



LOVE YOUR PLANET ACTIVITY PACK!



We all want to leave a better world for our kids!

The Earth is suffering from environmental problems that affect all of us – but by working together we can make real changes that will help preserve the environment for the future!

Storytime has always been committed to being environmentally friendly. We are proud of our 'no plastic' policy and only print on paper from sustainable sources. We created this pack as a way to get children interested in their environment – and more importantly, the things that they can do to help make our shared world a better place.

We encourage parents and care-givers to read through this **Activity Pack** with their children and discuss the issues raised with them – and encourage action as well. There are many activities that help us to think about the little things we can all do to preserve the environment.

Why not talk with your child about which eco-friendly habits you would like to adopt as a family? These activities can help your family to save money, get exercise, work together as a team, and take responsibility for making the world a better place – one little bit at a time.

Together, we can make a difference!



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INSIDE THIS PACK:

- ➡ Problems Facing Our Planet!
- ➡ What Can You Do?
- ➡ Can You Recycle It?
- ➡ Going Plastic-Free!
- ➡ Top Tips to Litter Less!
- ➡ Eco-Achievements Chart
- ➡ Eco-Hero Badges!
- ➡ 30 Little Things You Can Do for the Planet
- ➡ Pledge to the Planet!
- ➡ Writing a Letter!
- ➡ Parts of a Letter
- ➡ Planning Out Your Letter
- ➡ Make Your Own Envelope!
- ➡ Envelope Template
- ➡ Letter to Planet Earth Competition Form

PROBLEMS FACING OUR PLANET!

The Earth is our home, and it is important for all of us to keep its ecosystem happy and healthy. However, humans have been causing a lot of problems for our planet!

You can be
part of the
solution!

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SMOG!

We humans burn a lot of coal and oil (also called fossil fuels) to make electricity. This causes ugly dirty smog, which is bad for plants, animals – and us!

CLIMATE CHANGE!

Burning fossil fuels and other things makes carbon dioxide gas. If the Earth's atmosphere has too much, it heats up, which messes with the weather!

HABITAT DESTRUCTION!

Forests, jungles and other natural areas are being turned into farms to feed more and more humans.

TOO MUCH JUNK!

We make and throw away more and more stuff, which has to get dumped somewhere!

PLASTIC PROBLEMS!

One of the worst forms of litter is plastic. Many plastics take hundreds of years to break down, and plastic is causing a lot of pollution in our oceans.

FARMING POLLUTION!

Chemical fertilisers and pesticides can poison plants and animals. They are particularly bad news for bees!

SHRINKING ICE CAPS!

As the planet heats up, the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic is starting to melt – which spells trouble for the animals that live there, like polar bears!

Polar ice also
helps get oxygen to
the deep bits of the
sea – where I live!



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

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Luckily, we can all help solve the problems facing our beautiful world!

PROBLEM: SMOG!

ACTION: Public transport is more fuel-efficient than driving, and new electric cars prove that you don't need to burn petrol or diesel to get around. Cycling is fun, gets you fit AND is good for the planet!

PROBLEM: FARMING POLLUTION!

ACTION: Buy organic, fair trade or locally produced food and products that are made in such a way that they don't damage our environment. Tell your representatives that you want to protect Earth's remaining wild areas – in your country and around the world...

PROBLEM: TOO MUCH JUNK!

ACTION: Buy fewer things! Reuse, repair or recycle things that you have, or give them to other people who can put them to good use!

PROBLEM: _____

ACTION: _____

PROBLEM: PLASTIC POLLUTION!

ACTION: Use less packaging and recycle what you do use! Paper straws and reusable shopping bags are much more eco-friendly than plastic ones.

PROBLEM: CLIMATE CHANGE!

ACTION: We don't have to burn fossil fuels for power. Solar panels, hydroelectric dams, wind power and even wave power are being used to make 'clean' energy. Use clean energy when possible!

Can you think of a problem and something you can do to help fix it?



CAN YOU RECYCLE IT?



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Recycling is a great way to help the planet, but what can be recycled? Check out this handy list to see what you should be putting in your recycling bin!

CARDBOARDS ✓

Almost all cardboard can be safely recycled – but don't recycle anything with grease on it, like fast food packaging!

