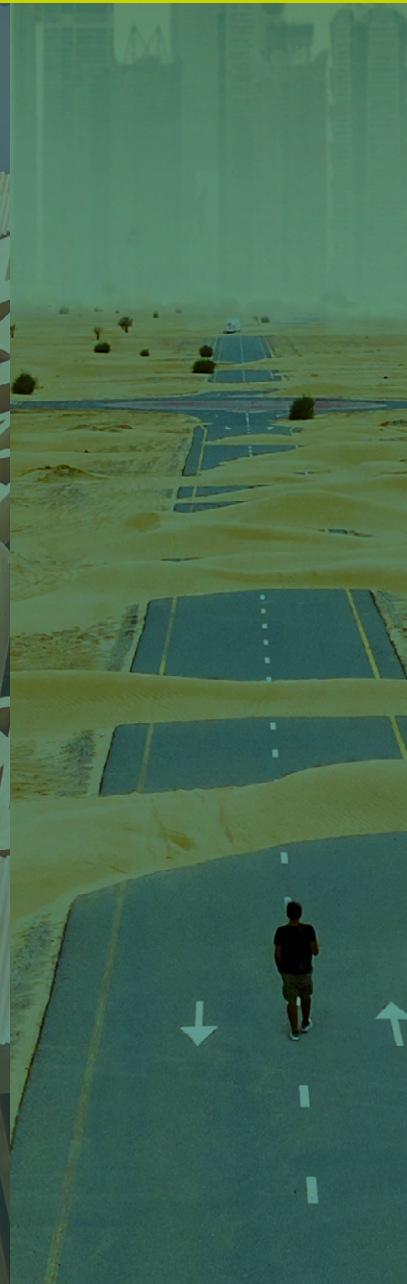




UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The **BIG GREEN** Lesson

EDUCATOR PACK



Contents

The BIG GREEN Lesson:

Welcome	03
Learning Journey	04
Lesson Structure	05
Submitting Responses	06
Lesson Delivery	07
Distinguished Sustainability Ambassadors	08
Environmental Sustainability Pledge	11

School Leadership Pack:

Recommendations for Success	12
Principal letter	13
Notice to Teachers	14
Letter to Parents	15

The BIG GREEN Lesson

Welcome

The BIG GREEN Lesson is centred around the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on climate change.

Inspired by national and international sustainability ambassadors, a set of six targeted lessons empower students to learn about the SDGs and Conference of the Parties (COP). Students gather their perspectives on sustainability and are encouraged to take action to create a more sustainable and equitable world.

Included

- Six lessons with lesson plans and resources
- Three sustainability ambassador profiles

What are the Global Goals?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an action plan for the people, the planet and prosperity. The agenda was adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 and provides a shared plan for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, for current and future generations.

The agenda is composed of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which call on all countries, developed and developing, as a global partnership, to take the necessary actions to achieve the agenda's overall aims.



Partners



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



مركز الإمارات للدراسات
والبحوث الاستراتيجية
The Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research



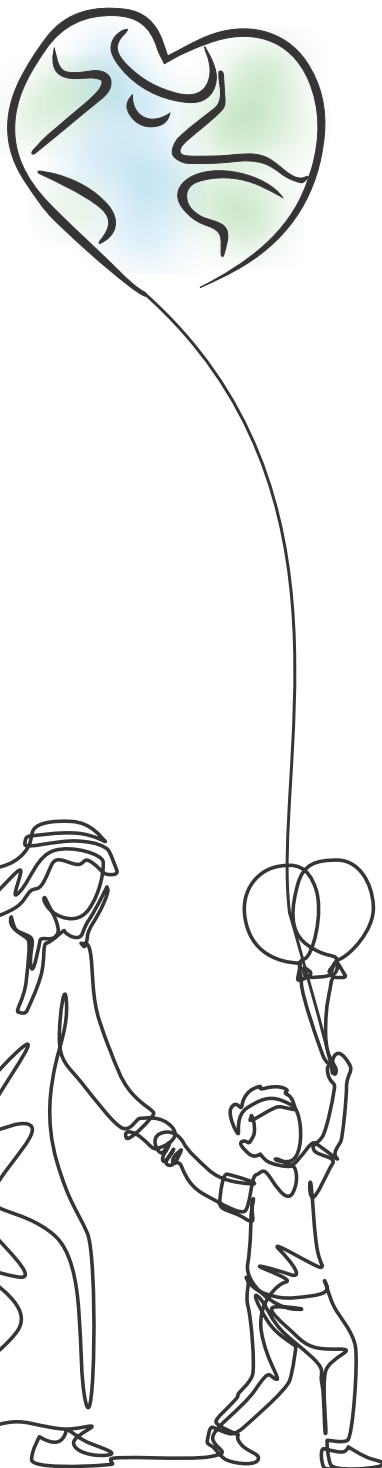
NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
LEARNING



