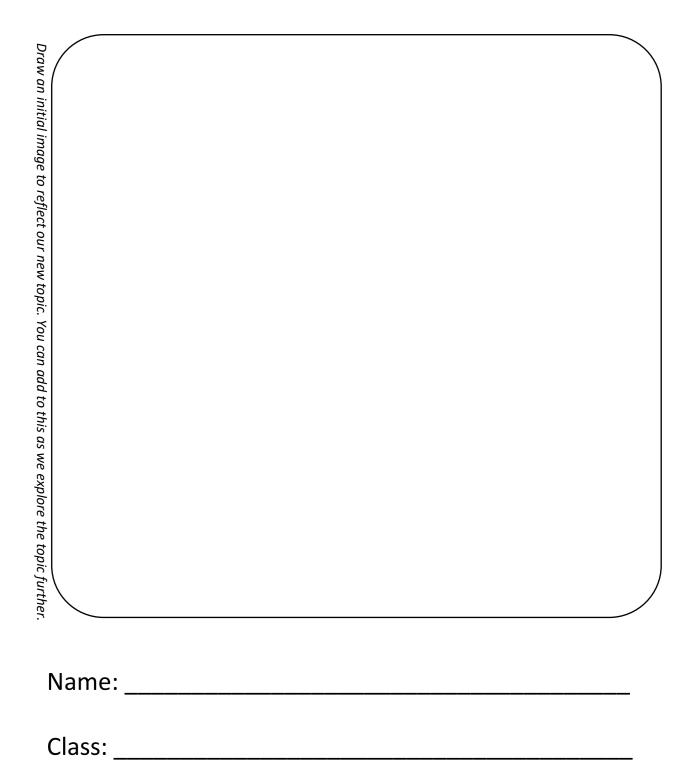
People and the Planet



We will be using these key words when learning about 'People and the Planet.' Add in your definitions and sentence examples throughout the topic.

Key Term	Definition	Picture	Use in a sentence:
Ecology			
Stewardship			
Dominion			
Ecocentrism			
Omnipotent			
Omniscient			
Omnibenevolent			
Omnipresent			
Motif			

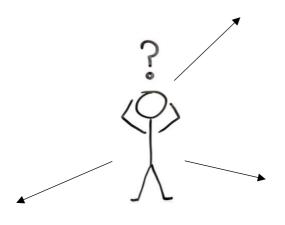
Why are we here?

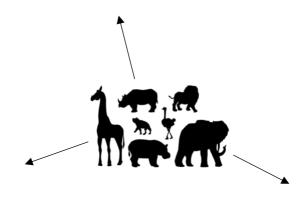
Throughout history, humans have been trying to answer this question.

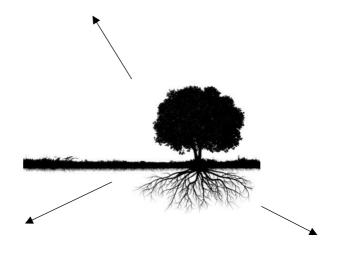
Why are we here? What is our purpose? Does everyone have the same purpose? Do we decide our own purpose or is this pre-determined for us?

We are going to consider some of these questions, in order to explore ecology, which is the relationship because organisms and the environment.

Humans, animals and plants all have relationships with the environment. Why do you think each organism is here, on earth?







Are all living things here for the same reason? Why?	Who has the most important role? Why?

Read through these quotes from a variety of sources. REMEMBER - these quotes are just small snapshots of a much wider tradition, so this would not be seen as the only purpose of life for that religious group.

- 1) Rank the passages 1-8 based with which you think is the most important purpose of our lives (1) to the least (8).
- 2) Add your reasoning to the opinion continuum and explain why.

FOLLOW GOD'S LAWS

"You shall faithfully observe My commandments: I am God."

Leviticus 22.31

TREAT OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED

"Love your neighbour as yourself."

Matthew 22.39

REPRODUCE

"And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth.""

Genesis 1.28

RULE OVER THE ENVIRONMENT

"Rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and everything living that moves on earth"

Genesis 1.28

WORSHIP GOD

"I did not create the jinn and the humans except that they may worship Me."

Qur'an 51.56

CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

"Nature is my god. To me, nature is sacred. Trees are my temples and forests are my cathedrals."

