



THE WEEK
Junior

**GUIDE TO THE
ENVIRONMENT**

Dr Sai Pathmanathan



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Dr Sai Pathmanathan
Illustrated by Tim Bradford

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with

THE WEEK Junior

The Week Junior is a multi-award-winning children's magazine packed with engaging articles, eye-catching images, and big ideas that get eight to 14-year-olds reading, thinking, and talking.

Published weekly, it features everything from news to sport, science, books, cooking, and craft – feeding children's natural curiosity, encouraging critical literacy and boosting confidence.



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HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

An explanation of a key concept

A fun fact

A brief introduction to an important person

A key word defined in the glossary at the back of the book

Off on holiday

Taking a break from the hectic timetable of school work, clubs and busy weekends is always welcome.

WHAT IS ECO-TOURISM?

Eco-tourism is nature-based tourism where visitors travel responsibly to natural conservation areas, which helps the local communities and raises awareness of environmental issues.

? WHO'S WHO

Dr Tulshi Laxmi Suwal

is co-founder of the Small Mammals Conservation and Research Foundation in Nepal. She works to conserve pangolins, which are threatened by illegal hunting and poaching, as well as habitat loss.



YOU CAN DO IT!

If you're on a beach holiday ask a grown-up to help you do a beach clean if you see any litter or plastic pieces.

A way for you to get involved and make a difference

Going on holiday close to home or by coach, train or ferry can be much better for the environment than flying which causes a high level of greenhouse gas emissions. Going abroad isn't all bad – countries in the **Global South** need small-scale, sustainable tourism to bring in money. However, they need travellers who want to learn, to like the locals and respect the land.



TIPPING THE SCALES

Human-made materials now outweigh Earth's entire biomass.

★ SUCCESS STORIES

In 2001, Roque Sevilla, the former mayor of Quito, Ecuador, bought part of the Chacab Cloud Forest known as the Mashpi reserve. It's a place for tourists to stay while learning about the vast biodiversity of the forest. The Mashpi reserve has helped local people move away from jobs in deforestation by providing them with alternative careers, such as becoming experts in conservation.

"I'm convinced that collective action is essential to protect the environment."
MICHEE N'YANDU MUMA, Greenpeace Africa volunteer

”

An environmental win

A quote from an important person

INTRODUCTION

Our planet is incredible; it gives us so much. The air we breathe, the magnificent trees, unique plants and amazing wildlife: from the tiniest tree frogs in our rainforests to the huge whales in our oceans. However, all isn't well on planet Earth. You've probably heard people talking about things like saving the environment, the climate crisis, pollution, **microplastics** and **greenhouse gases**. It can feel like there's a lot of pressure to solve the planet's problems. However, many inspiring people and organisations are working together to save our Earth – and you can help too.



“

'I'm telling you there is hope [...] it does not come from the governments or corporations. It comes from the people.'

GRETA THUNBERG, climate justice activist

”

What's the problem?

The Earth has existed for millions of years and has seen **asteroids**, dinosaurs and **ice ages**. So what's the issue now?

If we imagine Earth as 46 years old rather than around 4,600 million years old, then its life story goes like this...

1–42 years old: We know hardly anything about this time

42–45 years old: Living **organisms evolve**

Age 45 (last year): Dinosaurs rule



Humans have only been around for a small part of the life of our planet, but we have had a big impact on it. The way we produce and use food, homes, transport, clothes and more is using up the Earth's resources. We've destroyed **habitats** animals need to live. We've been burning **fossil fuels**, causing the world to get warmer and creating problems for wildlife and humans across the globe. We've been throwing lots of stuff away, and the waste we create is causing problems for the planet.

The reality of problems like **climate change** and plastic pollution is quickly sinking in, and we need to take action now to protect ourselves and the planet.

8 months ago: Mammals evolve

Age 46 (this year):

- This weekend: The Ice Age (brrr)
- 4 hours ago: Humans evolve
- 1 hour ago: Humans discover agriculture
- 1 minute ago: The **Industrial Revolution**
- The past few seconds: Humans turn the planet into a rubbish tip

