difference- email your ideas to your tutor and Mr Page. We will give you whatever support you need to get it done if we can!

You then have one week to produce a plan of action: e.g. what resources will you need to run the event, how will you publicise it, how will you start the petition and raise its profile, start the business idea etc.

Then start organising for your event, you have to make any resources you need for this.

It may be that each year or tutor group only has one event but you can raise money for your own charity in that event. There can be as many petitions as you want.

The events will take place towards the end of term- more details to follow.

Good luck!