



Dear Humans

Stage 5

Unit Focus: Eco Awareness

Text Focus: Informal Letter



Today we are Learning to...



Discuss the impact of an author's vocabulary choices



retrieve facts from non-fiction texts



sequence, summarise and order events



Before reading...

What do you know about how humans are negatively affecting the planet? You could discuss these things:

- Deforestation
- Great Barrier Reef
- Pollution
- Hunting and poaching

Task 1: Read 'Dear Humans' in pairs

While you are reading, you may wish to:

- Underline and identify any new, unknown words
- Underline any interesting facts

Challenge:

What have you learnt that you didn't know before?

Task 1: Read 'Dear Humans' as a class

Read this extract from the text. Think carefully about how Chameleon might feel!

Hi humans!

It's me, Chameleon. I wanted to write you a letter, but I couldn't find a pen, so I've decided to email you from my FlyPod™. You guys are terrible! Seriously! I wanted to send you a message to let you know that all of us animals are fed up with the way you are going about destroying our planet.



Task 2: Vocabulary Check

Complete this table to show your understanding of these words

Word	Have you heard the word before?	Does it sound like any other words?	What do you think it means?	Dictionary definition
displaced				
bleached				
depend				



Task 3: Retrieval

Complete these questions with the correct information.

1) Where does Chameleon live?

2) Animals have been calling Earth home for 56 million years. True or false?

3) What kind of animal is Taz?



Task 3: Retrieval ANSWERS

Complete these questions with the correct information.

1) Where does Chameleon live? **Madagascar**

2) Animals have been calling Earth home for 56 million years. True or false? **False – 65 million years**

3) What kind of animal is Taz? **Green turtle**



Task 3: Dictation

Read this sentence out loud to the children. Can they include all the correct punctuation and highlighted spellings? There are 5 marks available!

Do you have any idea how long my species has been calling this place home? 65 million years!

ANSWER:

Do you have any idea how long my **species** has been calling this place home? 65 **million** years!



Task 4: True or false?

Using information from the text **and your own knowledge**, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

STATEMENT	TRUE	FALSE
Chameleon has used the FlyPod™ to send the email.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Madagascar is in Europe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elephants and rhinos are poached for their tusks and horns.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Great Barrier Reef is situated in the Coral Sea, off the coast of Queensland, Australia.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Task 5: Matching

Match the word to the definition.

plains	eating and feeding
poached	forced to live somewhere else
displaced	flat land with not many trees like a savannah
grazing	hunted illegally

The image shows a matching exercise with four words on the left and four definitions on the right. Blue lines connect the words to their correct definitions: 'plains' to 'flat land with not many trees like a savannah', 'poached' to 'hunted illegally', 'displaced' to 'forced to live somewhere else', and 'grazing' to 'eating and feeding'.



Task 6: Choice of language

Which words and phrases do you think are the most persuasive in this letter? Why?

I think the most persuasive phrase is....because....





Task 7: Explain and justify

Is there anything in this letter that amused you or made you laugh?

What is the effect of the humour? Why do you think it's been included?



Task 8: Your turn!

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What device did Chameleon use to write the email?
2. How long have the animals been calling Earth home?
3. What animals was Chameleon's cousin used to seeing?
4. Why had Taz returned from Australia?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

- V** Which word shows how Chameleon feels about the damage humans have caused?
- I** How does Chameleon feel about the warming oceans? What gives this impression?
- S** Write a summary of the damage to the Earth that Chameleon sees or knows about.
- V** Find a word that tells you that animals were forced from their home.
- E** Explain how you know that this is an informal letter.

Now it is your
turn.
Read the text
and answer the
questions
independently!





You have reached the end of the lesson!

What do you think one of the main themes in this letter is? Why?

Can you summarise each paragraph of the letter in one word?

