# Planet Earth: Understanding and Protecting our Environment

## Lesson plan – Managing the biosphere

| Starter activity | Learning objectives |
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| As a class, discuss the following and collect answers on the board:<br>• Why are forests important?<br><br>Prompt to consider both tropical forests and local woodlands.<br><br>(Information for the teacher can be found in Steps 1.8, 1.9 and 1.10) | • To discuss the importance of forests.<br>• To explore the impacts of human behaviour on forests.<br>• To reflect on how decision-making, and the decision makers, influence the future of forests. |

| Main activities | Resources required |
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| As a class, talk through the content from Step 1.9 'Tropical forests as ecosystems (not the video) about why rainforests are important to the ecosystems and planet.<br><br>In pairs, the students work through the exploratory exercise on Step 1.10 'Tackling deforestation'. The exercise is fairly short, and allows them to make different choices in a forest management scenario and re-start their ideas to get different outcomes. At each choice point, they should consider (and note down) who would approve each choice and why, and justify which they picked. Emphasise that they do not necessarily have to pick the answer options that 'look right' – they can also consider the impact of less optimal choices that feel more likely to happen. They can explore the exercise a number of times.<br><br>Once they have finished, they write a short reflection covering:<br>• How different motivations might affect choices about forests. | 1. Step 1.9 and 1.10.<br>2. Devices to explore the exercise. |

| | **Assessment for Learning** |
| | Discussion contributions |

| | **Differentiation** |
| | **SEND**: Teacher-led support.<br>**Low ability**: Peer-learning.<br>**Gifted and Talented**: Peer-teaching. |

| | **Plenary** |
| | Discuss the learning from the exercise:<br>- Do they feel that the right people are likely to be making decisions about forest and woodland? Why/why not?<br>- What are the most important things that should be considered in these decisions? |

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| • What they have learned from the exercise. | |