Mikhail Gorachev (Natural Pantheism)

ENJOY YOURSELF

"Happiness is man's greatest aim in life"

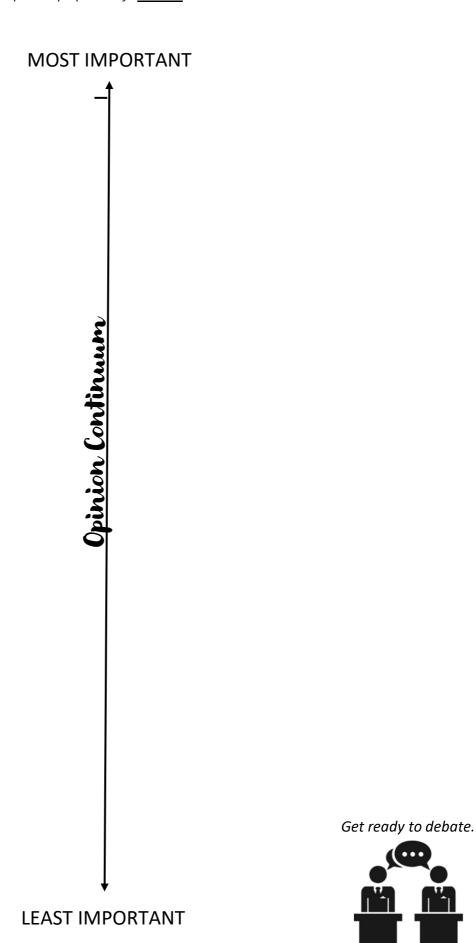
Epicurus (Hedonism)

WE DEFINE OUR OWN PURPOSES

"Life has no meaning. Each of us has meaning and we bring it to life. It is a waste to be asking the question when you are the answer"

Joseph Campbell

CHALLENGE: Think of other reasons people may give as the meaning of life.





The most/ least important purpose in life is...
This is/ is not the same for everyone because...
Purpose can/ cannot change over time because...
Our purpose is pre-determined/ self-determined because...

Over time, societies have faced constant challenges on local, national and international scales.

List 3 challenges we face today -

Local	National	International
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.

As different challenges arise, some may believe that it is their duty to participate in resolving these challenges, whereas others are happy to sit back and let someone else sort it out.



A time that I have helped resolve a challenge was when...

Sometimes I let other people solve a problem, for example... because...

It is better to help solve a problem because...

It can be better to let others resolve problems because...

The climate crisis poses a significant threat to the planet and all organisms living on it. Linking to your Science and Geography lessons, brainstorm ideas about climate change before the timer stops.

CAUSES (brings about/ makes it happen)	EFFECTS (consequence)

Should all decisions we make be focused around the environment?

Now look back at your list of causes of climate change (page 8) and ways we can stop climate change (page 9).

Do you always follow the advice you have given on page 9? Why?
Is it realistic to be able to always focus on the environment? Why?
Do you agree with this quote? Why?
bo you agree with this quote. Why.
"The truth of the matter is that you
always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it."
Robert H. Schuller

Can you be a 'good' person if you do not al environment?	ways act in a way that v	vill protect the
Read each scenario, what would you do? Be place yourself on the spectrum of decision on your own wants/ needs, to the decision environment.	making – from the deci	sion being purely based
The latest movie of your favourite franchise has been released. Your	◆ Own wants/ needs	Greater good of the environment
friends are all going by car to the cinema in the city centre and ask if you would like to go too.	I would	
School is a 20 minute walk away but now it is pouring with rain. My mum offers to drive me in her car	Own wants/ needs	Greater good of the environment
so that I do not get my bag or uniform wet. I do not want to be soggy all day.	I would	

There is going to be a big summer party and everyone from school is going.

I don't have anything to wear, and I really love a dress from ASOS. It is next day delivery and really cheap because it's mass produced.

Own wants/ Greater good of needs the environment

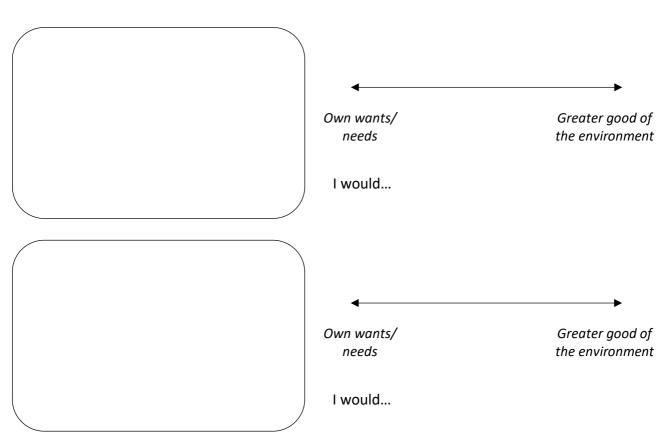
I would...

