

# UNIT 2: EARTH MATTERS

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you do any of the following things to help to protect the environment? Why? Why not?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• recycle bottles</li><li>• use public transport instead of your car</li><li>• join in a car share</li><li>• recycle newspapers</li><li>• use low-energy lamps in your home</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• limit the amount of water you use</li><li>• keep the streets and beaches clean</li><li>• care about local wildlife</li><li>• use aerosols without CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons)</li><li>• use unleaded petrol</li></ul>
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2. Which are the main environmental issues discussed in Spain?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• pollution</li><li>• waste</li><li>• global warming and climate change</li><li>• genetically modified crops</li><li>• pandemics and superbugs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• overpopulation</li><li>• global water crisis</li><li>• coal and oil versus clean energy</li><li>• endangered species</li><li>• nuclear energy</li><li>• food safety and chemical contamination</li></ul>
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3. Are Spaniards interested in protecting animals?

4. What environmental issue (if any) do Spaniards protest about?

5. How they protest?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• participating in demonstrations</li><li>• signing petitions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• talking to local and national governments</li><li>• writing newspaper articles</li></ul>
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6. Which area of Spain is well known for its wildlife?

7. Which animals are protected species in Spain?

8. Are there any national parks in Spain?

## USEFUL VOCABULARY

To express interest:  
I'm interested in + N  
N+ interests me.  
To express worry:  
I'm afraid that + S+V  
I'm afraid to + infinitive  
I'm afraid of +N  
I'm worried about+ N /-ing

# **WRITING**

## **LETTER TO MRS HUTCHINSON, DIRECTOR OF GREENLINE. ABOUT AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM IN YOUR AREA**

### **Structure**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### **Paragraph 1**

State reason(s) for writing

#### **MAIN BODY**

##### **Paragraph 2**

Explain the different aspects of the problem, giving examples / justifications

##### **Paragraph 3**

Suggest what should be done to solve this problem.

##### **Paragraph 4**

Final remarks

### **Register: Semi-formal**

#### **Useful expressions**

Dear Mrs Hutchinson,

In my opinion, one of the most important environmental issues in my area is...

This poses a number of problems such as...

For example / for instance

As a consequence / Consequently / As a result...

Something should be done. I suggest...

Yours sincerely,