



**Resource 1:** Lyrics of the song "Big Yellow Taxi" written by Joni Mitchell

*They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot  
With a pink hotel, a boutique  
And a swinging hot spot  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got  
Till it's gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot*

*They took all the trees  
Put 'em in a tree museum  
And they charged the people  
A dollar and a half just to see 'em  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got  
Till it's gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot  
Hey farmer farmer  
Put away the D.D.T. now  
Give me spots on my apples  
But leave me the birds and the bees  
Please!  
Don't it always seem to go  
That you don't know what you've got  
Till it's gone  
They paved paradise  
And put up a parking lot.*

First three stanzas of "Big Yellow Taxi". The line, "Took all the trees, put 'em in a tree museum..." refers to Foster Botanical Garden in downtown Honolulu, which is a living museum of tropical plants, some rare and endangered.



### Resource 2: Background information on the conservation movement

The conservation movement is a political, environmental and social movement that seeks to protect natural resources – including plant and animal species and their habitats – for the future. For some, conservation is a way of preserving natural resources expressly for use by humans; for others it is just as important to protect wildlife and areas of natural beauty for their own intrinsic value, as much as for any value they may have for humankind.

### Resource 3: Quotes from religious texts related to the protection of the environment and background information on the concepts of stewardship and conservation

*The Lord envelopes all that moves in the moving world. By renouncing this, find your satisfaction. Do not covet the possessions of others* (**Isha Upanishad 1- Hinduism**).

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it* (**Psalms 24:1- Christianity**).

*The world is green and beautiful, and God has appointed you his guardian over it* (**Hadith of the Prophet Muhammad- Islam**).

### Information about the concepts of stewardship and conservation

In modern terms **stewardship** is an ethic that embodies cooperative planning and management of environmental resources in order to prevent loss of habitat and facilitate its recovery in the interest of long-term sustainability.

Support for **conservation** efforts come from both humanists and religious groups. It is a humanist ideal to work for all humankind, and preserving precious resources for future generations is one aspect of that. In Judaism, Christianity and Islam the principle of stewardship stems from the belief that God is the ultimate owner of everything, and that human beings are accountable to God for the care and use of the things they take from the earth and the animals and plants they use.



### Resource 3: Quotes from religious texts (continued)

In Hindu belief, all living beings are sacred because they are parts of God, and therefore should be treated with respect and compassion, especially as the soul can be reincarnated into any form of life. Hinduism stresses that true happiness comes not from outer possessions, but from within. This means that the search for material possessions—and the concomitant consumption of materials and energy—should not be allowed to dominate. Life's main purpose is to discover your spiritual nature, which in itself brings peace and fulfilment. Thus Hindu teachers consider the exploitation of earthly resources to be a distraction from humankind's true spiritual purpose.

The Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) is a secular body that helps religious groups to develop their own environmental programmes, based on existing teachings, beliefs and practices. It was founded in 1995 by HRH Prince Philip. More information can be found on their website:

[http://www.arcworld.org/arc\\_and\\_the\\_faiths.asp](http://www.arcworld.org/arc_and_the_faiths.asp)

### Resource 4: Consequences of paving over gardens

One of the effects of paving over gardens is that the hard surfacing prevents the rain from soaking into the ground – thereby increasing the possibility of subsidence as the water table lowers and it making it more likely that localized flooding will occur. This issue will become increasingly important in cities if climate changes mean more rain and wetter winters. What other surface materials could people use to allow rain to soak into the ground but still allow parking? (e.g. gravel, brick work, or stone paving that leaves gaps).



### Resource 5: Pictures of cycle paths/lanes

Cardiff city centre  
image of the cycle  
lanes separated  
from the main flow  
of traffic by trees.  
*© Cardiff City Council*



Railway line in  
Buckinghamshire,  
UK transformed into  
a cycle path.  
*by Jon Maynard  
Friedman*





## The green ark



## Classroom resources

### Resource 6: Background information on the sacred groves and pictures

Many Hindu villages have a lake they considered to be sacred, and around it a grove of trees to catch rainfall and protect the banks from erosion. The lake and its grove store rainfall to irrigate surrounding fields and supply village wells with drinking water. These lakes and groves are very peaceful places and sanctuaries for wildlife, but unfortunately in recent times many have been neglected, which has led to serious water shortages and increasing desertification in parts of India.

The Bishnoi tribes in desert regions of Rajasthan manage groves called *orans*. Despite sparse vegetation and limited water resources, the area reportedly supports a higher density of human and animal populations than any other desert region in the world because of the conservation practices of the Boshnoi. Their philosophy is that all living things have a right to live and share resources, and therefore they have a set of laws that include a ban on killing animals and on felling trees, especially the Khejri (*Prosopis cineraria*) tree, which stabilizes sand dunes and is said to increase yields of nearby crops. The Bishnoi do not harvest from the trees directly but collect fallen leaves (for fodder for their animals), branches (for fuel) and fruit (for food). These groves also provide a protective habitat for the Indian gazelle and blackbuck that live in the desert.



A restored sacred grove in Tamil Nadu, India.

by sharonstjoan



### Resource 6: Background information on the sacred groves (continued)



A Bishnoi Village.  
*by Ajbishnoisuper*



A Khejri tree  
(*Prosopis cineraria*)  
*by J.M. Gharg*



### Web links to download the pictures included in 'The green ark' lesson resources:

#### Cycle Paths

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Fomer\\_Bradwell\\_Halt,\\_July\\_2009.JPG](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Fomer_Bradwell_Halt,_July_2009.JPG)

#### A restored sacred grove in Tamil Nadu, India

<http://sharonstjoan.wordpress.com/2010/04/03/nenmeli-where-the-trees-are-happy/>

#### A Bishnoi Village

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bishnoi\\_village.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bishnoi_village.jpg)

#### A Khejri tree (*Prosopis cineraria*)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jhand\\_%28Prosopis\\_cineraria%29\\_at\\_Hodal\\_W\\_IMG\\_1191.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jhand_%28Prosopis_cineraria%29_at_Hodal_W_IMG_1191.jpg)

### Using the images in this pack:

The images in this pack may be reproduced.

If there is no attribution then the image is old and out of copyright.

If there is an attribution under the image it is covered by:



Creative Commons  
Attribution 2.0 Generic  
(CC BY 2.0)

### You are free to:

- to Share — to copy, distribute and transmit the work
- to Remix — to adapt the work
- to make commercial use of the work

### Under the following conditions:

- Attribution — You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor (but not in any way that suggests that they endorse you or your use of the works)