

## Plastic Times (+Plastic Entrepreneurs)



### Project Overview

Welcome to Plastic Times, a two to three week report writing project that uses film as a hook to educate pupils about plastic pollution. Threaded through with real people and issues, strongly linked to writing and filmmaking, this project gives pupils a unique way to learn about newspaper and TV reporting.

Over the 10-15 lessons, supported by stimulus videos, pupils will be faced with a real life issue that affects their world, and will become enthusiastic experts on:

- > the structure of news articles
- > researching information for reports
- > interviews and questioning
- > drafting and editing their ideas
- > public speaking and presenting
- > a whole lot more!

There are also plenty of opportunities to develop sentence level skills, for example a particular focus on fronted adverbials in week 1. By the end of the project children will have been guided, using simple filmmaking, to write and create their own news reports ready to share with the world. Alternatively, this could be made as a [Book Creator](#) 'interactive news magazine'.

The structure of the project is flexible. Week 1 and 2 focus on writing reports about the plastic problem, but week 3 gives children the opportunity to be innovators and report on the children's own solutions. There is also a week of Entrepreneurship/business lessons that can be taught alongside the third week.

Wk	Topic	Lesson	Content
1	Literacy: Writing news reports  <i>Based on CNN Midway Atoll Report</i>	1: Research	Studying evidence, 5 W's
		2: Structure and overview	Report structure, write headline, strapline and overview
		3: Writing detail	Adding detail, fronted adverbial types
		4: Interviews	Questions and answers, direct and indirect speech
		5: Conclusion	Summary and opinion
2	Literacy: Creating TV news reports  <i>Based on The Plastic Project from Tim Nunn</i>	6: Research	Study evidence, 5 W's, write +Film a TV news introduction
		7: Overview	Write an overview +Record a voiceover
		8: Writing detail	Adding detail, fronted adverbial types +Record a voiceover
		9: Interviews	Questions and answers, +Film an interview
		10: Conclusion	Write a conclusion +Record voiceover +film segue to wk 3
3	Literacy: Reporting on solving the plastic problem	11: Research & Innovation	Research, study and create their own ideas
		12: Product Description	Study and write a product description, double adjectives
		13: Writing a Pitch - Target	Write about target market & team, subordinate clauses
		14: Editing to improve	Editing sentences to improve, double adjective description
		15: Presentation	Practice and presentation skills +Film product pitch
3	+Entrepreneurship and business lessons...	1: Teamwork ...	What is Entrepreneurship? Why is teamwork important? ...

+Entrepreneurship and business lessons designed for use during week 3 of the Plastic Times	2: Invention & Innovation	What is innovation? How do innovators solve problems?
	3: Finance	What is finance? How do businesses make profit?
	4:Marketing	What is marketing/advertising? Who is the target market?
	5: Sales	What makes a good sales pitch or presentation?

### **Filming and Editing Preparation**

- You should only need one iPad or device to film on, but ensure there is enough free memory space and that they are fully charged before filming.
- We recommend filming all your footage first before starting to edit.
- In this project, the class will be creating a news report featuring several different segments that need putting together
- The structure of the final films will follow this pattern:
  - A newsroom introduction, filmed in class (filmed lesson 6)
  - A voiceover explaining the issue (lesson 7)
  - A voiceover about the Lofoten Islands (lesson 8)
  - Interviews (filmed lesson 9)
  - A conclusion to the report (filmed lesson 10)

*(If you chose to do a two week project, then your film will end here.)*

  - A segue to the next week (filmed lesson 10)
  - Elevator pitches about the products to solve the problem (filmed lesson 15)
- This project could be completed on any video editing app such as [WeVideo](#) or iMovie. Alternatively, this can also be made as a [Book Creator](#) 'interactive news magazine'.
- At the end of the project, the films or projects can be shown to school and families in assembly who can then get involved with the children's learning. Parents and local press love to hear about and be involved with this sort of thing too!