

4 FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

Activity 1

Act out

Practise this television interview.

Presenter : Good Morning! Once again we join you in your favourite programme “For a Better Tomorrow.” Our topic today is “Polythene and the Environment.” To share some valuable ideas on this topic, we have with us one of the eminent environmentalists in the country, Mr. Sunil Weerasinghe.

Welcome to the programme, Mr. Weerasinghe.

Sunil Weerasinghe : Thank you. It’s a pleasure to be here.

Interviewer : As we are well aware, polythene has become a major environmental issue. Talking about polythene and the environment, what is the biggest problem related to polythene?

Sunil Weerasinghe : The biggest problem is that most types of polythene don’t decay. They accumulate in the environment, and that, in turn, creates many other problems.

Interviewer : I’m sure our viewers would like to know about these problems. Could you tell us something about them?



Sunil Weerasinghe :

Well, it seems that a lot of people have the habit of throwing polythene bags carelessly and haphazardly into the environment. This often leads to problems like land pollution and land

infertility. Polythene also blocks sewage systems and water sources. Another problem is that rain water collected in polythene bags provides breeding grounds for mosquitoes. This is really unfortunate. We will be living in an extremely unhealthy environment if such a situation is to continue.

Interviewer : Can't we burn polythene instead?

Sunil Weerasinghe : Unfortunately, that doesn't help much. Burning polythene creates a lot of harmful gases and substances. They are harmful to all living things.

Interviewer : How about the effect of polythene on animal life?

Sunil Weerasinghe : Sadly, a lot of animals die after eating polythene as it is not digested.

Interviewer : So, what are your suggestions? Should we stop using polythene?

Sunil Weerasinghe : Not exactly. I think we should try to minimize the use of polythene. Taking reusable bags when marketing is a possible way of reducing the use of polythene. Recycling polythene is another solution.

Interviewer : Reduce, reuse and recycle. We should all think about it. With that thought we come to the end of our programme. Thank you for joining us today, Mr. Weerasinghe.

Sunil Weerasinghe : Thank you for inviting me.

Interviewer : We hope to meet our viewers next week at the same time. Have a good day!

Activity 2

1. Match A and B.

A

1. Most types of polythene do not decay.
2. Polythene bags are thrown into the environment.
3. Rain water is collected in polythene bags.
4. Animals eat polythene.
5. Polythene bags are collected in water sources.

B

- a. It causes land pollution.
- b. They die because of undigested polythene.
- c. Water is polluted.
- d. Mosquitoes breed in them.
- e. They accumulate in the environment.

2. Find the adjectives used in the conversation to describe these words.

e.g.: favourite programme

- problem
- ideas
- pollution
- environmentalist
- gases

3. Find the sentences/ phrases used to:

1. start the TV programme
2. introduce the environmentalist to the viewers
3. ask the environmentalist's suggestions on something
4. disagree to an idea
5. end the TV programme

4. Find the adverbs used in the conversation.

REVISION POINT

Adverbs

Adverbs describe the action.

- A lot of people have the habit of throwing polythene bags carelessly . (manner)
- It's a pleasure to be here ? (place)
- Our topic today is "Polythene and the Environment". (time)
- We usually eat rice and curry for dinner. (frequency)
- I'm extremely sorry for the delay. (degree)

Activity 3

The words underlined in these sentences are used incorrectly. Rewrite the sentences correctly.

1. Plants grow quick in the rich soil.
2. Some factories discharge their waste direct into water bodies.
3. I usual use recycled paper for my greeting cards.
4. Our project was successful because everybody worked efficient.
5. Awareness programmes on public health should be conducted regular.

Activity 4

Writing

Write a paragraph about “The three R’s” using the given tree diagram.



You may include sentences like:

- Reduce, reuse, recycle; known as the 3 R's are three great ways to minimize waste and protect our environment.
- We should always try to reduce the waste we create.
- Reusing is an environmentally friendly habit.
- Recycling is another good way to cut down the accumulation of waste.

Activity 5

Group Work

Write a script for an interview on one of the following topics and conduct the interview in the classroom. You can have a live interview with the whole class as the audience. They could be allowed to ask questions.

Topics : The Dengue Epidemic, Effects of Deforestation, Noise and Air Pollution

Activity 6

Writing

Convert these sentences to reported speech.

1. The invitee said, "It's a pleasure to be here."
2. The interviewer asked, "Should we stop using polythene?"
3. The scientist said, "I'm conducting a research on global warming."
4. Mr. Soyza said, "I visited Sinharaja forest last month."
5. Mrs. Fernando said, "I have been to Yala National Park."

Activity 7

Reading / Writing

Read the following posters and write the message conveyed by each one.



1

" Water scarcity is now the single biggest threat to global food security."



2



Use low energy low wattage bulbs. 3
 Turn off lights when they are not needed.
 Make use of natural light in classrooms and offices by opening windows and blinds.

Share newspapers and magazines.
 Recycle wastepapers.
 Reuse folders, envelopes etc.



4

Do not use fertilizers and pesticides excessively.
 They destroy beneficial soil organisms.



5

Poster Number	The message it conveys
e.g. 1	Save water Don't waste water

Activity 8

Complete these sentences using the adjectives and adverbs found in the posters.

natural, soil, global, single, excessively

1. We have to preserve resources for the future.
2. Accumulation of polythene in the environment has become a environmental issue.
3. Cutting down trees causes erosion.
4. Water is precious. We should not waste a drop.
5. The monsoon rains were heavy this year.

