

What's happening in the news this week?

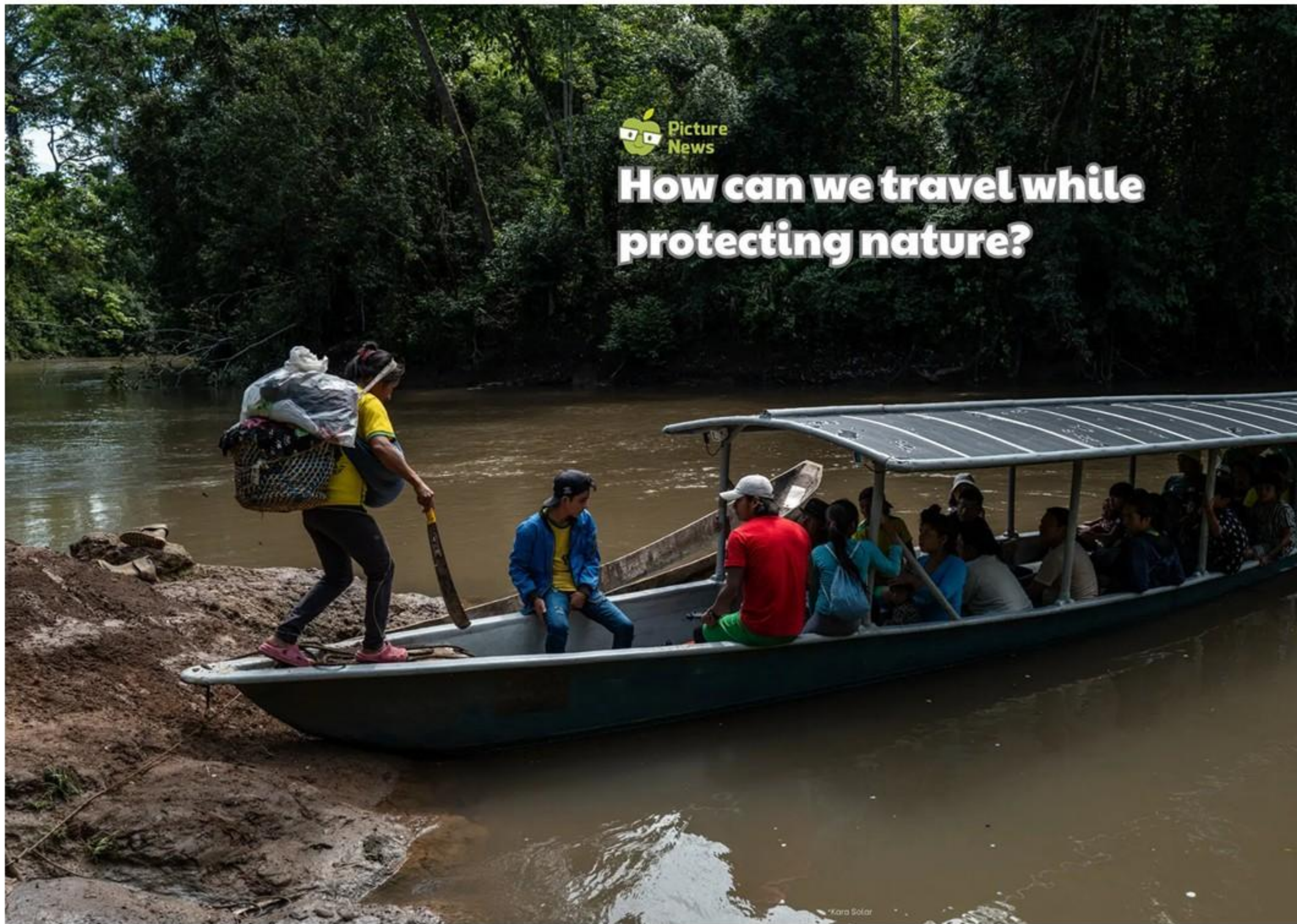


Let's have a look at this week's poster!

