



NEWS DETECTIVES

TODAY'S NEWS STORY

'Use ancient knowledge to help the planet'

KEYWORDS

- ☐ **Conserves:**
Keep, use less of
- ☐ **Scarce:** Less common
- ☐ **Acknowledging:**
Admitting
- ☐ **Food forests:** A kind of forest used to grow food



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BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Indigenous peoples are groups of people who have lived in harmony with their environment for a long time. It is a way of talking about communities that have kept up their traditions after European settlers took their land, especially in North and South America.

For thousands of years, indigenous peoples have built their homes, grown crops, fished and hunted without destroying the ecosystems they are a part of. Today, as the world faces an environmental crisis, here are some lessons we can learn from how they live.

Farming with less water

The Zuni people in New Mexico, USA, plant "waffle gardens", a waffle-shaped structure that **conserves** our most precious resources.

The Hopi people in Arizona, meanwhile, manage to grow corn in land that gets less than a third of the rainfall normally needed.

As water becomes more **scarce**, we all need to do more with less.

Using 'good fire'

The Karuk tribe in California used controlled burning to clear away dead wood. This actually makes wildfires less likely.

In 2022, California passed a law **acknowledging** the wisdom of this ancient idea.

Restoring land and water

In Hawaii, indigenous Hawaiians are reintroducing ancient **food forests** to capture carbon and restore ecosystems. On the west coast indigenous people are helping salmon populations recover.

Building with nature

From the Khasi people's living bridges in India, to underground streams and low impact houses, there are many ancient ways to work with nature and build a better future.





INVESTIGATION OF THE DAY

ARE OLD IDEAS THE BEST?

WHAT
is happening
in Hawaii?

WHO
manages to
grow corn with
hardly any
water?

WHERE
could fire
help fight
fire?

WHEN
did California
pass a law about
controlled
burning?

WHY
are the Zuni
gardens called
waffle gardens?

HOW
do waffle
gardens help the
environment?

1 TAKE ACTION

One traditional aspect of farming that's fallen out of fashion in the UK is planting hedges. Find out what hedges can do for the environment, and for animals in your local area.



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2 SHARE YOUR IDEAS

What have you found out in your investigation? Write, present or even record a piece that explains a benefit of hedges. 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

One of the things that many indigenous cultures have in common is building with nature rather than on top of it. Can you design a building that would be part of a forest?

STEP 1:

Think about your design!
What would help the building
fit in the forest?

STEP 2:

Build the change!
Draw your forest building!
If you have time, why not
make your model of it using
LEGO® bricks or other bits
of recyclable materials?

Share your genius
Show your work
to your class!

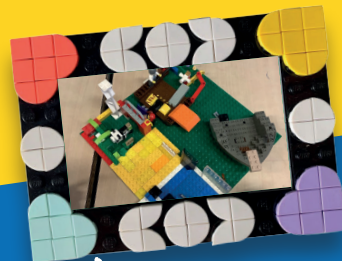


Upload a photo of your work
to the **Build the Change**
gallery by scanning the QR
code and have your work
displayed to inspire
real-world change.



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 an animal health
care centre protecting
animals that are in
danger of being extinct.

"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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