In a restaurant with my family, I am looking at the menu. It is a steakhouse so most of the meals centre around red meat.

There are a couple of vegetarian options, but I really love steak.

Own wants/ Greater good of the environment

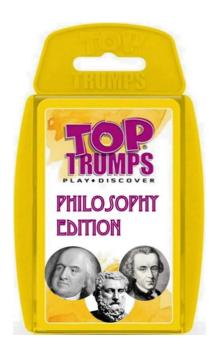
I would...





It is easy/ not easy to always care for the environment because... I do/ do not think I should be more eco-friendly because... It is alright/ not alright to just focus on myself in my decisions even when it might harm the environment because...

It is easy to always be environmentally friendly if you know how.' Oo you agree? 10 marks				
	_			



How we make decisions, and who should be the focus of our decision-making is a question philosophers have been debating for centuries.

Some focus decision making on the greater good. Others focus on ecocentrism, which means that nature is at the heart of decision making.

Ecocentrism is the opposite of anthropocentrism, which means that humans are at the focus of the ethical decision.

Read the information sheets and then fill in the Top Trump cards. You need to add an illustration, summarise their theory and then score them.

Jeremy Bentham	Phillipa Foot
-	
d he applied to my avanuacy desisions: /40	Could be applied to evented a desirious. (10
d be applied to my everyday decisions: /10 ry is simple to apply: /10	Could be applied to everyday decisions: /10 Theory is simple to apply: /10
s with my own ideas: /10	Aligns with my own ideas: /10

	Arne Naess		$\setminus \setminus$		Plato	
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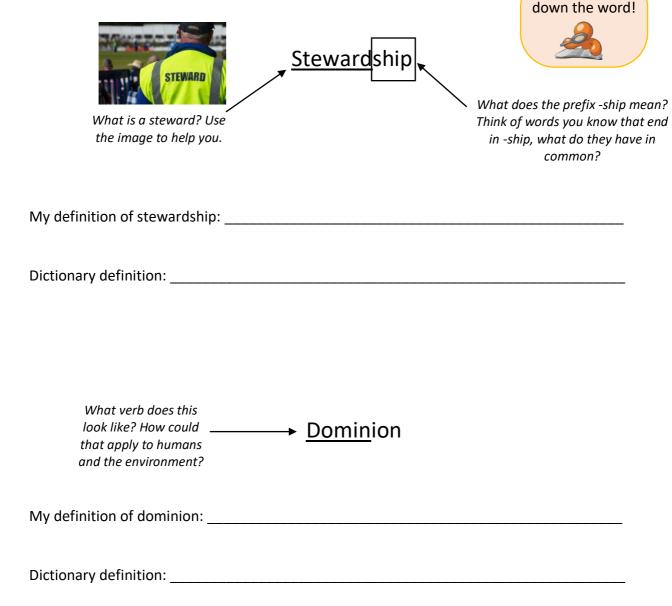


The best philosophical theory was... because... There are some problems with ...'s theory because... It is possible/ impossible to have one theory for all decision-making because...



Let's break

Within Christianity, there are two key stances in relationship to the environment – **stewardship** and **dominion**.



Genesis 1.28

"Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control. I am putting you in charge of the fish, the birds and all the wild animals."

Stewardshi	n or	dominion	=
Stc War asin	יט ק	acminion	

"rule over" and "putting you in charge of" – what impact would this teaching have upon a relationship with the environment?

Stewardship or dominion =

"more value than they" and "heavenly Father feeds them" – what do these phrases mean?

Matthew 6.25-26

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Genesis 2.19-20

"God formed, out of the clay, all the beasts and the birds. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name."

Stewardship or dominion =

	d name the		•		l this environment
teaching	nave upon	i a i Elatii	onsinp w	nui uie e	illyll Ollillell
-					

'Atheists have less duty to care for the environment, because they do not believe it was created by God.' Do you agree?

nk back to our previous topics to support your arguments 'for' the statement.				

So, should all decisions we make be focused around the environment?