PAPER ✓

Books, magazines, printouts and other paper are all good to be recycled.

(SOME) PLASTIC ✓

You can recycle plastic bottles and plastic items marked with a tiny number inside a triangle.

TIN CANS ✓

'Tin' cans are actually made of steel – which can be melted and reused.

ALUMINIUM ✓

Most soft drink cans are made of this metal. It takes a lot of electricity to make new aluminium, so recycling it is extra-good!

GLASS ✓

Glass jars and bottles can be melted down and made into new things!

TOP TIP: Put lids on plastic or glass containers before recycling them.

FOOD WASTE ✓

Most of this can be put in food-recycling bins – or used for compost if you have a compost bin.



Your Council Knows Best!

Different places recycle things differently and have different bins for different things. Check your local authority's website to find out how to recycle in your area!

NO THANK YOU!

Please do not put these in the recycling...

- ✗ batteries and electronics
- ✗ pouches like the ones used for pet food
- ✗ pill blisters
- ✗ plastic wrappers and bubble wrap
- ✗ polystyrene
- ✗ cardboard fast-food packaging or coffee cups
- ✗ broken glass or lightbulbs



GOING PLASTIC-FREE!

We live in a world where plastic is everywhere – and it often ends up where it doesn't belong!

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Plastic in the ocean breaks down into little bits which get stuck in my stomach!



TIPS TO USE LESS PLASTIC ✓

- ➡ Go shopping with reusable bags! Using cloth bags is better than getting new plastic ones every time you go to the shops.
- ➡ Use paper straws! Plastic straws are tiny things, but millions of them get used every day.
- ➡ Get a metal water bottle! A bottle like this can last for years and will save you having to buy water in plastic bottles!
- ➡ Try to buy things packaged in tins and glass jars rather than plastic containers.
- ➡ Say 'no' to plastic knives and forks when getting takeaway food.
- ➡ Wrap sandwiches in greaseproof paper rather than clingfilm.
- ➡ Where possible, buy food at markets where you can put it in your own bags.
- ➡ Don't throw out plastic toys or other items – wash them and see if you can find them another good home!

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

HOW LONG DOES PLASTIC LAST?

Plastic straws take about **200 years** to break down, and plastic bottles take about **450 years**. Fishing line (which can be VERY dangerous to sea life) can last for **1000 YEARS!**

TOP TIPS TO LITTER LESS!

MOST IMPORTANT: DON'T LITTER! When you are out, put all your rubbish in a proper bin or take it home with you.

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Leave parks and beaches tidier than when you arrived!

REPAIR!

If something breaks, see if you can fix it before throwing it away! Some neighbourhoods have repair cafes where things like bikes or electronics can be fixed! Check www.repaircafe.org.

REUSE!

If you aren't using something any more, somebody else might want it! Think of other kids who might like your old shoes, or use a bulletin board to find a new home for electronics.

TAKE YOU OWN!

Why not get nice eco-friendly and reusable cutlery, straws and drinking cups for when you go out? That way you won't have to use plastic or disposable ones!

PASS IT ON!

Charity shops are great! You can donate unwanted things here, or buy cool vintage things for very little money. Buying things from charity shops helps charities AND the planet!

RECYCLE!

If you DO have to throw something out, make sure it gets recycled properly. Your local authority can take away big items, and large electronics shops will often recycle old electronic items.

THINK SMALL!

If you are throwing away some used sheets of paper, why not use the back side for drawing first?



GOING
GREEN!

ECO-ACHIEVEMENTS CHART

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Put up this chart on the fridge or somewhere else you can see it!
When you do something eco-friendly, colour in a star...

BIKED TO THE SHOPS
instead of going
by car or bus



TOOK A REUSABLE
BOTTLE OF WATER
when going out



ASKED FOR A
PAPER STRAW



SORTED THE
RECYCLING



PICKED UP SOME
RUBBISH I DIDN'T
DROP (carefully!)



TRIED ORGANIC
FOOD TODAY



TOOK PART IN A
LOCAL CLEANUP
PROJECT



ATE LEFTOVERS
(not wasting food is
good for the planet!)



PUT RECYCLABLES
IN THE RIGHT
RUBBISH BIN



USED ECO-FRIENDLY
PRODUCTS (soap
and detergent)



ECO-HERO BADGES!

