

SPEAKING

Let's talk environmental issues!

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_1054S

LANGUAGE

English

Learning outcomes

- I can talk about the effects of humans on the environment.
- I can talk about issues related to animals and their rights.





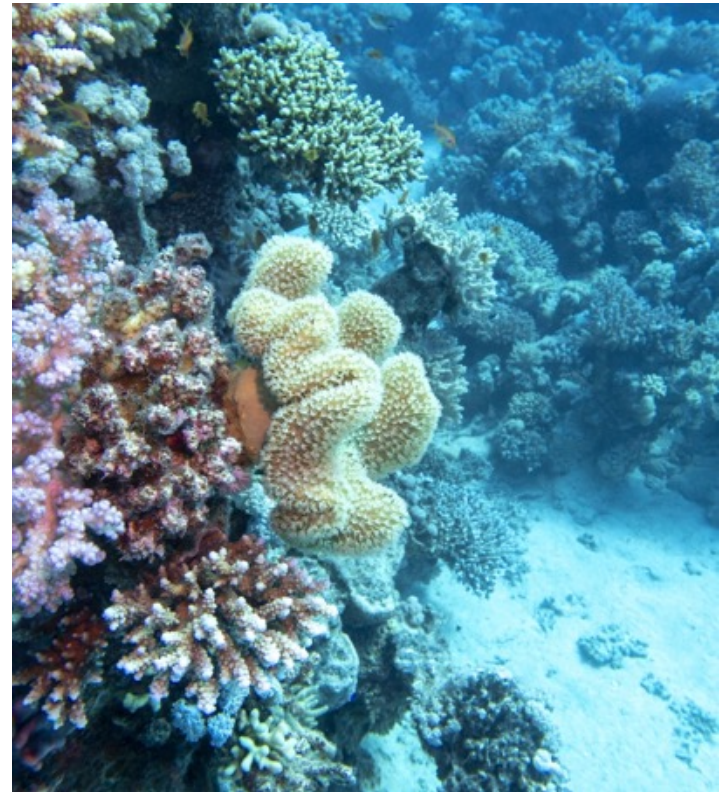
Warm-up

Look at the photo. **Answer** the questions below.

1 Where do you think this photo was taken?

2 How have humans damaged places like this?

3 What can we do to protect it?





Match with the correct picture

Had you heard of all of these environmental problems?

1



2



3



4



5



6



a soil erosion

b plastic waste

c pollution

d undrinkable water

e deforestation

f smog



Interview a partner

In **breakout rooms** or **together as a class**.

1



What environmental problems affect where you live?

2



How concerned are you about those problems?

3

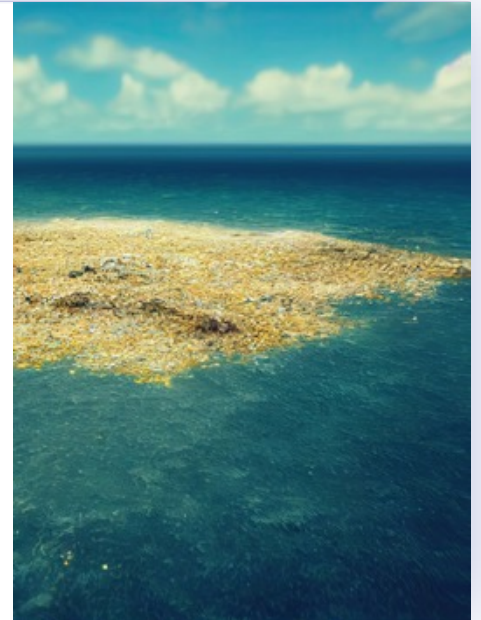


Is enough being done to fix them?



Fill in the gaps

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a collection of marine _____ in the North Pacific Ocean. Around 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic are floating there; that's 250 pieces for every _____ on Earth. Marine debris is extremely _____ to marine life, especially turtles, who often _____ it for their food: jellyfish! Eating plastic damages their internal organs and leaves them unable to feed. Sadly, for 22% of turtles _____ one item of plastic can be enough to kill them.



human being

mistake

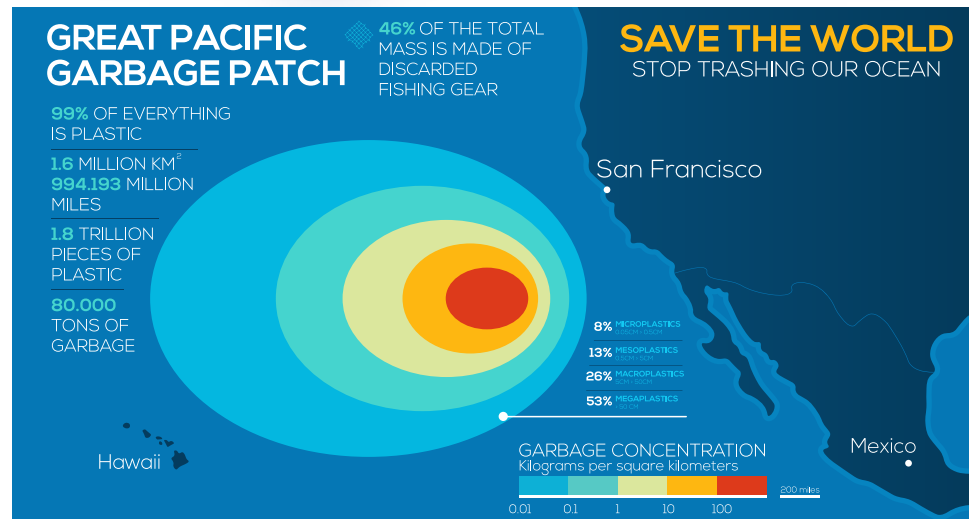
ingesting

harmful

debris



Around 1.8 **trillion** pieces of plastic are floating there.