Learning Journey

By 2030, all learners will have acquired knowledge and skills and have developed those values needed to promote sustainable development and global citizenship. While some students may be too young to fully understand the Global Goals, the aim of these lessons is to share values and develop skills which will allow them to engage more fully as they grow. The BIG GREEN Lesson will be launched as part of the lead-up to COP 28 and will serve as a catalytic starting point for the legacy, equipping students with foundational knowledge and empowering them to become active participants in driving positive environmental change well beyond the conference.

The BIG GREEN Lesson asks a series of guiding questions before and after implementation, allowing student progress to be measured on their learning journey.



GUIDING QUESTIONS

Do students understand the meaning of environmental sustainability?

Do students understand the impact of human behaviour on the environment?

Who do students believe is responsible for environmental sustainability?

Do students engage in sustainable practices?

Are students aware of local and national sustainability practices and initiatives?

Lesson Structure

Each lesson can be downloaded and used offline; however, accessing the resources online is recommended. The lessons are best experienced with the use of a projector and speakers in the classroom. Each of the six forty-minute lessons are scaffolded for lower and upper primary, middle and high school level.

The layout of the six lessons is the same. Begin with the 'Teach' part of the lesson and work your way through the lesson stages using the icons on the left on the page. The final stage, 'Respond', allows you to submit class responses to the Ministry of Education through the link provided.



Teach

Contains pre-teaching guidance for teachers



Watch

Video to play; some lessons may have more videos



Read

A reading exercise



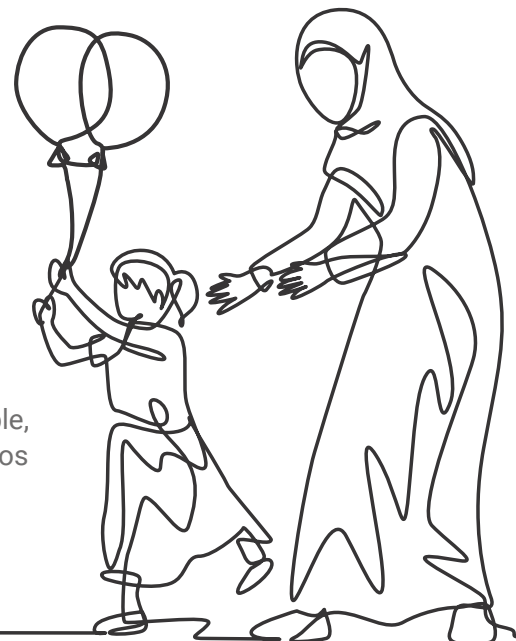
Act

An engaging activity



Respond

Submission of responses to the Ministry



The length of each section might be different per lesson. For example, the ambassador lesson (Lesson 4) has more time spent on the videos as opposed to the reading section.



Respond

SUBMITTING RESPONSES

What?

Each 'Respond' slide presents questions designed to gauge understanding of the key concepts being delivered within the lesson. Lesson 6 allows you to compare your students' progress and development from Lesson 1. These might need a little more time to deliver. Here are the links to each survey:

[Lesson 1](#)

[Lesson 3](#)

[Lesson 5](#)

[Lesson 2](#)

[Lesson 4](#)

[Lesson 6](#)

Where?

The 'Respond' section of each lesson contains a link. The link takes you to a form where you input and submit responses. The link is also provided in the lesson plan.

How?

All four levels (Lower Primary through to High School) will see the same 'Respond' questions contained in the link. However, the activities designed to elicit responses are different for each level. You can submit your responses as a whole school, by grade or by class (or a combination). Please read the lesson plan for each lesson for details on how to respond to the questions.

When?

We ask that the response is submitted within a few days of completing the lesson, so we have an accurate picture of how The BIG GREEN Lesson is being delivered.

Why?

The submitted responses help us know how many classes, schools and countries are participating in The BIG GREEN Lesson. The information we are collecting is general. We do not track individual teachers or collect any student data. We aim to publish a heatmap showing the areas and countries who have submitted the most responses.

If you have any concerns, you may contact the Ministry of Education in the UAE at: ccc@moe.gov.ae.

