

# 13 The green island

SAUVER LA PLANÈTE,  
PENSER LES FUTURS POSSIBLES

How is Ireland dealing with  
environmental issues?



↑ Atlantic, Risteard Ó Domhnaill (2016)

## **SCENARIO**

Ireland is known as the Emerald Isle due to its lush green landscape and fertile countryside. However, as we begin to see the full extent of the human impact on the planet, we realise that all this natural beauty is in danger if something is not done soon to reverse the damage.

## **FINAL TASK**

Write an election programme for Dublin



vidéo 26

- a. Watch the trailer of "Atlantic".  
Take notes about what you understand.

- b. Watch the video again.  
**Discuss:** What are the "two resources"? Who is defending each resource according to the documentary?

**According to the trailer, the two resources are...**

- c. Explain this quote (**who, what, why**):  
"The people who are supposed to protect us are the people who are destroying us."

- d. Do you think that the documentary is neutral or that it takes sides?  
**Justify** your answer.

prof. 69  
élève 60

- a fisherman
- offshore drilling: le forage en mer
- an oil company
- a politician
- to ban = to prohibit: interdire
- to be at stake = to be at risk
- to harvest /'ha:vist/ the sea
- to protect ≠ to destroy
- to take sides for = to side with = to support

# DOCUMENTS



## 1 Climate change

ANTICIPATE

- a. This video was produced by the Irish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). What do you think their objectives are?

ANTICIPATE

- b. Select three of these keywords: environment, greenhouse gas emissions, to face a challenge, pollution, climate change, to invest, renewable energies, threat, to protect. Write a sentence that might belong in the video.

- c. Watch the video twice (without and with sound). Check your notes.

- d. Watch the video again. Make a list of three decisions that Ireland should take to help the environment. Justify.

I think Ireland should... And they must...



VIDEO

vidéo 27



↑ The state of Ireland's environment, EPA Ireland (2016)



## 2 For or against fracking?

ANTICIPATE

- a. Look at the picture. In pairs, discuss:  
- how fracking works,  
- its advantages and disadvantages.

I think fracking works by + V-ing...

- b. Group A: Read text 1.

Group B: Read text 2.

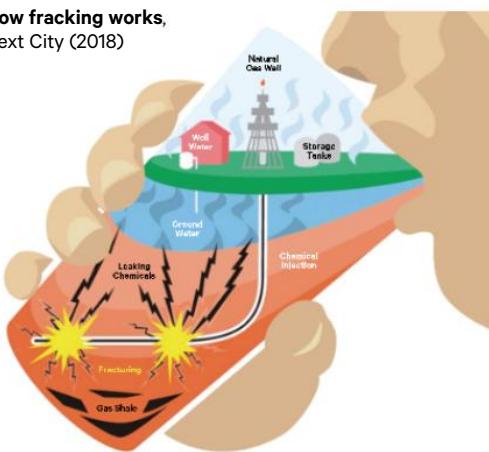
Take notes about the point of view that is explained in your text.

- c. In pairs, debate:

Is it a good thing for Ireland to ban fracking?



→ How fracking works,  
Next City (2018)



TEXT 1

Some say the process of fracking could deliver security of energy supply in Ireland for decades, provide thousands of jobs directly and indirectly and boost tax revenues. Increased supply and easier access to it should lead to cheaper energy costs. Also, the burning of natural gas is considered less harmful to the environment than coal and oil. The associated jobs and activity are seen as having positive effects by increasing spending power, in the local economy.

↑ Arguments for and against fracking,  
Irish Times (2014)

TEXT 2

The Republic of Ireland has become the fourth European country and European Union (EU) member to ban onshore fracking. (...) Fracking is a controversial method used to extract shale gas. Chemicals, water, and sand are released at very high pressure into the earth to break rock and uncover gas. It is like a forced earthquake. Environmental campaigners say fracking comes with a huge risk of contaminating water supplies due to the chemicals used in the process. By releasing toxic, radioactive gases and carcinogens, exposing people, land, and water to illness and poison, fracking has caused debilitating health and environmental damage.

↑ Ireland becomes the fourth EU country to ban fracking,  
Down To Earth (2018)

### 3 Break free from plastic

**ANTICIPATE** a. Read the slogan from these ads. Translate it into French.

**ANTICIPATE** b. In pairs, think about the dangers of plastic for the environment and its advantages for us.

**One of the real dangers of plastics is...**

**In my case, one genuine benefit of plastics is...**

c. Group A: Look at poster 1.

Group B: Look at poster 2.

1. What does your ad show?
2. What message is delivered in your ad?

**MEDIATION**



d. Make a visual representation of the numerical data in the ad.

Present it orally to the other group.

**From the graph we can see...  
The figures clearly show...**

e. What is your opinion of this campaign? Are there similar policies in France?



POSTER 1

**breakfreefromplastic**



Yet the amount of plastic packaging used in Ireland has nearly doubled in the last 5 years. And householders are left to sort it and recycle what we can. It's not fair.



Irish businesses only pay €89 to put a tonne of plastic on the market. In Belgium they pay €199, in France €238 and in the Netherlands €355 per tonne.

