



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

Graffiti superstar shows power of nature

KEYWORDS

- ☐ **Mural:**
A work of art on a wall
- ☐ **Canopy:**
The leaves on a tree
- ☐ **Government:**
The people who make decisions on how an area is run
- ☐ **Greenwash:** Lying about how good something is for the environment



© Getty Images

BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Graffiti (or drawing on walls) is as old as walls, if not older. But modern street art, the kind Banksy makes with spray paint and stencils, first appeared in the 1980s. While graffiti is illegal, nowadays people often like the art enough to leave it on the walls.

A new **mural** by the street art supremo Banksy has sparked a conversation about how nature fits into city life.

Green shoots

Spring came and the cherry tree still had no leaves on it. It had been cut back to stumps. And that's when Banksy stepped in.

The super star street artist has spray-painted a glorious green **canopy** onto the wall behind a bare cherry tree in Islington, North London.

The artist, who had one work sell for £18.6 million in 2021, confirmed that the mural was his handiwork as people flocked to see it.

Banksy's work often has a message. And a conversation has blossomed around his cherry tree.

Giovanna Iozzi, the founder of a local tree conservation group, said Banksy was criticising the local **government** for cutting the tree.

"I interpret it to be

about **greenwash**."

Others think the message is broader, that nature needs our help.

Urban trees help reduce air pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide, and offer a home to many animals.

Lawrence-Thor Stephen, 33, whose company trimmed the tree, said, "I am hoping it will burst with growth in the spring and it will be interesting to see how the artwork progresses in the coming months."





INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

ARE CONCRETE CITIES UNNATURAL?

WHAT
is Banksy's mural of?

WHO
owns the pruning company?

WHERE
is the mural?

WHEN
did Banksy's paintings sell for a lot of money?

WHY
do some people think Banksy is criticising the local government?

HOW
do trees help the urban environment?

1 TAKE ACTION

While a tree mural is pretty good, some buildings have real trees on the walls. Find out about the benefits of green walls on buildings and how they help the environment?



© Lily Banse/Unsplash

2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece that shows how plants and buildings can exist together. Share what you've learned with your family and friends. What do they think? We want to hear your ideas too! Your teacher can share your reports with us too by sending them to editorial@theday.co.uk.

3 Build THE Change



CREATE YOUR DESIGN

Banksy used art to send a message about the environment. Can you design your own art piece to raise awareness of green issues?

STEP 1:

What do you want your message to be? How will it help people to learn about the planet? Will your artwork be a drawing or even a sculpture?

STEP 2: Build the change!

Draw your eco-friendly art, or if you have time, why not make it out of LEGO® bricks or other bits of recyclable materials?

Share your genius
Show your work to your class!

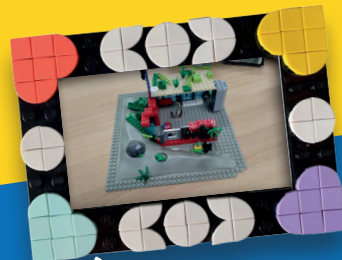


Upload a photo of your work to the **Build the Change** gallery by scanning the QR code and have your work displayed to inspire real-world change.

4

BUILDER OF THE WEEK

Every week we handpick one of the most inspirational designs from our online photo gallery to be our **BUILDER OF THE WEEK**. To get your creation featured here, ask your grown up to take a photograph and upload it to our Build the Change gallery, using the QR code on this page.



This week we have an underwater observation tower with vegetation which cleans water

"GREAT WORK!"



This worksheet is available every weekday at 6:30am London time from <https://theday.co.uk/resources/news-detectives>. For any feedback or help please contact buildthechange@theday.co.uk. Thank you.

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