Lesson Delivery: Timeline to Impact



Lesson 1	Unleashing the Power of Youth
<p>Ignite your students’ passion for sustainability and global change with the first ‘BIG GREEN Lesson’. Introduce students to the concept of The BIG GREEN Lesson and assess their existing knowledge of environmental sustainability, SDGs and COP in a survey presented in an engaging and playful manner.</p>	
Lesson 2	Educate to Empower
<p>Students will explore the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to understand their purpose and interconnected nature. They will also be introduced to the Environmental Sustainability Toolkit and learn to recognise the icon. Get ready for an engaging session that equips students with factual knowledge and practical tools for promoting sustainability and understanding the Global Goals.</p>	
Lesson 3	Educate to Empower
<p>Through playful activities, students will delve into the reasons behind the need for behavioural change and the potential consequences if we fail to act. They will uncover the crucial role of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in addressing these challenges head-on.</p>	
Lesson 4	From Ideas to Impact
<p>Three distinguished sustainability ambassadors, including an explorer and Emirati researchers, share their awe-inspiring stories with students. Through these narratives, students will be inspired to make a profound connection between their actions and the achievement of the SDGs.</p>	
Lesson 5	From Ideas to Impact
<p>It’s time for action! In this lesson, students will be challenged to make a pledge for change. They will have the opportunity to develop pledges individually, as a class or at a school level. These pledges can take the form of community acts or creative expressions in the classroom, such as story writing. The pledges will become part of the legacy programme, creating a foundation for future lessons.</p>	
Lesson 6	Redefining the Narrative
<p>Students will engage in playful and interactive activities to gauge their understanding of environmental sustainability. They will showcase the knowledge they have gained since the first lesson, reflecting on their growth and demonstrating their commitment to a sustainable future.</p>	

Distinguished Sustainability Ambassadors

Meet our three distinguished sustainability ambassadors. While our ambassadors come from diverse cultural and educational backgrounds and work in different fields, they share a common passion for taking care of our planet. As students learn more about these role models, they are encouraged to think about how they can use their own personal skills and embrace opportunities to become changemakers and promote sustainable practices.



Dr. Dalal Alshamsi

Education

PhD degree in Geology of Isotopes Hydrology from United Arab Emirates University in 2014.

Career

Associate Professor – College of Science, UAE University and the Director of National Water and Energy Center.

Research

Dr. Dalal has published 29 papers and abstracts in international referred journals and conference proceedings. She is passionate about water and energy.



“Did you know that our water-saving efforts don't just stay in our town? They travel far and wide, reaching people all around the world! By managing water resources wisely, we're actually helping achieve something really important: Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation. We're making sure everyone, no matter where they live, has access to clean and sustainable water. So, our actions here in the UAE are creating ripples of positive change that touch lives everywhere!”

Distinguished Sustainability Ambassadors

Dr. Jamal Alsawalhi

Education

BSc, MSc and PhD degrees, all in Electrical Engineering from Purdue University in 2009, 2011 and 2014, respectively.

Career

From 2016 to 2017, he served in the UAE military. He effectively joined Khalifa University as a faculty member in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in 2017.

Research

Transportation Electrification. His work focuses on improving the powertrain system and enhancing the charging mechanism using wireless techniques.



“Did you know that about 20% of harmful emissions come from transportation? That’s a big problem. Many researchers like me are working hard to promote electric vehicles all over the globe. Our goal is to reduce these harmful emissions to almost zero by the year 2050. It’s a part of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7, which is all about Affordable and Clean Energy. By using clean and efficient energy solutions like electric vehicles, we can create a better and safer future for our planet.”

Distinguished Sustainability Ambassadors



Andrés Ruzo

Education

Degrees in Geology and Finance. He will soon finish his PhD in Earth Sciences, focusing on Geothermal Studies.

Career

Explorer and host of an award-winning NatGeo Latin America television show, *Misterios del Inframundo* (*Mysteries of the Underworld*). He is also the founder and director of the Boiling River Project, a nonprofit aimed at understanding, protecting and bringing value to the Boiling River, the Amazon and unique geothermal systems across the globe.

Research

Through the Boiling River Project, he has played active roles in research from various fields of geoscience, botany, biology, microbiology, anthropology, linguistics, ethno-history, conservation economics, wildlife trafficking and sustainable tourism. He is also heavily involved in indigenous and local empowerment work in the Central Peruvian Amazon, through educational and sustainable economic initiatives. Ruzo is also heavily involved with K-12 and university level education.



