Teacher materials

Coasts: Nature and tourism

Scenario description

Players take on the role of decision makers working to balance the protection of coastal wildlife habitats with tourism. They must analyse data, make decisions and allocate resources, taking into account local livelihoods and ecological considerations. Players must think critically about how to sustain and grow tourism while protecting fragile ecosystems.



Approximate location: Central America

Learning objectives

- To identify physical and human processes along coastlines, such as tourism and the formation of coastal habitats.
- To make decisions about how to manage coastlines, including the provision of facilities for tourists and the protection of environments and coastal habitats.
- To examine the social, economic and environmental impacts of decisions made along coastlines.

Key geographical terminology	Key decisions	Think, work and apply like a geographer
 Habitat: An environment where a particular species of animal or plant lives. Tourism: Where people visit an area for a holiday and spend time away from home. Tourists travel for lots of reasons including recreation, relaxation, and sight-seeing. Infrastructure: The parts of the built environment needed for a country to function such as roads, water pipes and ports; even schools and hospitals. 	 How can we protect endangered turtle nesting sites? What's the best way to manage beach access to protect fragile dunes? How should we tackle beach litter, shell collecting, and plastic pollution? Should we prioritise building car parks or invest in public transport? How should we expand infrastructure to meet growing tourist demand? How should increasing visitor numbers best be managed? 	Encourage students to explore the links between gameplay and real-world job roles, such as: conservation officer civil engineer ecologist tourism officer transport engineer
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Questions to explore	 How can we balance tourism with wildlife and habitat protection? What are the impacts of infrastructure on coastal ecosystems? Why are dunes, seaweed and turtle nesting sites so important? What role does public transport play in sustainable tourism? How do individual choices (e.g. taking a shell, dropping litter) impact fragile ecosystems? What are the challenges of enforcing environmental regulations fairly? What ethical issues arise when conservation affects local livelihoods?
Emotional and ethical considerations	 Fear and uncertainty: The challenges faced by baby turtles, and potential damage to fragile nesting sites, could evoke feelings of anxiety. Ethical decision-making: Should tourism be prioritised over conservation and the protection of ecosystems? Is it fair to restrict access or fine those who sell illegal shell jewellery?
Links to other BBC resources* *Some video content may only be available in the UK.	 BBC Bitesize – Introduction to tourism: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcmfb9q/articles/zth6trd#zw2mxbk BBC Bitesize – The impact of tourism: https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/znspn9q BBC Bitesize for Teachers – Balancing tourism and conservation in Madagascar: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zvjjmfr BBC Bitesize – Protecting endangered species in Madagascar: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zdnnvk7 BBC Bitesize for Teachers – How fishing on a coral reef can cause loss of habitat: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zd33cqt BBC Bitesize Careers – How to become an ecologist: Gabrielle's story https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zdnw382
Play Planet Planners on Roblox	The URL for the game is: https://www.roblox.com/games/80099528313812. This link will take you to the Roblox platform.

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