13th - 19th July 2026



How can we travel while protecting nature?





Let's look at this week's story

People living in remote parts of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador are using solar-powered canoes to travel along rivers. The boats use energy from the Sun instead of petrol or diesel, making journeys quieter and creating less pollution. The project is helping people travel while protecting the rainforest and has inspired other communities in the Amazon to try similar ideas.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).
This week's Virtual Picture News [here](#).



How does it make me feel?



sad

despondent
disconsolate
dismal
doleful
downhearted
forlorn
gloomy
melancholic
miserable
woeful
wretched

angry

aggrieved
annoyed
discontented
disgruntled
distressed
exasperated
frustrated
indignant
offended
outraged
resentful
vexed

happy

beaming
buoyant
cheery
contented
delighted
enraptured
gleeful
glowing
joyful

confused

addled
baffled
bemused
bewildered
disorientated
indistinct
muddled
mystified
perplexed
puzzled

excited

animated
elevated
enlivened
enthusiastic
exhilarated
exuberant
thrilled

worried

agitated
anxious
apprehensive
concerned
disquieted
distraught
distressed
disturbed
fretful
perturbed
troubled
uneasy

overwhelmed

engulfed
inundated
overburdened
overloaded
saturated
submerged
swamped

afraid

alarmed
apprehensive
daunted
fearful
frantic
horrified
petrified
terrified

guilty

ashamed
compunctious
contrite
culpable
penitent
responsible
rueful

jealous

bitter
covetous
desirous
envious
envying
resentful
wary

thankful

appreciative
grateful
gratified
indebted
obliged
relieved

shocked

astonished
astounded
disconcerted
distressed
dumbfounded
horrified
staggered
startled
stunned
surprised

disgusted

affronted
appalled
horrified
repelled
repulsed
revolted
sickened

inspired

activated
encouraged
exhilarated
galvanised
influenced
motivated

embarrassed

ashamed
awkward
chagrined
demeaned
discomposd
humiliated
self-conscious
uncomfortable
uneasy
unsettled

interested

absorbed
captivated
curious
engaged
enthralled
fascinated
gripped
intrigued
riveted

This week's story looks at events related to ...





Read the information below all about the solar-powered canoes.
What do you think are the benefits of using them?

Solar-powered boats in the Amazon

Where is the Amazon?

The Amazon rainforest is the world's largest tropical rainforest. It stretches across nine countries in South America, including Ecuador, Peru, and Brazil.

Millions of people, plants and animals live there, making it one of the most biodiverse places on Earth.



The Amazon rainforest and the Amazon river.

Travelling by river

Many communities in the Amazon have very few roads. Instead, rivers act as transport links, helping people travel between settlements.

People use boats to:



Get to school



Visit hospitals



Transport food and supplies



Attend community events



See family and friends

How do solar-powered boats work?

Solar panels collect energy from the Sun to power the canoes, so they do not need diesel fuel. Achuar people worked with engineers to create boats that help people travel, while protecting the rainforest.



Achuar technicians demonstrating the power of electric river transport. The Achuar are an Indigenous group living in the Amazon rainforest, where they have cared for the land and rivers for many generations.

Source: Kara Solar.



Look at the resource below, which explores different types of energy and how they work.

What is renewable energy?

Renewable energy is energy from things that keep coming back, like sunlight, wind and moving water.

Non-renewable energy is energy from things that can run out, like petrol, coal and gas.

Renewable energy in action:

sunlight > solar panel > battery > motor > canoe moves

Battery - stores the energy so it can be used when needed



Solar panel - collects energy from sunlight

Motor - helps the canoe move

No petrol needed - less fumes and pollution

Sunlight



Sunlight is renewable because the Sun shines every day (even if we can't see it). Solar panels can use sunlight to make electricity.



Wind



Wind is renewable because moving air never runs out. Wind can turn turbines to help make electricity.

Moving water



Moving water is renewable because rivers and water cycles keep moving. Moving water can help make electricity too.