Look at the factors below that influence decision making. Rank these from the most to least important and give a reason why.	MOST IMPORTANT
 Family Own happiness Environment Religion Money Love/ romantic relationships What others will think of me Any other factors you can think of? 	
How can we try and get a balance between our desired lifestyles and caring for the environment in our daily decisions?	Opinion Continum

LEAST IMPORTANT

Animals – equals or to be eaten?

Look at these numbers, what could they represent. Brainstorm with your group.

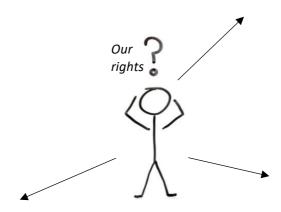


Eating meat is often in the headlines, both in relation to health implications and climate change. These headlines (usually focusing on red meat) are often conflicting with some saying that meat is good for you, whereas others say that it increases your risk of long-term health conditions.

Many arguments are given to encourage people to eat less meat, including animal rights, saving the planet and improving your life expectancy.

The aim of this big question is not to get you to change your dietary habits, but to consider our relationship with the animals on our planet.

So, before we focus on animals, what are our rights as humans?





There are some laws that protect animals, but they do not have a universal declaration of rights. Read through these statements and decide whether they are true or false.

	TRUE	FALSE
Pet birds do not need to be able to fly		
in their cages.		
Animal rights means giving all creatures		
the same legal rights as people.		
It is illegal to give an animal as a prize		
to a child.		
You do not need to take your animal to		
the vet regularly.		
It is illegal to allow animals used in		
experiments to suffer.		
It is illegal to eat dog meat in the UK.		
Pigs are less intelligent than dogs.		
Farming animals for their fur is banned		
in the EU.		

_ /8

Get ready to debate.



I was most surprised by... because...
It seems unfair that... because...
I think that animals are/ are not all equal because...

I think that humans are/ are not all equal to animals because...



How would you respond to these campaigners?

How would this perspective influence the relationship between humans and animals?

Around the room, there are key questions about human relationships with animals. Write down your initial ideas, and then when you return to the question, respond to the ideas of others.

Once we have finished our silent debate, add different perspectives to your tables about our relationships with animals.



ZOOS



ANIMAL TESTIN	IG	
ANIMALS AS FO	OD	
ANIMALS AS FO	OD	

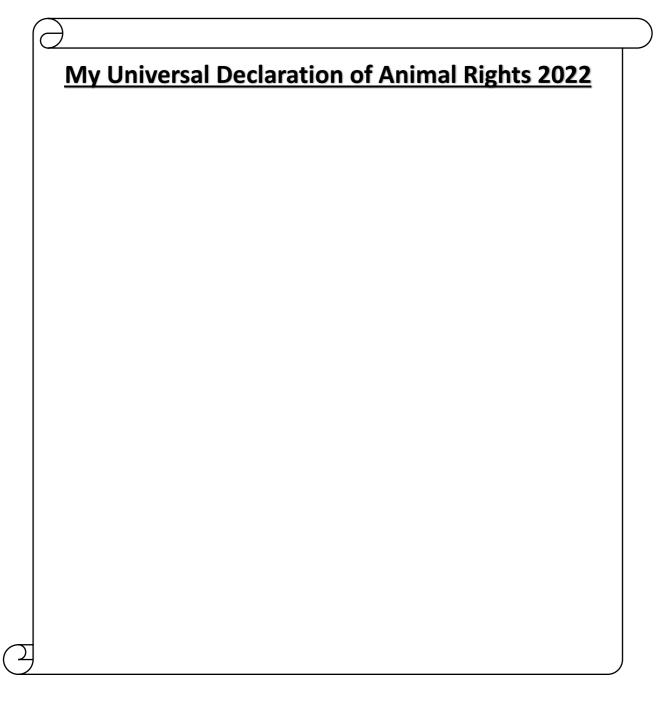


Before we watch this clip from ITV News, what are your initial reactions? Do you agree?

After watching, does this surprise you? Why?

What rights should <u>all</u> animals have?

Think back to our discussions about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, now consider what should be included in a Universal Declaration of Animal Rights.