“My heart lies in preserving the precious ecosystems of the Amazon, particularly the sacred Boiling River. I am particularly fascinated by the Boiling River of the Amazon as it is a mysterious hot spot more than 700 kilometres from the nearest volcanic centre. The significance of this river and its impact are truly remarkable. Our efforts in studying the Boiling River and its geothermal energy potential align with Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Climate Action. Geothermal energy is a renewable and low-carbon energy source that can play a significant role in mitigating climate change.”

Environmental Sustainability Pledge

After inspiration from our sustainability ambassadors, students are offered an opportunity to become changemakers themselves by making their own environmental sustainability pledge. A sustainability pledge is something that you can do or create to help raise awareness about sustainability in your home, school and community.

A pledge does not always mean taking action – it can take many forms. For example, it can be a painting or picture that shows the importance of environmental sustainability. It can be a story about recycling or a poem about using less water. It can be an action plan to use less water at home or school.



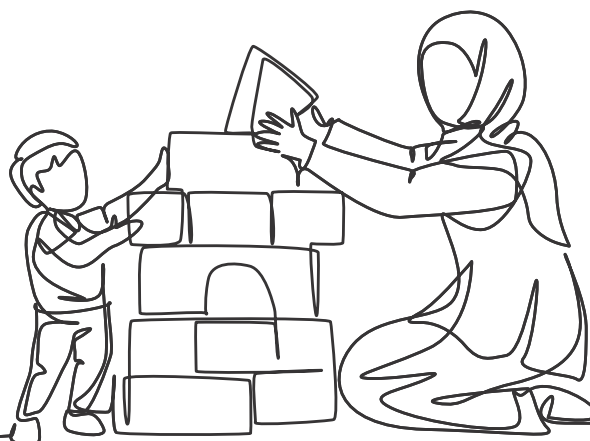
“Hi! My name is Samia. I live near the ocean and I don't like seeing the plastic and rubbish on the beach. I broadcast on my social media channel to raise awareness in my community.”



“I'm Amna. Our class pledge is to reduce waste. We made an action plan together. First, we will look at how much rubbish we generate at school and home. Next, we will come up with ideas on reducing waste and then we will continue to monitor to see what impact we make.”



“I'm Khalid. I love camping with my family on the weekends. I made a painting about taking care of the desert and animals that live there.”



School Leadership Pack

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUCCESS

Prepare.

Provide teaching staff with access to The Big Green Lesson Guide and Environmental Sustainability Toolkit. Allow them adequate time to become familiar with the resources.

Coordinate.

Assign a coordinating role to a member of teaching staff who can support the implementation of The Big Green Lesson in your school.

Engage.

A whole school approach offers the best chance for success. Encourage teaching staff to investigate cross-curricular links and collaborate on sustainability themes.

Inform.

Notify parents of the objectives and timeline to encourage reinforcement of themes at home.

Be flexible.

Lessons are forty minutes long. You may assign them to be delivered to classes in a specific subject or alternatively, as assemblies to the entire school. The lesson themes could even be expanded into theme weeks.

Recognise.

Positive reinforcement builds confidence in our young changemakers. Wherever possible, recognise pledges and efforts which have a positive impact on building a culture of sustainable practice.

Resources

Some resources have been prepared for you:

- Letter to Parents
- Notice to Teachers
- Lesson Plans
- Resource Links



Principal Letter

Dear Respected Colleagues,

We are delighted to announce The BIG GREEN Lesson, a transformative initiative empowering students to drive positive change for a better world. Developed by the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Education, this programme focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a keen emphasis on tackling climate change, a critical global issue.

As part of the launch of the Environmental Sustainability Toolkit, the MoE has worked alongside partners such as National Geographic Learning, York Press, the World's Largest Lesson and the Emirates Center for Strategic Research and Studies to develop The BIG GREEN Lesson. This launch is particularly significant as it aligns with the upcoming [COP28](#) event hosted by the UAE in November. COP28 will mark a pivotal moment when global leaders assess the progress made towards the goals outlined in the [Paris Agreement](#).

We encourage you to embrace this opportunity for your school, and integrate these lessons into your learning experience. Communicating this initiative to teachers and parents is key to the success of the implementation.

Key information for educators:

- Learning and teaching resources are prepared for teachers – all information can be accessed on the The BIG GREEN Lesson website.
- The BIG GREEN Lesson comprises **six** strategic lessons to be delivered during Term 1 – timings for delivery are detailed in The BIG GREEN Lesson Educator's Guide.
- The lessons are spread across **four levels** – Lower Primary, Upper Primary, Middle School and High School, ensuring a tailored and holistic approach to sustainability education.
- The lessons can be delivered across **any** of the subjects or assembly times, enabling every teacher, irrespective of their specialization, to contribute to this vital initiative.