When you do something to help the Earth, give yourself one of these special badges!

Thank you very much for doing your bit!

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30 LITTLE THINGS YOU CAN DO FOR THE PLANET



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Walk to the
shops instead of
taking the bus!

Get healthy and
pollute less!

1

2

If you do go by
car, give other
people a lift too!

3

Bike more! It's
quick, healthy
and exciting.

4

Take a
reusable bag
to the shops!

5

Put recycling in
the right bins!

6

Plant a tree!
Or more than one!

7

When you can,
buy organic!

8

Use both sides
of the paper!

9

While brushing teeth,
turn off the tap!

Turn off
electronics
you aren't
using!

10

11

Make your lawn
into a wildflower
meadow.

12

Buy Fair Trade
products
to help farmers!

13

Grow your own
vegetables!

14

Wrap in wax paper
instead of clingfilm.

15

Use cloth napkins
not paper ones!



Set up a water
butt to collect
rainwater

to water the garden.

16

17

Lunch boxes
are better than
plastic bags!

18

Energy-saver
lightbulbs use
less power!

19

Use a cooler
wash cycle!

Saves water
and electricity...

20

Reuse gift
wrapping!

21

Clothes can
be recycled!

22

Buy biodegradable
plastic or paper bags!

23

Upcycle furniture
with a coat of paint.

24

Have shorter
showers!

Don't turn on
a dishwasher

until you have a
full load!

25

26

Try meat-less
Mondays

and eat more veggies!

27

Choose products from
companies that help
the environment!

29

Buy second-
hand stuff.

It's cool and
helps the planet!

30

Eat food by its
best-before date
so you don't have to
throw any out!

28

Buy goods in glass
rather than plastic!

Leaving TVs and
consoles on standby
wastes electricity!



PLEDGE TO THE PLANET!

Use this sheet to write down the five things you promise to do to help the Planet Earth. They can be small things – if everyone does small things, that makes a **BIG** difference!



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I pledge to be eco-friendly and help our planet by doing these things:

If we help keep the Earth healthy and happy,
it will help keep us healthy and happy!

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS...

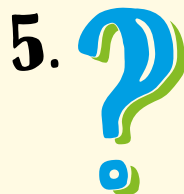
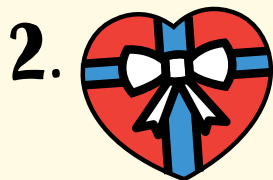
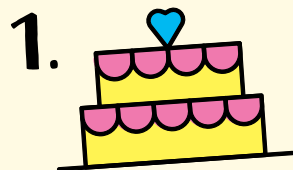
It's easier to help protect the Earth if you work together as a family!

1. If you can afford it, consider making your home more energy-efficient with triple glazing and insulation – it can save money in the long run!
3. Choose an energy supplier that is eco-friendly!
4. Composting your food waste and starting a vegetable garden (or window box!) can provide fresh food and a fun family project!

WRITING A LETTER!

Nowadays it is easy to send someone an email, a text or a message on social media – but sending someone a letter is special!

There are lots of reasons why you might send someone a friendly letter. Can you think of reasons you might want to send someone something? Below are five pictures that are clues relating to reasons you might want to write to someone – see if you can work out what they are, and write the answers in the spaces beside them. **Check the answers at the bottom of the page if you get stuck!**



Send someone a letter to let them know you care about them!

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1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

FORMAL AND INFORMAL LETTERS

There are two main kinds of letters. Formal letters are usually written to companies or people for serious business-related things, and informal letters are sent to people that you know, like friends and family members. In this pack, we will show you how to write informal letters. Formal letters are a little bit different, and mainly written by and to grown-ups.

Answers 1. To wish them a happy birthday; 2. To thank someone for a present; 3. To cheer up someone who is unwell; 4. To tell Santa what you would like for Christmas; 5. To ask someone a question or check how they are.

PARTS OF A LETTER

When you write a letter, you need to put the right bits in the right place. Here is a letter to you from Storytime, explaining where everything belongs!



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Who will
you send a
letter to?

ADDRESS

Write your address in the top right corner of the page!

DATE

Under that goes the date when you wrote the letter.

