

Lesson 7: I can use my knowledge of biodiversity to understand the debate about HS2

Part 1: What is HS2?

HS2 is a high-speed rail link between London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds.

There are arguments for and against it:

Pros: shorter journey times; fewer cars on the road so better for the environment; better transport links and new jobs are good for the economy and for people.

Cons: it is very expensive; it won't be ready for a very long time; impact on the countryside and habitats; people's homes will have to be demolished to build the tracks and stations.



Part 2: Debates about the environment

Environmental **debates** are often quite complicated. Yes, we want to protect the planet, but other things need to be considered too. We want to protect habitats, but need to build homes for people. We want to limit pollution, but we all want unlimited electricity. We want to use organic farming methods, but millions of people in the world are starving.

HS2 will have an impact on the environment, but it could also provide many benefits. The question is, do the benefits outweigh the environmental and financial costs? In this lesson, you will study the arguments for and against, choose your position and write up your argument.

To help you plan this, we are going to do some research and fill in a table with the arguments for and against HS2.

Arguments for HS2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwOxwG-od6E>

Arguments for and against HS2: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51457276>

Arguments for HS2	Arguments against HS2

Part 3: Your argument

Now write your argument either for or against HS2. Remember that to give a balanced argument, it is always useful to consider both sides of it.

Word bank

biodiversity
habitat loss
environment

nature
countryside
wildlife

journey times
rail link
economy

jobs
benefits
costs

Sentence openers

However...

Although...

On the other hand...

As a result of this...

Firstly...

Finally...

Furthermore...

In contrast...

Research suggests...

Studies show...

It is well known that...

For this reason...

Consequently...

Therefore...

Also...

In addition to this...

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