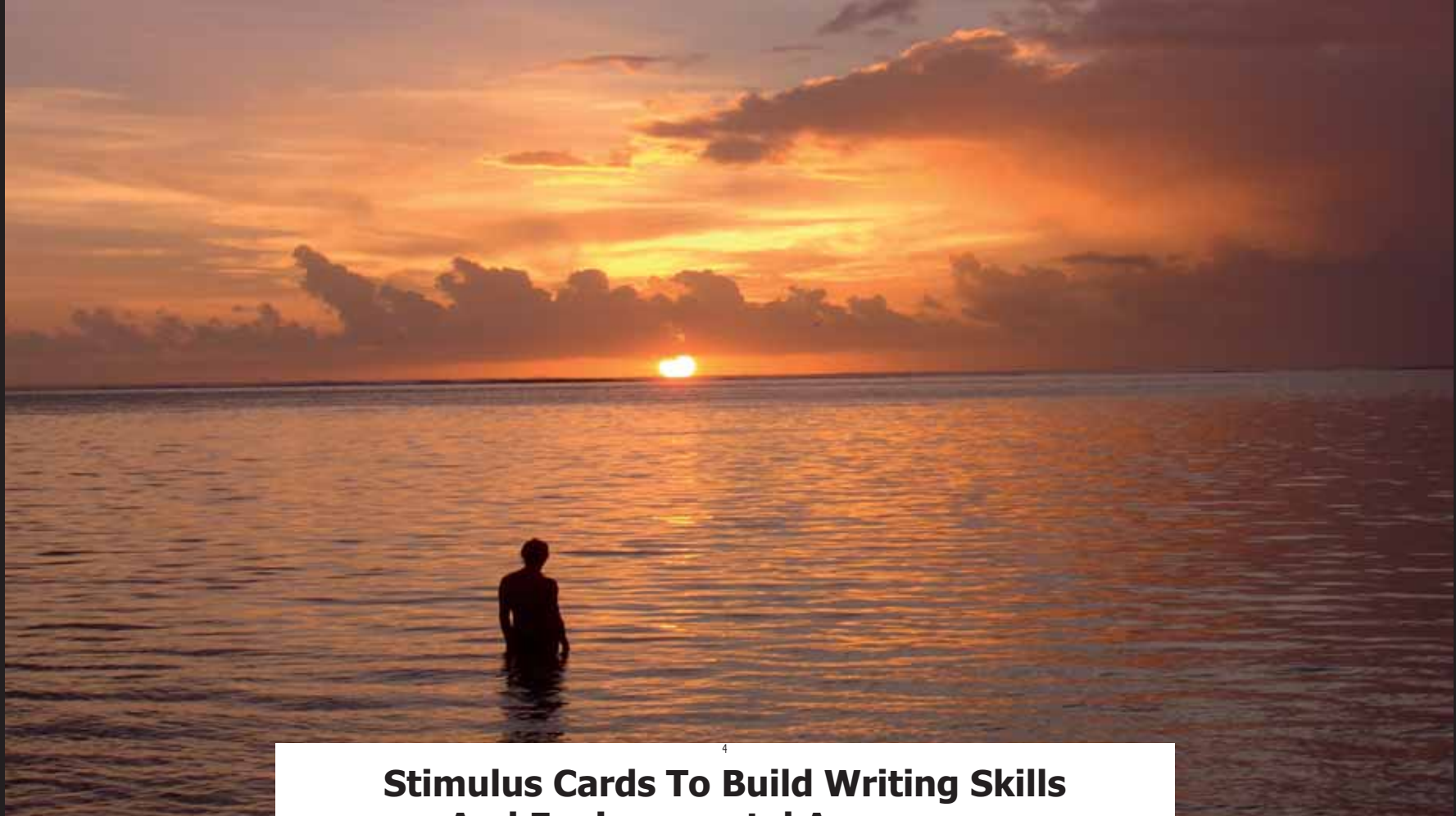


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WRITE

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

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**Stimulus Cards To Build Writing Skills
And Environmental Awareness**

ECO WRITE cards contain images, information and activities to increase awareness of global and environmental issues for students through writing in a variety of genres. The focus is on individual and small group work with discussion at whole class level, using the CD-ROM supplied in this pack to facilitate projection on a whiteboard.

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What's the issue?