Have you seen any of these in action before?



Look at the resource below, which shares some examples of how different places around the world are changing the way people travel.



London, UK

Some roads near London schools become School Streets at busy times of day. With fewer cars nearby, it can be safer and easier for children and families to walk, cycle or scoot.



Kochi, India

Kochi has a Water Metro, with electric boats connecting different parts of the city by water. It helps people travel across waterways while aiming to reduce road traffic and offer a more eco-friendly journey.

Medellín, Colombia

In Medellín, cable cars help people living in hillside neighbourhoods travel into the city more easily. They are a low-emission part of the public transport system, and are useful in places where steep hills make road travel difficult.



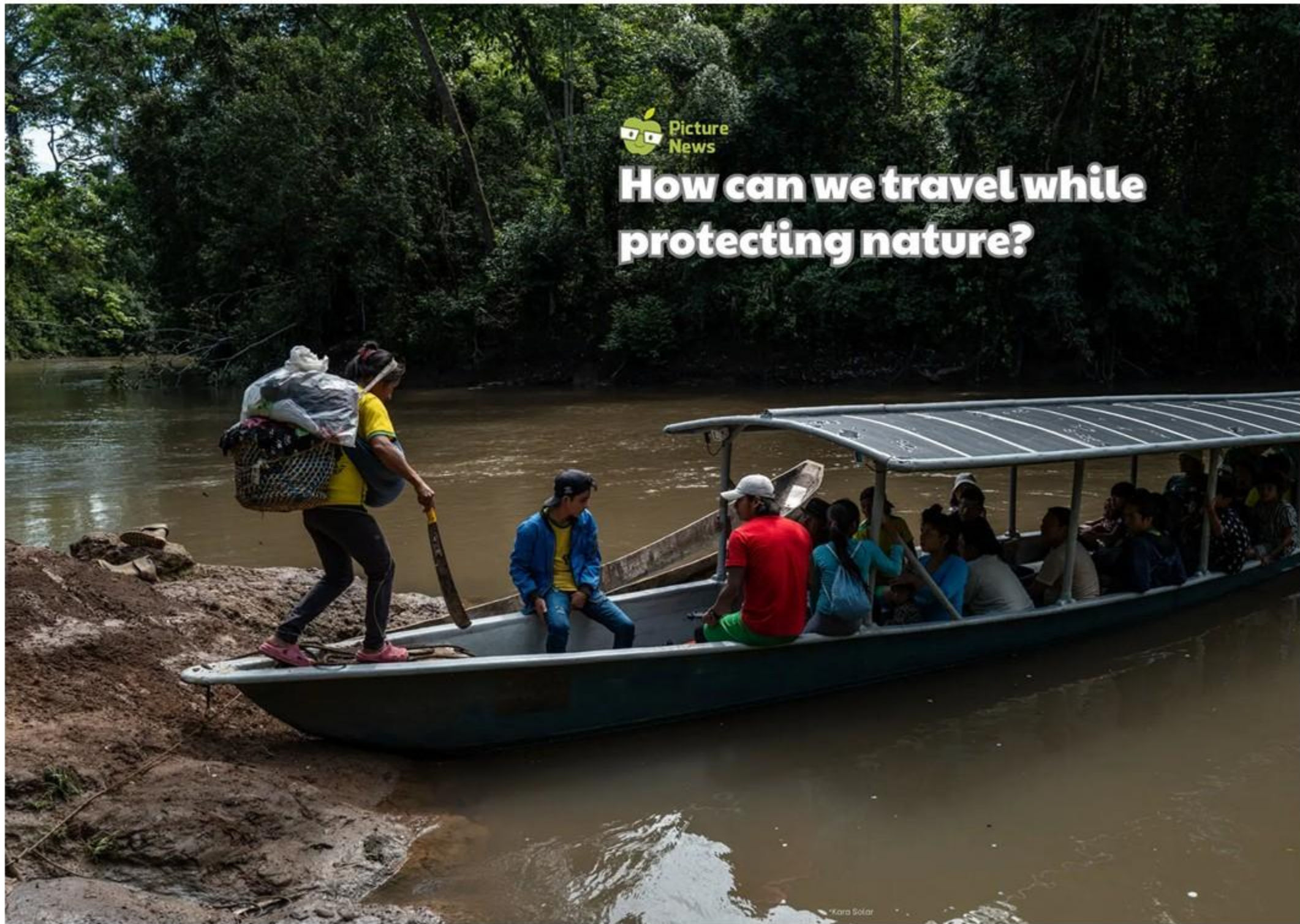
Kigali, Rwanda

In Kigali, motorcycle taxis are a common way for people to get around. Rwanda is working to replace petrol motorbike taxis with electric ones, helping to reduce pollution from busy road transport.





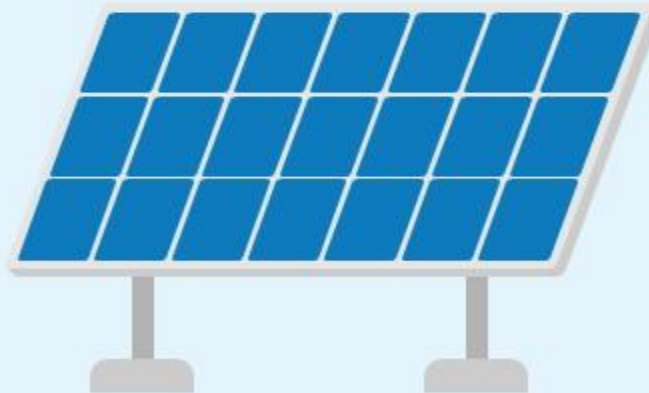
How can we travel while protecting nature?



Reflection



Looking after nature doesn't always mean giving something up, it can mean finding a better way to do it. New ideas, combined with local knowledge, can help people and the environment thrive together.



Media Literacy

I can identify what has been included in a story.



Explanation: Let's think about what is included in a story and how that helps us understand its meaning.



Analyse



Evaluate



Research



Act

Questions to Discuss

- Why do we read news stories?
- What information do you think you would find in a news story?
- Why do news stories have different parts?
- What makes a news story easy to read and understand?

Activity

Read through this week's news story. In pairs, work together to find:

- A place
- A problem or challenge
- A solution or idea
- People involved
- Any facts or numbers