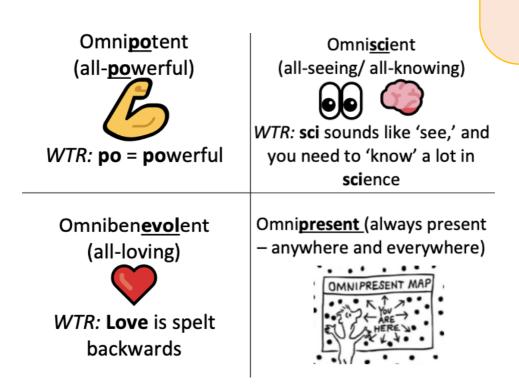
People are superior to animals, so they can be used how we like.' o you agree?					

Where is God when you need them?

Climate change is a challenge facing us all, and this raises many questions. Why would God allow this to happen?

Before we consider why God is not intervening, we will explore what God is actually like. There are many different words to describe the nature of God. Lots of these begin with the prefix 'omni-' which means **all**.

For each word, there is a handy WAY TO REMEMBER (WTR).



Thinking back to our previous topics that focused on the Abrahamic religions, give an example of when God demonstrates that he is...

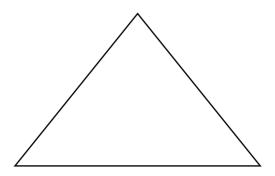
Omnipotent	
Omniscient	
Omnibenevolent	
Omnipresent	

Let's break

down the words!

Suffering is		
Evil is a cause of hum	an suffering. There are t	wo types of evil:
Мо	ral Evil	Natural Evil
	s which are considered g, eg) murder and theft.	Natural disasters, eg) earthquakes or tsunamis, which humans have no control over.
E	examples of moral evil are examples of natural evil are this easier to think of exan	re
		think is worse and why? who? In what way? Is this the same for

Is climate change an example of moral or natural evil? Think about both the causes and the effect.
Do you think that God should intervene with the problem of climate change?
Epicurus did not agree with the fact that God could be omnipotent ()
and omnibenevolent () if evil existed. He said that the fact that evil exists
proves that God cannot exist. This belief is often described as being the 'Inconsistent Triad.'
Complete the diagram to demonstrate Epicurus' point of view.



Christians disagree with Epicurus' argument and give many reasons as to why God can have these qualities, and evil can exist, at the same time.

Read the information around the room to fill in your table.

Original Sin			Soul-making: Joh	nn Hick
	Chris	stian		
	Respo	onses		
Free Will			Life is	s a Test



The Inconsistent Triad is...
It is known as a 'Triad' because...
I agree/ disagree with Epicurus because...
... seems to be the most convincing Christian response because...
Overall, I agree with... because...

Scripture Investigation

We are now going to explore some passages from ancient texts that focus on floods. Floods are a common motif in ancient texts and are early examples of texts focusing on humans and their environment.

We need to remember that we are looking at passages written over 2000 years ago, so we cannot just apply the messages from the texts directly to modern society. Floods as a result of climate change is a challenge that society is facing now. We are exploring these texts to gain an insight into earlier societies by being able to read their stories.

A common theme amongst these myths is that a god/ gods sends a flood as a punishment to destroy certain groups/ most of humanity.

For each story, summarise the narrative and then identify the cause and consequence of the flood.

Epic of Gilgamesh (poem from Ancient Mesopotamia, written approx. 2100-1200 BC)

Atrahasis (Akkadian epic, written approx. 1800-1701 BC)	
Acialiasis (Akkadiali Epic, Willeli appiok. 1000-1701 DC)	
Noah's Ark (narrative from Genesis 6-9)	
Noah's Ark (narrative from Genesis 6-9)	
Noah's Ark (narrative from Genesis 6-9)	
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Noah's Ark (narrative from Genesis 6-9)	
Noah's Ark (narrative from Genesis 6-9)	

When believers in today's society consider the effects of climate change, they must reconcile their faith with scientific explanations. The question of how an omnipotent, omnibenevolent and omniscient God would allow climate change to occur is still a challenge.

Believers interpret scripture in different ways. Some interpret the scripture literally, whereas others see many of the passages as a metaphor. However, these are not the only two views and there is a whole spectrum in between.

The following quotes are from two priests from very different Christian denominations.

- 1) The Bishop of Oxford is a key figure within the Church of England.
- 2) Westboro Baptist Church is viewed as a hyper-Calvinist hate group, which has been denounced by most other Christian denominations.

Look at the links in the 'Something to...' section at the back of the booklet to learn more about their traditions.

Around the speech bubbles write your thoughts.

Westboro Baptist Church

"God does not merely "allow" climate events. He causes them. He sends you messages through them.

