Year 4 Science Human impact on the environment

Key Vocabulary	Do you remember ?	Key knowledge	How do scientists know about the environment?
New words evaluate: to consider how well something has been done variable: something that can be changed, measured or observed in an enquiry biodegradable: an adjective used to describe a material that breaks down or decay through the action of micro-organisms compost: a mixture of decaying organic matter, used for fertilising soil decompose: the process where bacteria and worms break down natural materials pieces that help new plants grow environment: the natural world of land, sea, air, plants and animals filter: to use a special tool or process to separate materials fungi: a group of living things including mould, mushrooms and yeast micro-organism: any living thing too small to be viewed by the unaided eye organism: a living thing pollution: the introduction of harmful, non-biodegradable materials into the environment *Recap words* decay: the rotting of once-lived things through the action of bacteria and fungi decomposer: a living thing that breaks down things that once lived food chain: a series of living things where each one is food for the next habitat: a natural environment where an animal or plant finds the things it needs to grow organic: made from the remains of living things recycle: to turn waste materials into new materials and objects soil: the top layer of the Earth's surface; a mixture of bits of rock and remains of living things that have died	 *Food chains* the feeding relationships of animals in a habitat (Autumn term)  *Plants* gain nutrients from soil which help them grow healthily and what soil is made of. (Year 3)  The difference between things that are *alive*, *were once alive and have never lived* (Year 2)  Some materials can be recycled (Year 2))	 *Littering* is something that humans do, and litter can be harmful to wildlife.  Materials made from things that never lived, including plastics and glass, *cannot decompose;* they are not biodegradable.  *Pollution* is the introduction of non-biodegradable materials into the environment. *Microplastics* are tiny pieces of non-biodegradable plastic waste which get into the soil through waste water and sewage. Worms accidentally eat microplastics and the microplastics then pass up the food chain  Sea and oceans are polluted with plastics which are entering the food chain.  Oil from oil spills at sea damages birds' feathers	 Scientists *ask, plan and answer* their own scientific questions to explore and help explain how human activity has made an impact on the world.  Furthermore, scientists *apply* what they know to inform decisions and solve problems related to local and global challenges.  They develop their understanding by carrying different types of enquiry: *observing* over time, *comparative* testing and *research* using secondary sources.