Think about: What information helped you understand the story best? Why?



I Really Do Matter!



Which British value do you think this week's story highlights?



This project demonstrates **Mutual Respect and Tolerance**. Protecting the Amazon rainforest shows respect for both nature and the people who depend on the rainforest to live.

Individual Liberty is shown here because the solar-powered canoes give people the freedom and independence to travel when they need to.



Do you agree with either person, or think something different?

Protected Characteristics



Which protected characteristic do you think this week's story highlights?



This week's story links to **race** because the solar-powered canoes help Indigenous people protect their rainforest home.

Share your thoughts. Do you agree?



Sex



Who People Love



Age



Disability



Being Yourself



Marriage and Civil Partnership



Pregnancy and Maternity



Race



Religion or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



Every child has the same rights. No matter who they are, where they live, or what language they speak, children should always be treated fairly.



Useful Vocabulary



Canoe

A narrow, lightweight boat with pointed ends that moves through the water.

People living in remote parts of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador are using solar-powered **canoes** to travel along rivers.

Engineer

Someone who uses science and maths knowledge to design, build and fix things like machines, buildings, bridges and computers to help solve real-world problems.

Achuar people worked with **engineers** to create boats that help people travel.

Generations

A group of people born and living around the same time, such as children, their parents, and their grandparents, who make up different stages in a family's history.

... where they have cared for the land and rivers for many **generations**.

Indigenous

People, plants, or animals that have lived in a particular place from the very beginning, long before others arrived.

The Achuar are an **Indigenous** group...