A day is coming, though, where the climate change you're so concerned about will seem like child's play. The only way to be saved from that wrath of God is to repent and put your trust in Jesus the Messiah, who came from His Father, died for the sins His people, rose on the third day for their justification, and returned to His Father where He sits at His right hand in anticipation of the final judgment."



Steven Croft, Bishop of Oxford

"God has entrusted the earth to the stewardship of humankind and given us freedom of choice. Climate change is generated by humanity, and we are able to reduce emissions and end its destructive effects

Part of being human is taking responsibility for our own actions collectively and responding to the dangers of climate change.

Yes there are interesting parallels with events in scripture, but the stories need to be used and interpreted with care."

Get ready to debate.



you agree?				

So, what is our relationship with the planet?

played?	
Dear	

Write a letter to your future self. What do you hope will have changed about the relationship between humans and the environment? What role do you hope to have

Recap Quizzes

Date:

1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
Marked by:		Score: / 5
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Date: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Marked by: _____ Score: ___ / 5 Date: 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. Score: ___ / 5 Marked by: _____ Date: 1. 2. 3.

Marked by: _____ Score: ___/ 5

4.

5.

Home Learning – 'Something to...'

	DEAD		
	READ		
د- ،	Humans Need Purpose: Huffington Post		
ere	https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/pam-warren/the-purpose-of-being-		
e h	huma_b_15063910.html		
×	Big Questions: Oxplore		
are	https://oxplore.org		
https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/pam-warren/the-purpose-of-being-huma_b_15063910.html Big Questions: Oxplore https://oxplore.org WATCH Why do we even exist?: Infographics Show			
>	Why do we even exist?: Infographics Show https://www.ventube.com/watab?vedFOITIedUEV/k		
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dF9ITkdU5Vk		
	READ		
ρ	Preference Utilitarianism and Climate Change: The Guardian		
nse	https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/belief/2011/may/25/peter-singer-		
Į oc	utilitarianism-climate-change		
be . nt?	The Environment: BBC		
Should all decisions we make be focused around the environment?	https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zr3c7ty/revision/1		
ma 'on	WATCH		
ve ⊓Vi	Short film focusing on the question of responsibility for global pollution		
ns v e ei	https://vimeo.com/206644709?embedded=true&source=vimeo		
sio th	logo&owner=14253330		
leci und	Philosophy Introduction: Crash Course		
all c arou	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8blys6JoEDw&list=PL		
9 9 pl	8dPuuaLjXtNgK6MZucdYldNkMybYIHKR&index=37&t=0s		
ηοι	Can 100% renewable energy power the world?: TED-Ed		
S	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnvCbquYeIM		
	READ		
	What are 'animal rights'?: PETA		
<u>۲-</u>	https://www.peta.org.uk/action/what-is-animal-rights/		
ıten?	• Animal Welfare: Gov.uk		
e a	https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animal-welfare		
p pe	Animals in Society Resource Pack (pg 3 onwards): PETA		
r to	https://www.peta.org.uk/wp-		
<u>s</u> 0	content/uploads/2019/10/ANIMALSINTODAYSSOCIETY.pdf		
<u>l</u> na	READ & WATCH		
- ed	What are human rights?: EHRC		
Animals – equals or to be eat	https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights/what-are-human-rights		
ma	LISTEN		
Ani	What do the animals think?: Cambridge Centre for Animal Rights Law		
•	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CHOOO3CLafQ&feature=emb_title		

Where is God when you need him?

READ

 Problem of Evil and Suffering https://philosophydungeon.weebly.com/problem-of-evil--suffering.html

 WATCH

 The Intersection between Science and Faith: National Geographic https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qAQL9gRmq34

LISTEN TO

- Ancient Religions: RE Podcast https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/post/season-4-episode-11-the-one-about-ancient-religions
- God is evil?: RE Podcast https://www.therepodcast.co.uk/post/episode-six-the-one-where-god-is-evil

50, what is our relationship with the environment?

READ

Human interactions with the environment: Open University
 https://www.open.edu/openlearncreate/mod/oucontent/
 view.php?id=79926&printable=1

 Our role and relationship with Nature: Stony Brook University
 https://you.stonybrook.edu/environment/sample-page/

WATCH

 How long will human impacts last?: TED-Ed https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsc8G0NnMTs

Imagine you are talking to your friend in the year below and they ask you what you have learnt in RE this term. What would you say to them? Summarise our topic in 45 words.