

# Global Issues

1. One in ten people in the world do not have access to clean water near their home. Disease caused by dirty water and poor access to toilets kills a child under five every two minutes. One third of schools worldwide do not have clean water. Illnesses related to dirty water mean that 443 million school days are lost every year.
2. There are 690 million people in the world who do not have enough to eat. 60% of these people are women.
3. There are differences in health outcomes between different populations of people. Inequalities in power, money and resources make people's lives more challenging, which can make them more vulnerable to ill health. The difference in healthy life expectancy of people in the most and least deprived areas in the UK is 19 years. There is a 31-year gap in life expectancy between countries with the shortest life expectancy and those with the longest.
4. There is a threat of new infectious disease, or of pathogens developing resistance to current treatments.
5. Greenhouse gas emissions cause global climate change. There are 110 countries committed to carbon neutrality by 2050. To achieve this, we need to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere at the same rate that our activities release it into the atmosphere.
6. The incidence of wildfires, flooding and extreme weather events is increasing due to the warming climate. These cause a loss of life, homes and ecosystems. Some groups of people are disproportionately affected by these events.
7. The human population is increasing which means we need to manage resources such as food and building materials to ensure future generations are supported. We need to provide these resources sustainably so that we don't prevent future generations from also being able to meet their needs.
8. The growing population number and wealth means there are increasing energy demands. These demands need to be met with renewable energy sources. 15% of the global population do not have access to electricity.
9. Increased acidification of the oceans is causing the loss of coral which provides an important ecosystem for lots of marine life. Marine organisms with calcium carbonate shells are also affected by a decreasing ocean pH.
10. Biodiversity is reducing due to habitat loss, overexploitation, pollution and climate change. Biodiversity is crucial for maintaining the health of an ecosystem. A healthy ecosystem maintains the soil, purifies water that runs through it, and supplies food and shade.
11. More than eight million tonnes of plastic enter the world's oceans each year. Most of this plastic is blown from ships or beaches, or carried from land by rivers. Not all plastic can be recycled.

# Innovating for the Future

Innovation is the process of turning an idea into a solution that overcomes a problem.

Think of a problem that needs solving. It could be a small problem that affects your home or school, or you could choose a global issue to explore.

Describe the problem you would like to solve.

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Suggest some solutions to the problem.

<p><b>Technology</b> Could a new invention help us to solve the problem?</p>	<p><b>Education</b> Could the problem be solved if people thought or behaved differently?</p>
<p><b>Government</b> Could new policies, laws or funding address the problem?</p>	<p><b>Conservation</b> Could we adapt our activities to protect the natural world or help it recover?</p>

Choose one of your solutions and develop it further. You could use the space below to:

- Design a new invention. Label the parts with suggested materials. Describe the function of each part of the invention and how it will help to solve the problem. Can you build a model version of your invention using craft or building materials?
- Plan a lesson or an information leaflet that will help people to understand the problem and how a change in their behaviour could have a positive impact.
- Plan a presentation or write an email to your MP to persuade the government to take action to solve the problem.
- Plan a campaign to encourage people to get involved in conservation efforts.