



Essay Competition

Intended for Key Stage 2: students aged 7-11 (school years 3-6)

Review the results from the Darwin200 UK-wide Plastics Survey, see data map and resources: www.hansonbox.org/water

In 500 words: writing from the perspective of an animal of your choice (e.g. a seabird, fish, seal, whale etc.). Comment on the distribution of plastic waste around the UK (using the resources at the above weblink)? How does this (or other human activities) impacts your animal's life or ecosystem? What measures could humans put in place to reduce these threats?

For example, a dolphin might comment on the amount of plastic litter in the waters around Britain's cities. It might speculate that this results from the large number of people living together. It might complain that the floating plastic waste makes it harder to find fish and feed. It might speculate that if humans recycled and disposed of their properly (instead of throwing it in the sea), less plastic would be in the waters around British cities.

Note to teachers: the Darwin200 UK-wide Plastics Survey will be completed by mid-August. We recommend that students complete entries for this essay competition during the Autumn term to enable their use of the distribution maps at the above weblink.

This competition **closes on Friday, October 22nd, 2021** and results will be announced shortly afterward. We offer the following prizes, generously funded by AQUAPHOR and the Don Hanson Charitable:

1st prize: £300

2nd prize: £200

3rd prize: £100

10 * runner up prizes: £40

Enter via: www.hansonbox.org/water before **October 22nd, 2021**

Note: by submitting essays to the Hanson Box team, you are consenting to allow us to display publicly the essays you send on our website (see www.hansonbox.org/water).



UK-Wide Plastics Survey

In preparation for the upcoming, two-year, DARWIN200 voyage around the world to upskill the planet's top young conservationists, over the summer of 2021, a team of 10 young scientists have joined the DARWIN200 ship to circumnavigate the UK and undertake a systematic survey of plastic waste in British waters.

The young scientists are studying and recording concentrations of floating macroplastics (e.g. plastic bottles), suspended microplastics (particles in the water column) and washed-ashore plastic waste via beach transects. By mid-August, an interactive map will be complete and launched on www.hansonbox.org/water (intended to provide a resource for students' essay writing (overleaf)).

The 2021 DARWIN200 UK Voyage was generously supported by the Don Hanson Charitable Foundation. You can follow the discoveries the young scientists make via: www.darwin200.com