How much is a **trillion**?



Option A: a million million
Option B: a thousand million



What's your view?

That's 250 pieces of plastic for every human being on Earth!

How did reading the text make you feel?

How conscious are you of how much plastic you use?

What are some ways to reduce the amount of plastic we use?





Think back to the text

Why is plastic a problem for marine turtles?



Which other animals have been affected by human activity?



Discuss

Which animals do you think will have become extinct in 50 years' time?

Are there any animals you think will have become endangered 50 years from now?





Animal products

1. **Read** the list of animal products.
2. **Discuss:** Why do some people buy them? Should they be allowed to buy them or not?

a crocodile
skin handbag

a fox fur coat

coral jewellery

rhino horn
medicine

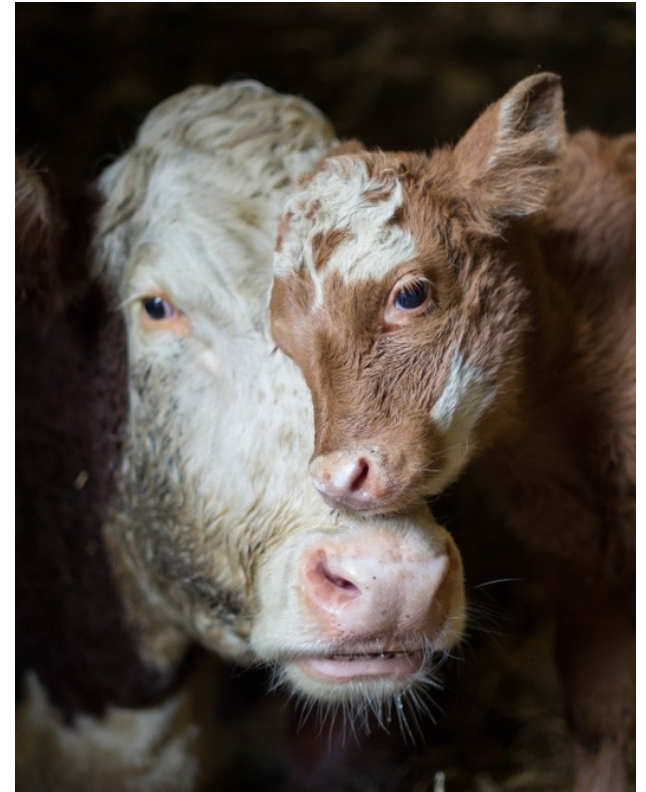




How about you?

**Where do you
stand on animal
rights?**

**In your opinion, should
animals be considered food or
not?**





End of the lesson

Idiom

not see the wood for the trees

Meaning: unable to get a general understanding of a situation because you are too worried about the details.

Example: You're focussing on a small point here and **not seeing the wood for the trees**.



Additional practice



Discuss

Which countries have the most rain forest by area?



How are humans rapidly destroying these areas?



Read this definition

Read the explanation. Then, **answer** the questions.



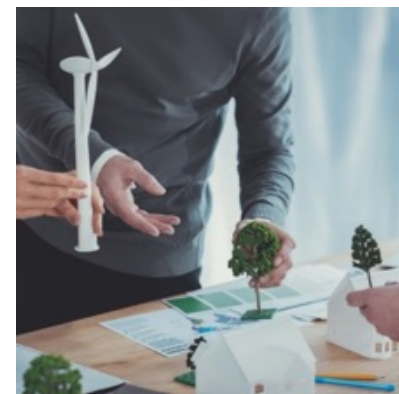
Greenwashing is a form of marketing spin used to persuade the public that an organisation's products, aims and policies are environmentally friendly.

Have you heard of greenwashing before?

If so, where?

Why do you think some companies use greenwashing?

Do you know any companies that genuinely care about the environment?





What is your view?

**What are blood sports
when talking about
animals?**

**Should sports like horse and
greyhound racing be allowed
to exist or not?**





Answer key

P. 4: 1. b, 2. d, 3. f, 4. c, 5. a, 6. e

P. 6: 1. debris
2. human being
3. harmful
4. mistake
5. ingesting

P. 7: **Option A:** a trillion = a million million (1,000,000,000,000 or 10^{12})



Summary

Environmental issues

- *soil erosion; plastic waste; pollution*
- *undrinkable water; deforestation; smog*

Humans, animals and the environment

- *human being; to mistake something for something; to ingest; harmful to; debris.*
- *Turtles often **mistake** plastic **for** their food: jellyfish.*



Vocabulary

soil erosion

plastic waste

pollution

undrinkable water

smog

human being

to mistake something for something

to ingest

harmful to

debris