SALUTATION

Then, on the left, you write what is called a salutation.

Usually you say 'Dear' and then the person's name, followed by a comma – but you can use 'Hi' instead of 'Dear' if you like.

THE MAIN TEXT

Under the salutation goes the main message you want to send.

It is useful to have a first sentence that makes a connection with the reader and a last sentence that leaves them feeling good.

SIGNING OFF

You then put 'Best wishes' (or something similar, like 'Many thanks', 'With love' or 'Hugs and kisses') followed by a comma. Under that, sign your name by hand.

The Storytime Team
PO Box xxxx
London, SE1 6LN

19 June 2020

Dear Storytime reader,

We hope that you are enjoying this activity pack and have found out about new ways in which you can make our beautiful planet a better place.

If you write a letter to Planet Earth and send it to us (using the form on page 48 of **Storytime** issue 73 or downloaded from www.storytimemagazine.com/earth) you will have a chance to win a very special prize.

Thank you very much for reading our magazine. We hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it!

Best wishes

The Storytime Team

PLANNING OUT YOUR LETTER

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When writing a letter, don't just start writing – plan it out!
Use this sheet to help you work out what you want to say...



1

Why are you writing your letter?
Is it to give birthday greetings,
or to thank someone for a nice gift?

2

Remember to put:

☐ your address in the top
right corner of the page

☐ the date underneath that

3

Which salutation will you use?

☐ Dear _____

☐ Hi _____

4

What are the three main things that you want to include
in your letter? It is good to have a first sentence that
mentions the person you are sending it to.

For example, you could start with:

"I hope you are well and enjoying your new school!"

Mentioning the recipient in the last sentence is also a
good idea. For example: *'The gift you sent me was very
thoughtful, and I think of you when I use it.'*

5

What salutation will I use?

☐ Best wishes

☐ Many thanks

☐ With much love

☐ Hugs and kisses



...And finally: **DON'T FORGET TO SIGN!**

MAKE YOUR OWN ENVELOPE!

Why buy envelopes when you can make your own!

Send your letter in a fun and funky homemade envelope!



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YOU WILL NEED

- ✓ Envelope template
(print the next page)
- ✓ Thin cardboard
- ✓ Glue stick
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Pencil and eraser
- ✓ Scrap paper

YOU CAN MAKE ENVELOPES OUT OF:

- used maps
- big pages from old books
- paper bags
- magazine pages
- music sheets
- colouring book pages
- newspapers
- posters
- flyers
- wrapping paper

1. Stick the printed-out template onto the cardboard with glue stick (or even print the template onto the thin cardboard if your printer can do this).

2. Cut out the template – remember that you can use it to make many more envelopes in future!

3. Trace the envelope outline onto your paper using your pencil.

4. Cut along the tracing line on the paper to make your envelope shape. Use an eraser to rub out the lines.

5. After this, it's time to fold your envelope. Fold the envelope where the dotted lines are, making sure you are accurate and make strong creases.

6. Fold in the short sides, and then the biggest one, and finally the second-biggest one.

7. When you are ready to send your letter, fold it and put it inside the envelope. Put glue around the edges of the second-biggest flap and stick it to the others to seal the envelope.

Post it!

Write the name and address of the person you are sending it to on the front of the envelope – put it on a white address sticker if your envelope is brightly coloured.

Write neatly and check it carefully so the postman knows where to deliver it.