Technician

A skilled expert who is trained to use practical tools, technology and science to fix equipment, run tests, and help make things work properly.

Achuar **technicians** demonstrating the power of electric river transport.

Thrive

To grow and do well, whether it's a plant growing strong in healthy soil or a person succeeding and feeling happy.

New ideas, combined with local knowledge, can help people and the environment **thrive** together.

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

Picture News



How can we travel while protecting nature?

People living in remote parts of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador are using solar-powered canoes to travel along rivers. The boats use energy from the Sun instead of petrol or diesel, making journeys quieter and creating less pollution. The project is helping people travel while protecting the rainforest and has inspired other communities in the Amazon to try similar ideas.



- Look at the poster image and describe what you can see.
- This week's story is all about solar-powered canoes in the Amazon. Share any knowledge you have about solar power and the Amazon.
- Why do you think some communities travel by river instead of using roads?
- Read the information on the **Assembly Resource** and watch this week's useful video all about the solar-powered canoes. In your opinion, what are the benefits of using them?
- Thinking about how you travel, what are the different methods of transport you use? What makes a good way to travel? E.g., speed, cost, convenience, or something else.
- Is it important to consider the impact on the environment when we're thinking about how we travel? How much of a part to play do technology or other new ideas have?

Reflection

Looking after nature doesn't always mean giving something up, it can mean finding a better way to do it. New ideas, combined with local knowledge, can help people and the environment thrive together.

Picture News



KS1 focus

What is renewable energy?



- Think about your day so far. What things have used energy? What helps lights, cars, buses, boats, tablets or televisions work? Where do you think energy can come from?
- Some vehicles use petrol or diesel to move. Have you ever noticed fumes, smells or noise from traffic?
- This week's story is about canoes that use energy from the Sun. What do you know about the Sun? How does it help people, plants and animals? What do you think solar-powered means?
- Look at **Resource 1**. What types of renewable energy can you see?
- Renewable energy comes from things that keep coming back, like sunlight, wind and moving water. Why do you think these things are useful?
- Non-renewable energy comes from things that can run out, like petrol, coal and gas. Why might it be a problem if we use too much of these?
- How might a solar-powered canoe be different from a canoe or boat that uses petrol? Think about noise, pollution, fumes, and people and animals nearby.
- Why might cleaner, quieter journeys be better for people, animals and plants?
- Can you think of anything that might be tricky about using sunlight for energy?
- What have you learned about renewable energy?

Reflection

Solar-powered canoes show how renewable energy can help people travel while creating less pollution.

Picture News



KS2 focus

How do communities change how they travel to protect the environment?



- What's your favourite way to travel? Why? What can affect the way people choose to travel? Think about distance, cost, time, safety and weather.
- Do people always have a choice about how they travel? Explain your thinking.
- Recap this week's story about solar-powered canoes in the Amazon rainforest. Why might rivers be important routes for people living there?
- How might petrol-powered boats affect the rainforest, rivers, animals and people? How do solar-powered canoes help people travel while protecting nature?
- Look at the examples on **Resource 2**. What is different about the travel choices in each place? Why might different places need different travel solutions?
- Do you think changing the way people travel can make a meaningful difference to the environment? How?
- What might make greener travel challenging for some communities?
- Do you think your school or community could do anything to make travel better for people and the environment in your local area? How?

Reflection

Different communities need different travel choices. The best solutions depend on the place, the people and the environment around them.

Picture News



KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Discuss that Roldán Pinedo is an artist from Peru, who paints colourful pictures of plants, animals and patterns inspired by the rainforest and his culture. Show some examples of Roldán Pinedo's artwork.

Think about: How do the colours make you feel? What patterns can you find? If you could step inside this picture, what might you hear, smell or see? What do you think Pinedo is trying to tell us about the Amazon through his paintings?

Ask the children to create their own colourful painting inspired by the patterns, plants and animals in Roldán Pinedo's artwork, using his style to celebrate the Amazon rainforest.

