

Year 4

Stewardship of God's world

BIG QUESTION: How can we be stewards of God's creation?

Listen to the speech by Chief Seattle from 1854. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLw56hHbpYI> Chief Seattle has never been to school. He is speaking a different language. But there is simplicity in his language and simplicity in the repetition he uses which is so powerful that it resonates throughout the centuries. He says, **“This land is sacred to us. How can you buy the sky? The sparkle on the water? Every part of this earth is sacred to my people.”** The pace is slow, he gives the listener time to think. He uses questions and he expresses such a clear understanding of the balance of the ecosystem. **“There is no quiet place in the white man's cities. If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a loneliness of spirit. Whatever man does to the earth, he does to himself. The earth doesn't belong to us, we belong to the earth. All creation is sacred.”** **“The end of living and the beginning of survival.”** Chief Seattle uses personification when describing creatures, he calls the bear, the deer, the eagle – brothers. He calls the earth our mother and he says whatever befalls the earth, befalls her son—humanity. **Task:** How does this speech make you feel?

Key Vocabulary

stewardship

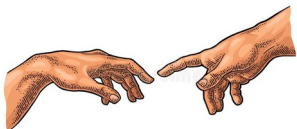
creation

environment

ecology

deforestation

pollution



Chief Seattle's speech makes us feel that his people are connected to nature. The rapid change in towns and cities causes a nature deficit. Many of our children today have lost a direct connection with nature, which fills us with sadness and loss. Here we hear Chief Seattle talk of a common destiny, **“We may be brothers after all.”** **Can we relate this speech to what is happening in the world today, for example to the tribes in the Amazon rainforest?** It is heart-breaking, to think that over 160 years later we are still facing the same dilemmas in our world.

Creative writing Task: Can you write your own speech for the 2020s?

Nature Task: Go outdoors into nature and use your senses to answer these big questions: **“What do you see, what do you hear, what do you smell, what can you taste, what can you touch?”**



Chief Seattle

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BIG QUESTION: How can we take care of God's creation?

Taking care of creation by being responsible stewards also means making sure everyone has enough to live on and that the world's resources are shared justly and fairly. People are not just part of the eco system, but are the most important part of God's creation and therefore must be respected as being the first consideration in all decisions about what governments do to the environment. We can all play our part in taking care for God's creation. Any effort you make, no matter how small is never wasted.



Maths Task: Can you collect data for the RSPB bird watch <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/> or big butterfly watch <https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/> or BBC Springwatch activities <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007qgm3>



Music Task

Research both religious music and pop music to find as many examples as you can of music which speaks of God's creation.



"There are scars which mark the surface of the earth; erosion, deforestation, the squandering of the world's mineral and ocean resources. Our world has grown weary of exploitation and division... our hearts and minds are yearning for a vision of life where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth." Pope Emeritus Benedict

Computing Task: Create a PowerPoint presentation about the scars on the earth

- climate change,
- deforestation,
- air and ocean pollution,
- waste disposal,
- human population growth

