

## Is lockdown rebooting nature?

(An article to read & discuss with your child)

All around us right now nature seems to be alive in a way we haven't experienced previously.

From the birds singing loudly to cleaner waterways and animals appearing on streets; the lockdown situation has given wildlife an unexpected chance to thrive.

It's happened because there is less traffic on the roads, fewer ships in the oceans and aeroplanes are no longer dominating the skies.



*Have you noticed more birds singing recently? Can you identify them?*

Therefore, pollution levels have dropped in a big way and far less of the greenhouse gasses that cause global warming have been produced.

And in many cases simply the lack of a human presence has led to animals reclaiming the environment they once dominated.

The seas are a prime example of this. Far less container ships and cruise liners operating have led to calmer and less noisy waters.



*Less ships off the coast of Hawaii has allowed humpback whales to enjoy unusually tranquil oceans.*

Off the coast of Hawaii this has allowed humpback whales to enjoy their birthing season in peace.

Sea turtles on beaches in numerous places such as Florida, Texas, India, Thailand, Brazil and Costa Rica have also thrived.

Usually their spring nesting season is hugely interrupted by crowds of people on the sand and artificial lights from nearby streets and

cars distracting them away from the moon light they need to follow to reach the sea just after hatching.



*Cycling has been a very popular activity during lockdown. Have you been out on your bike?*

Perhaps this different way of life has also benefitted humans too. For example, when the AA polled their members 20% said they would work more from home in future as it would mean less driving and more time with their families.

This comes when the government has committed £28bn to future road-building projects. The AA have even suggested that cash could upgrade broadband networks, as this would make it much easier for people to do jobs remotely.



*Maybe lockdown will encourage people to use their cars less in the future.*

Investments in public transport might also have to be reconsidered once lockdown ends. This particularly applies to projects such as HS2, the high speed rail-line that's going to connect London to the middle and north of England and is currently predicted to cost upwards of £100bn.

Could such massive outlays of cash be redeployed in ways that are better for people, animals and the planet?



*Airlines have been asking for government money to help them recover from corona. Should they only be given it in return for becoming more Earth friendly?*

One option would be to invest in encouraging more people to cycle. During the lockdown it's become one of the most popular modes of transport, with bikes dominating cities and towns all over the world.

In Paris they have opened 400 miles of what have been dubbed "corona cycleways". While the Italian city of Milan has announced intentions to prioritise pedestrians and cyclists over vehicles once lockdown comes to an end.

The Northern Ireland Assembly are also considering ways to encourage more people to cycle and walk, rather than use the car.



*With no humans on the streets of Llandudno in Wales these goats went for a wander.*

The UK government are now being encouraged to demand industries become much more environmentally friendly, in return for financial aid to recover from the effects of lockdown.

'Build back better' is how the initiative has been tagged. And many businesses might have to accept this approach as they have already

been helped out by government schemes that paid wages when people had no work.



*There is a fear that America and China will burn huge amounts of fossil fuels to help their economies recover.*

Of course, not every nation is as enthusiastic about integrating an Earth-friendly approach into their way of working.

China and America are two of the largest economies in the world and the fear is they'll be so eager to return to pre-corona levels of production that they'll go back to using huge amounts of fossil fuels such as coal.

That would be bad news for the planet - and disappointing news for nature and for humans too.

Find out for yourself



There are many different types of sea turtles. Try to find out their names.

This article could also inspire you to write your own article about nature during lockdown. Have you heard more birds singing or seen more animals? Should there be less cars on the road in order for more people to cycle to work and for leisure?

Write your article on a Word document using a computer and email it to Mrs Arnold at [sarnold379@c2kni.net](mailto:sarnold379@c2kni.net). Don't forget to find a great picture to go with your article.

You can write it on your own or do it with an adult, brother or sister!