Option 2

Ask the children to imagine they are travelling along the Amazon river in a solar-powered canoe. Invite everyone to close their eyes while listening to a short audio clip of sounds from the Amazon rainforest.

Think about: What sounds did you notice? How did you feel listening to the rainforest? What do you think you might have seen as you travelled along the river? What colours came to mind? What might the air have felt like? Record descriptive words on the whiteboard.

Model a few examples of descriptive language. For example:

"... the towering emerald trees..." / "... the humid air clung to my skin."

Challenge the children to use the vocabulary collected on the board to write a descriptive paragraph about their journey along the Amazon river.

Picture News



KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

You will need: a bowl of water, a collection of objects to test (e.g., a coin, a sponge, a cork, an apple, plasticine), two baskets labelled 'float' and 'sink'.

Talk about the two words float and sink, thinking about what they mean.

Hold up an object. Ask the children to vote on whether they think it will float or sink.

Gently place the object into the water to see what happens. Take the object out and place it into the correct basket (float or sink).

Think about: Was everything that sank heavy? Was everything that floated light? Why? What do all the objects that floated have in common?

Challenge: Can you make a piece of plasticine float?

Option 2

Discuss that peteca is a game invented by Indigenous people living in the Amazon rainforest. Show an image of a peteca shuttlecock. Explain that in the game of peteca, you use your hand to hit the peteca (feathered shuttlecock) to try and make it land on the other team's side.

You will need: an old sock, dried beans or lentils (placed in a small bag), sticky tape, feathers.

Place the bag of dried beans into the toe of the sock to make a heavy, round base.

Tie a tight knot in the sock fabric above the beans to hold them in place.

Use sticky tape to attach the craft feathers onto the top of the knot so they point straight up.

To play, use the flat palm of your hand to hit the soft base of the sock back and forth to a partner, working together so it doesn't hit the floor.

Picture News



This week's useful websites

This week's news story

<https://mongabay.org/impact/reporting-on-solar-canoes-in-ecuadors-amazon-helps-project-expand-and-secure-funding/>

This week's useful video

<https://karasolar.com/the-solar-river>

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

This week's vocabulary

Canoe

A narrow, lightweight boat with pointed ends that moves through the water.

People living in remote parts of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador are using solar-powered **canoes** to travel along rivers.

Engineer

Someone who uses science and maths knowledge to design, build and fix things like machines, buildings, bridges and computers to help solve real-world problems.

Achuar people worked with **engineers** to create boats that help people travel.

Generations

A group of people born and living around the same time, such as children, their parents, and their grandparents, who make up different stages in a family's history.

... where they have cared for the land and rivers for many **generations**.

Indigenous

People, plants, or animals that have lived in a particular place from the very beginning, long before others arrived. The Achuar are an **Indigenous** group...

Technician

A skilled expert who is trained to use practical tools, technology and science to fix equipment, run tests, and help make things work properly.

Achuar **technicians** demonstrating the power of electric river transport.

Thrive

To grow and do well, whether it's a plant growing strong in healthy soil or a person succeeding and feeling happy. New ideas, combined with local knowledge, can help people and the environment **thrive** together.

TAKEHOME



In the news this week

People living in remote parts of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador are using solar-powered canoes to travel along rivers. The boats use energy from the Sun instead of petrol, making journeys quieter and creating less pollution. The project is helping people travel while protecting the rainforest and has inspired other communities in the Amazon to try similar ideas.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > How do you usually travel to school, work, or the shops? Why do you or the adults you travel with choose those ways?
- > Can you think of any journeys that could be different to help protect nature?
- > If you could invent a new way to travel that was kinder to the planet, what would it be like?

How can we travel while protecting nature?



Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



Brick by Brick to Victory!