- Global warming occurs as the surface of the Earth gets warmer.
- Carbon dioxide gas in the air traps the sun's rays near the surface of the Earth, making things warmer and changing the climate.
- If global warming continues, seas will rise and the weather will change.

What you need to know ...

Global warming is the term used to describe what happens when there is an increase in the temperature of the Earth, leading to changes in the world's climate. This is caused by so-called 'greenhouse gases' such as carbon dioxide. Too much greenhouse gas creates a layer that allows less heat to escape into the atmosphere and so makes the world warmer. This in turn affects climates, amounts of rainfall, types of farming, weather conditions, melting ice caps and rising sea-levels. Our fragile environment needs protection.

Non-chronological report

1. The ship in the picture has been left on the bed of the Caspian Sea. This large lake has nearly dried up. Find out more about this area and write a report about it. Include details: Where is the Caspian Sea? What is the country like - population, climate, farming, industry? Use maps and diagrams.
2. What did this huge waterway used to be like? Write a report about how lakes and rivers all over the world are used to transport goods. What might have been in this tanker?

Let's plan it ...

- What is your report about?
- Use subheadings to start each paragraph.
- You do not have to follow a time order in this kind of writing.
- Use diagrams and charts. These are expected to write the report.
- To finish, write a summary.
- It's useful to include a glossary.
- These reports are formal in style.
- Use the present tense.
- Use the third person.
- Give as much detail as you can.
- You may have to do some research!



What's the issue?

- We need to increase the amount of waste that is recycled, because some resources are finite.
- Landfill and burning have their own environmental and social issues.
- Everyone can help by producing less waste and following the 'three Rs' – reduce, re-use, recycle.

What you need to know ...

To increase recycling we need to collect more waste in recycling bins, build more recycling plants and educate people about recycling. By recycling more waste, we can save landfill - reducing the need to find new sites; save energy - reducing global-warming gases and pollution; save raw materials; save water - reducing shortages and pollution. Every year, the average domestic waste contains enough unrealised energy for 500 baths, 3500 showers or 5000 hours of television.

Instructions

1. The picture shows a recycling container being removed. Write the instructions you would expect to find on the side of this to tell people what to put in and how to leave their waste.
2. Find out how to recycle paper and make new paper in the classroom. Write instructions so other students of your age can do this safely.
3. Write and draw instructions to educate nursery children about recycling. How would you get the message over to young children?

Let's plan it ...

- What do you need? Make an equipment list.
- What is the correct order for the instructions? You could number the points to start with.
- Follow the sequence step-by-step.
- Use diagrams to help you.
- Use the present tense and the second person: 'You need ...'
- You may need special vocabulary.
- Think of time-connecting words or phrases: first ... then ... next ...
- You need command (imperative) verbs: take ... glue ... fix ...
- Use adverbs: pick up slowly ...



What's the issue?

- Litter can cause harm to human health and safety; it harms wildlife and spoils our environmental quality.
- Litter is an environmental issue. Littering is often an offence.
- We all have a role in reducing the impact of litter on our environment. Doing small things will help.

What you need to know ...

Litter is anything that is thrown, dropped or deposited in a public place creating an eyesore and/or environmental damage. Dog 'mess' is a health hazard as it contains germs. Fly-tipped waste can contain poisonous substances and is dangerous to people and wildlife. Chewing gum as litter is unhygienic and is very difficult and costly to remove from the streets. It takes time and money to clear up litter; in the UK, it costs up to £5 million to deal with abandoned supermarket trolleys each year.

Letter writing

1. Imagine that there is a litter problem in your school. Write a letter from the class to your teacher to persuade him or her what needs to be done - and why.
2. Write letters to parents, explaining how and why things will be changing in school to ensure that the litter problem is solved.
3. Write a letter to a friend in another country about what you are doing in school to cure the litter problem. How does it spoil the environment? Do children in other countries have litter problems?

Let's plan it ...

- Decide if your letter is formal or informal. They both have very different purposes and styles.
- Ask: Who is my audience? What is the purpose of the letter?
- Address and date in top right.
- Start the letter top left.
- Use paragraphs.
- Formal letters: use formal greetings, e.g. Dear Sir, Dear Mr ...
- Explain who you are. Why are you writing? What is the purpose?
- What do you expect to happen after the letter has been read?
- Informal greetings, e.g. Hi! are allowed if the audience is right.