We extend our gratitude for your dedication to education and enthusiasm for innovative initiatives. We are confident that The BIG GREEN Lesson will impact your students and school community positively.

Warm regards,

Notice to Teachers

Dear Respected Teachers,

We are delighted to announce our school's participation in The BIG GREEN Lesson, a transformative initiative empowering students to drive positive change for a better world. Developed by the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Education, this programme focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a keen emphasis on tackling climate change, a critical global issue.

The BIG GREEN Lesson has been developed by the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Education as part of the launch of their Environmental Sustainability Toolkit. This launch is particularly significant as it aligns with the upcoming COP28 event hosted by the UAE in November. [COP28](#) will mark a pivotal moment when global leaders assess the progress made towards the goals outlined in the [Paris Agreement](#).

Our school embraces this opportunity, integrating lessons into our learning experience. Students will engage in The BIG GREEN Lesson this term, developed with partners such as National Geographic Learning, York Press, the World's Largest Lesson and the Emirates Center for Strategic Research and Studies.

Key information for teachers:

- Learning and teaching resources are prepared for teachers – all information can be accessed in the The BIG GREEN Lesson Educator's Guide.
- The BIG GREEN Lesson comprises **six** strategic lessons to be delivered during Term 1 – timings for delivery are detailed in The BIG GREEN Lesson Educator's Guide.
- The lessons are spread across **four levels** – Lower Primary, Upper Primary, Middle School and High School, ensuring a tailored and holistic approach to sustainability education.
- The lessons can be delivered across **any** of the subjects or assembly times, enabling every teacher, irrespective of their specialization, to contribute to this vital initiative.

We extend our gratitude for your dedication to education and enthusiasm for innovative initiatives. We are confident that The BIG GREEN Lesson will impact both our students and our school community positively.

Warm regards,

.....

[Your Name]

[Your Title]

[School Name]

[Contact Information]

Letter to Parents

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We're excited to share that our school is participating in The BIG GREEN Lesson, an initiative that focusses on meaningful actions to shape a better world. This initiative centres on the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), particularly addressing climate change, a critical issue facing our planet.

The BIG GREEN Lesson has been developed by the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Education as part of the launch of their Environmental Sustainability Toolkit. This launch is particularly significant as it aligns with the upcoming [COP28](#) event hosted by the UAE in November. COP28 will mark a pivotal moment when global leaders assess the progress made towards the goals outlined in the [Paris Agreement](#).

Through this programme, our students will be empowered to learn about the SDGs and Conference of the Parties (COP). The lessons are designed to inspire our students, guided by National and International Sustainability Ambassadors, to explore their perspectives on sustainability and to inspire young people to take action. By participating in The BIG GREEN Lesson, our students will contribute to creating a more sustainable, equitable and environmentally conscious world.

Our school embraces this opportunity, integrating lessons into our learning experience. Students will engage in The BIG GREEN Lesson this term, developed with partners such as National Geographic Learning, York Press, the World's Largest Lesson and the Emirates Center for Strategic Research and Studies.

We believe in fostering environmental responsibility and sustainability values beyond the classroom and we invite your support by discussing these topics at home and making a family pledge for a greener world.

Taking part in The BIG GREEN Lesson will positively enhance students' learning and global sustainability understanding. Thank you for your ongoing support as we embark on this journey together.

Warm regards,

.....

[School Name]

[Contact Information]

The Big Green Lesson – Educator Pack Credits

Sustainable Development Goals colour wheel and icons © 2023 United Nations. Used with the permission of the United Nations.

Pp **1(l)** Valerija Polakovska/Shutterstock.com; **1(cl)** Creative Family/Shutterstock.com; **1(cr)** Anna Ostanina/Shutterstock; **1(r)** travelwild/Shutterstock.com; **4** Simple Line/Shutterstock.com; **5** Simple Line/Shutterstock.com; **8** Dalal Alshamsi/UAE University Outreach Department; **8(frame)** Ania Samoilova/Shutterstock; **9** Abdallah Altroudi; **9(frame)** Ania Samoilova/Shutterstock; **10** Sofia Ruzo; **10(frame)** Ania Samoilova/Shutterstock; **11** Simple Line/Shutterstock.com; **12** Simple Line/Shutterstock.com.