Activity 9

Listening

Your teacher will read out an announcement. Listen to it and select the correct answer.

1. This announcement is issued by:
 - i. Colombo South Municipal Council
 - ii. Nuwara Eliya Municipal Council

2. This announcement is about:
 - i. a power interruption
 - ii. a water supply interruption

3. The areas that will be affected are:
 - i. Giragama, Kiribathkumbura and Elugoda
 - ii. Maskeliya, High Forest and Nanuoya

4. The date of the interruption is:
 - i. 30th of November
 - ii. 13th of November

5. The time of the interruption is:
 - i. From 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - ii. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

6. The reason for the interruption is:
 - i. Shortage of water due to drought
 - ii. Cleaning of the storage tanks

Activity 10

Group Work

Select one of the areas given below. Fill in the missing information on your own and prepare an announcement about a scheduled power interruption. Present it to the class. The other groups can note down the information.

Area	Date	Time Duration	Affected Areas	Reason
e.g.: Diyathalawa	01/02/2016	08.00 - 16.00	Kandekumbura, Rathnodagama	Repairs to the transformers
Anuradhapura			Kekirawa, Horowpathana	Installing generators
Trincomalee	12/08/2016		Kinniya, Morawewa	Pruning trees near power lines
Peradeniya		13.00– 17.00	Muruthalawa	
Colombo		9.00 – 12. 00		

Activity 11

Reading / Writing

Animals on the Verge of Extinction

Polar Bears

Polar bears live across the Arctic in Canada, Alaska, Greenland, Russia, Denmark and Norway. They are the first animals to be threatened because of global warming. They need a cold climate, snow and ice of the Arctic regions to survive. When the snow and ice in the polar regions melt, these animals lose their natural habitat. Scientists say that polar bears are in danger of becoming extinct in about 50 years.



Lions



Lions were wide-ranging animals. In the past, they wandered freely in Africa, Asia, Europe and India. Now they are confined to Africa and to a small area in India. Loss of habitat, loss of prey and sport hunting have made this majestic animal endangered. Scientists warn that if these activities are to continue, African lions could very well be extinct by 2050.

Blue Whales

Blue whales live in all the oceans except the polar seas. They have become endangered due to being hunted for blubber and body parts. For this reason they have been declared protected animals since 1966. Global warming also harms blue whales. Temperature changes in water due to global warming may induce migration to wrong places where food supply could be low. It is believed that 10000 to 25000 blue whales swim in the oceans of the world.





Elephants

Elephants, world's largest animals on land are now listed as endangered. The Asian elephant, which lives in South and Southeast Asia, is threatened due to high human population in the region. Forests are decreased day by day due to the clearance of land for settlements, agriculture and development projects. The African elephant is endangered mainly due to poaching for ivory.

i) Read the descriptions and complete the table.

Name of the animal	Habitat (Where it lives)	The reason for it being endangered

ii) Match the words with their meanings.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Global warming | a. threatened with extinction |
| 2. Natural habitat | b. no longer existing or living |
| 3. Extinct | c. the illegal hunting, killing and capturing wild animals |
| 4. Endangered | d. the natural environment in which a group of species lives |
| 5. Poaching | e. the increase of the earth's average surface temperature due to the effect of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide |

 **REVISION POINT****Capitalization**

- The first letter of a sentence
e.g. **L**ions are endangered animals.
- Names of people and places
e.g. **W**eerasinghe, **R**adhika, **D**iyathalawa, **C**anada, **A**sia
- Pronoun “I”
e.g. Where did **I** put my spectacles?
- The days of the week and months of the year
Sunday, **J**anuary
- Titles
e.g. **M**r., **D**r., **M**rs., **M**s.
- The first letter of a sentence that is a direct quote
e.g. The interviewer asked, “**S**hould we stop using polythene?”
- Names of bodies of water
e.g. **I**ndian **O**cean, **T**he **N**ile
- Names of the planets
e.g. **M**ars, **J**upiter, **E**arth
- Names of nationalities, languages and religions
e.g. **I**ndians, **E**nglish, **B**uddhism, **C**hristianity
- Names of government bodies
e.g. **M**unicipal **C**ouncil

Activity 12

Rewrite the following essay with correct capitalization.

flying kites is a favourite pastime of mine. not only is it enjoyable and exciting, it is also an environmentally friendly recreational activity. it takes us out of doors into the fresh air as well.

every year in july and in august my friends udaya, rishan and i go to panadura beach to fly kites. we make kites of various shapes and sizes. udaya's uncle, mr. perera always helps us with our work. he is very good at making kites. apart from flying kites, we enjoy looking at kites. it is so exciting to see many colourful kites fluttering in the sky. we usually select sundays because that's when you can see the most beautiful collection. rishan says that the chinese believe that looking up at a kite improves your eyesight. i think we are fortunate that sri lanka is an island surrounded by the indian ocean. that is why we have a plenty of wind to fly kites.

Activity 13

Capitalization Practice

Rewrite the sentences using capitals where necessary.

1. scientists have not yet found out if mars holds favourable climatic conditions to support life on it.
2. the municipal council takes our garbage to recycling centres every saturday.
3. the river nile originates in east africa, flows through many countries including ethiopia and egypt, and empties its water into the mediterranean sea.

Activity 14

Writing

Write an essay titled "Let's Protect Our Environment".

Activity 15

Group Work

Speaking

Discuss the statement given below. Engage in a debate.

"It is possible to achieve development without harming the environment".