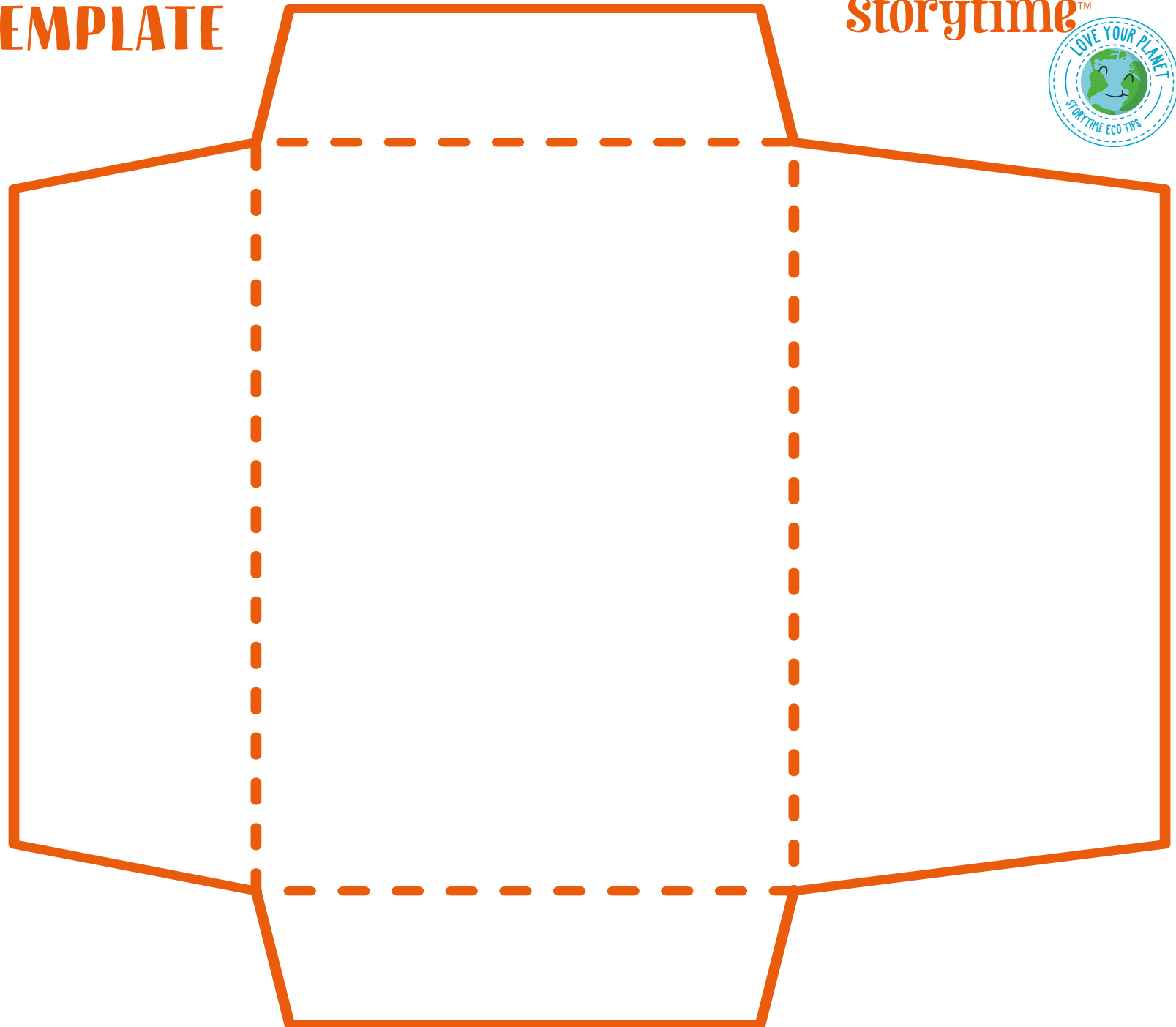
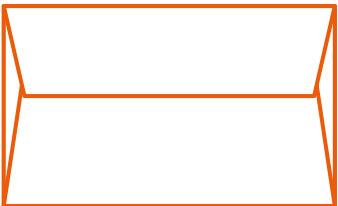
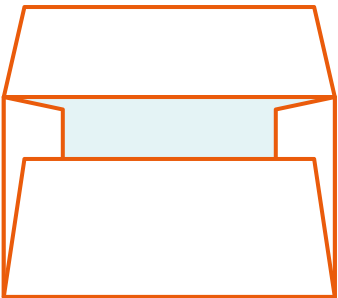
Don't forget to include the postcode and put on the right stamps!

ENVELOPE TEMPLATE

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This is what your
envelope will look
like when folded!



ENTRY FORM: LETTER TO PLANET EARTH

LETTER TO PLANET EARTH COMPETITION FORM

Dear Planet Earth,

12 horizontal blue lines for writing the letter.

Best wishes,

[your name]



FULL NAME AND AGE: _____

SCHOOL: _____

PARENT, CARER OR TEACHER'S EMAIL*: _____

* Not essential, but it makes it much easier for us to contact you if you win!