A group of Year 10 pupils, from Endon High School in Staffordshire, have competed in a LEGO robotics competition! The competition took place in Jeonju-si, South Korea, and more than 50 teams from 45 countries competed. End-Tec, the team's name, beat 68 other teams to win the First LEGO League UK National Final. The pupils designed and built their own robot using LEGO and coding. They used computer programming language to tell the robot to complete different tasks in the competition. After their UK win, one of the pupils called James said, 'It's a really amazing experience – a once-in-a-lifetime thing.' The team



Pictured: The five Endon High School pupils won the First LEGO League UK National Final.
Source: Endon High School on Facebook.

also raised £25,000 to help them travel to South Korea for the international edition of the contest. Their teacher said the project takes 'hours and hours and hours of dedication' to prepare.

Is teamwork important in a competition? Why?

Keeping Animals Cool ☀

Animals at a wildlife park in York, UK, have been given frozen treats to help them stay cool during the summer heatwaves. Lemurs, meerkats, and pigs have been enjoying ice-cold snacks made from frozen fruit, vegetables, and leaves. The treats were frozen in bowls of water and given to the animals to help them cope with the high temperatures. Keepers at Askham Bryan Wildlife and Conservation Park said some animals have been struggling in the hot weather, especially the pigs, who spend more time outside in the sun. Staff are also making sure the



Pictured: A lemur enjoying the warm sun!
Source: Askham Bryan Wildlife & Conservation Park on Facebook.

animals have plenty of shade and water to help them stay comfortable. Some animals, like tortoises and lemurs, are more used to hot climates and have been enjoying the warmer weather.

What do you do to keep yourself cool?

How much should the weather influence our decisions?



I think about what the weather is going to be like in the morning and then we decide what to do.
Ayofemi

Noisey Now

Joseph McGrail-Bateup has broken the Guinness World Record (GWR) for the loudest shout ever recorded! The town crier, from Canberra and Queanbeyan in Australia, yelled the word 'now' at an ear-splitting 122.4 decibels. Joseph explained that he had help choosing the all-important word: 'my daughter and I worked together to find the best word to



Pictured: Joseph McGrail-Bateup with his GWR certificate. **Source:** Joseph McGrail-bateup on Facebook.



Pictured: Joseph McGrail-Bateup.
Source: Joseph McGrail-bateup on Facebook.

hit the decibels. The previous word was 'quiet' but that wasn't quite loud enough, and we ended up settling for the word 'now'. 122.4 decibels is very loud! The volume of the shout is comparable to a jet engine taking off, a nearby chainsaw, emergency sirens or fireworks. Joseph wasn't always loud. He said, 'When I was a kid, I didn't really have a loud voice, I was very shy, withholding all that stuff until I left school and I joined the theatre. It was very clear then that I needed to pipe up, make myself loud. So, I trained in the theatre where you didn't use microphones or anything like that and I got loud and as the years went by, louder!'

Do you think that you could break a world record?

What would you like to break the world record for?

Dinosaur in a Drawer



Pictured: A Titanosaur on display at Peterborough Cathedral.

Source: Peterborough Cathedral on Facebook.

A fossil kept in a drawer for 40 years has been identified as a dinosaur bone! Recent analysis confirmed it to be the first evidence of dinosaurs discovered in Antarctica. The fossil was originally found in 1985 and has been kept in the geology collection of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in Cambridge. It was labelled 'vertebra of large reptile' and noted that it measured 10cm wide. The specimen was brought to the attention of palaeontologist Prof Paul Barrett from the Natural History Museum. 'Believe it or not, this is the first bit of dinosaur ever discovered in Antarctica,' says Prof Barrett. 'As soon

as I saw it, I knew what we were dealing with... it was a dead cert we were dealing with a Titanosaur! This is a combination of features that's completely unique to these types of dinosaurs.' Titanosaurs are the largest species of dinosaurs to have ever walked the Earth. They are a group of long-necked, long tailed, small-headed, plant-eating sauropods, with four legs!
Do you know any facts about the Titanosaur? Do you enjoy learning about dinosaurs?

How much should the weather influence our decisions?



For me, the weather just influences what I wear - I still like to go ahead and not change my mind about my plans because I don't mind any weather!
Silvie