So there's no incentive for companies to reduce plastic use, leaving shoppers to deal with the waste.

POSTER 2

**breakfreefromplastic**



↑ Break free from plastic, Friends of the Earth (2018)

prof. 70  
élève 61

- **harmful ≠ harmless:** nocif ≠ inoffensif
- **energy / food / water supply**
- **carbon-based fuel = energy from fossil fuels**
- **consumption** /kən'sampʃən/
- **household waste:** des déchets domestiques
- **a landfill:** une décharge
- **raw materials** /rɔ: mæ'triərialz/: matières premières
- **renewable energy** /ri'nju:rəbəl/ = **energy from renewable sources** /'sɔ:siz/ (solar, wind, hydropower)
- **to contaminate = to pollute**
- **to do your bit:** faire sa part ≈ **to become engaged**
- **to face a challenge**
- **to invest in**
- **to monitor = to watch = to observe**
- **to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**
- **to sort rubbish** /sɔ:t/: trier les déchets

• **L'expression de l'obligation et de l'interdiction** → p. 214  
Ireland **must** defend the ban on fracking.

• **L'expression du conseil** → p. 215  
Oil companies **should** consider the damage they're causing.

• **Le phrase conditionnelle en if** → p. 219

Oceans **will** be polluted, **if** we **continue** to use plastic.  
**If** supermarkets **used** less plastic packaging, it **would be** easier to reduce waste.

• **L'imperatif** → p. 216

**Don't buy** products that are wrapped in plastic.  
**Ask** your friends to reduce household waste.

## 4 Why bees matter

Fiche  
PÉDAGOGIE DIFFÉRENCIÉE

# Butterflies of Ireland



Butterflies are an important aspect of Ireland's biodiversity. There are 35 regularly occurring species, 34 of which can be readily identified in the field. The National Biodiversity Data Centre is mapping their distribution and tracking how populations are changing. Help by downloading the free Biodiversity Data Capture App: [www.BiodiversityIreland.ie/downloads/apps/](http://www.BiodiversityIreland.ie/downloads/apps/) to submit sightings.



Speckled Wood  
*Pararge aegeria*



Biodiversity in Ireland,  
The Irish Examiner  
(2018)

**ANTICIPATE**

a. **Look at** the picture.

What is the message of this poster?

b. **Watch** the first part of the video a few times.

**Take notes** about the role that bees play in Ireland.

c. **Watch** the second part a few times.

**Summarise:**

- the reasons why they are in trouble,
- the consequences for us.

d. **Watch** the third part.

**Take notes** about the actions taken to protect them.



e. **Create** a collaborative document.

**Write down** actions to protect bees.

**React** to your classmates' ideas.

**MEDIATION**

f. **Design** a flyer for a campaign to protect bees.

**Distribute** it in the school on Earth Day.



Prepare for the task

**TRAIN YOUR VOICE**



La prononciation du « h » en début de mot

1 Écoutez ces extraits tirés de « Why bees matter ». Concentrez-vous sur la prononciation du « h ».

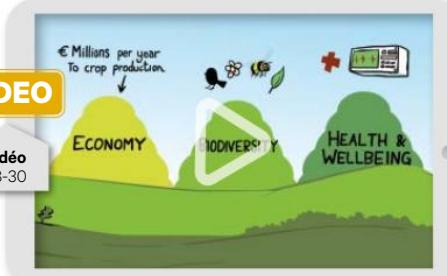
- Have you ever wondered why Ireland is so beautiful?
- At the very heart of this vital system is the humble bee.

2 Repétez les phrases en aspirant bien les « h » en début de mot.

prof. 71  
élève 62

prof. 72  
élève 63

- **biodiversity** /baɪədədai'vɜːsəti/
- **a crop**
- **a pest** = an insect that attacks crops, livestock...
- **a pesticide** /'pestsɪsaɪd/
- **a pollinator** = a pollinating insect
- **to be in bloom**: être en fleur
- **to be under threat**: être menacé(e)
- **to be responsible for** ≈ **to play a big role in**
- **to contribute to** = to make a contribution to
- **to mow the lawn** = to cut the grass
- **to suffer a decline**: subir un déclin
- **to thrive** /θrایv/ = to prosper



↑ Blooming bees: the all-Ireland pollinator plan,  
National Biodiversity Data Centre (2018)

# VOCABULARY

→ Banque d'exercices p. 189



## CONSEQUENCES

drought  
extreme temperatures  
famine  
flooding  
the greenhouse effect  
rising sea levels

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

to do your bit = to become engaged  
to raise awareness on  
to reduce | greenhouse gas emissions  
your carbon footprint  
to use | public transport  
renewable energies

## CLIMATE CHANGE

# ENVIRONMENT

## PLASTIC POLLUTION

### PROBLEMS

disposable plastic =  
single-use plastic  
  
to end up in a landfill  
to enter the food chain  
to generate waste  
to have an impact on sea life  
to pollute

### POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

to ban the use of  
to recycle  
to reduce plastic use  
to use | biodegradable | plastics  
          | reusable

**WHAT:** to inject liquid at high pressure into subterranean rocks

**WHY:** to extract gas

### BENEFITS

cheaper energy costs  
easier access to supply  
less harmful than burning gas

### PROBLEMS

to contaminate water supplies  
to expose people to illness  
to release | toxic | radioactive | gases

## FRACKING

## BEES

### BENEFITS

to fuel the economy  
to help produce quality food  
to pollinate flowers  
to sustain Ireland's green image

### PROBLEMS

to be an endangered species  
to be in danger of extinction  
to lose their natural habitat

### POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

to plant pollinator-friendly plants  
to protect biodiversity  
to reduce | mowing | pesticide use

## OFFSHORE DRILLING

### WHY

to extract | gas | oil  
to make money  
  
**CONFLICT**  
fishing vs oil industry  
  
to make fish stock collapse  
to scare away fish

## Make your own mind map

Make a mind map with the words and expressions that best describe the environmental issues affecting your local area.

## PREPARATION TIME

### How to write a convincing election programme

Vous voici en lice pour les prochaines élections ! Votre objectif : écrire le programme écologique de votre nouveau parti politique en présentant les sujets qui vous tiennent à cœur et en proposant des solutions pour résoudre les principaux problèmes. Voici quelques clés pour séduire les électeurs potentiels...

#### • Choisissez vos thèmes de campagne

Avant de faire vos promesses électorales, vous devez choisir les principaux problèmes auxquels vous allez vous attaquer. Voici quelques thèmes possibles, mais vous pouvez bien entendu en trouver d'autres : **fracking, climate change, disposable plastic, pesticides, air pollution.**

#### • Ayez réponse à tout !

- Personne ne souhaite écouter quelqu'un qui ne sait pas de quoi il parle. Afin d'être incollable sur vos thèmes de campagne, renseignez-vous ! Sachez expliquer quels impacts ces problèmes peuvent avoir à la fois sur l'être humain et sur l'environnement.
- Une fois au clair sur la nature des problèmes environnementaux choisis, renseignez-vous sur leurs solutions possibles, ainsi que sur les avantages et inconvénients de ces dernières.

#### • Trouvez un slogan percutant

Un parti politique se juge sur son programme et sa capacité à le défendre, mais il peut toutefois être utile d'avoir un slogan accrocheur. Court et persuasif, il doit inciter à l'action, contenir une promesse, recourir aux émotions du public.

Lisez les slogans suivants et choisissez le plus efficace. Justifiez votre choix.

1. We are the party that will protect the environment.
2. Help us help you help the environment.
3. Together we can protect the environment.
4. For a better, healthier world.

#### • Misez sur le pouvoir des mots

Après avoir rédigé vos promesses électorales, retravaillez-les pour les rendre plus persuasives et toucher votre public. Pour ce faire, vous pouvez ajouter des adjectifs, des symboles, des figures de style (métaphores, personnifications, anaphores...), des tournures à l'impératif, ou encore remplacer certains mots par des synonymes plus imagés ou plus forts.

Reliez les verbes suivants à leurs synonymes plus dynamiques. Traduisez l'ensemble.

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. to prosper | a. to plummet   |
| 2. to damage  | b. to thrive    |
| 3. to develop | c. to devastate |
| 4. to decline | d. to evolve    |

#### • Communiquez aussi par l'image

- Si vous voulez remporter les élections, votre programme doit aussi être réussi d'un point de vue graphique.
- Pour éditer votre affiche, vous pouvez utiliser un logiciel gratuit de création d'images tel que [canva.com](https://canva.com).
- Donnez un nom à votre parti, concevez le logo correspondant, et ajoutez les deux éléments à votre affiche.
- Utilisez une police d'écriture claire, professionnelle et un corps assez gros.
- Ne surchargez pas votre affiche de texte.
- Relisez attentivement votre programme avant de le diffuser : les fautes d'orthographe impacteront votre crédibilité.

## FINAL TASK



### WRITE AN ELECTION PROGRAMME FOR DUBLIN



You want to become a member of the Dublin City Council. Write your election programme focusing on the environment. Your aim is to get people to vote for it.

- a. In groups of three, **brainstorm** environmental and resource issues that should be mentioned in your election manifesto.
- b. **Choose** the five most important issues that you will include.
- c. **Prepare** one or two possible solutions for each.
- d. **Write** your manifesto.
- e. **Pass** your manifesto around the class.
- f. **Organise** an election and **vote** for the best one.



## YOU CAN TRUST US TO PUT THE ENVIRONMENT FIRST!

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE SHOULD TAKE PART IN PROTECTING IRELAND'S UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY



#### IF WE WIN, WE WILL...

1. Ban the use of single-use plastics. We will require all food packaging to be made from biodegradable and easily recyclable materials.
2. Protect...

#### IF WE DO THIS, WE CAN...

1. Prevent microplastics and other pollutants from entering the food chain and having an impact on...
2. Make recycling cheaper and more efficient since...

DO  
YOUR  
BIT!