

Green Show



Notes:

- ☆ The show starts in the UK, deals with some local environmental issues, and then goes round the world. You can start it from wherever you live, by changing the order of the countries the balloon visits.
- ☆ I have only included brief ideas for script, as I produced the show with young children, who had their own ideas and were generally more comfortable with their own words.
- ☆ There are plenty of opportunities for sound effects, at whatever level you and the cast can manage. We had fun with gale-force winds blowing the balloon about.
- ☆ PROPS: Making props was great fun and involved a lot of recycled cardboard boxes, flattened and cut out into shapes. We made masks on sticks for the animals, so the children could portray two or three different creatures. We kept them on the side of the stage in tall cylindrical containers made from cardboard tubes (fabric still comes wrapped around those), and the children collected them and returned them as needed for each scene. The main elephant head was huge, big enough for two children to hide behind, and it had a moving trunk made of stuffed grey velvet. Two cords were attached to the end and pulled and released from behind.

The clouds had a white side and a grey side and were turned on cue. We made the sparkling fish with red, blue, green, silver and gold foil for their scales. We made cardboard rifles and cameras for the hunters and a slap board for the 'Take 1,2,3 and 4' cue in the Tiger song.

Painted faces also work, if you have enough cast members, or you could use animal costumes. Have fun with it all.



Scene 1 - in the park

The stage is littered with old newspapers, empty bottles, and discarded clothes. There are prominent recycling bins. Children enter, and they are horrified at the state of it all.



Suggested lines:

“This park is such a mess.”

“Let’s clear it up.”

“I’ll throw the bottles in the bin.”

“No, there’s a recycling bank for bottles over there.”

“Yes, and a clothes bank.”

“Some of this can be recycled, it’s not all rubbish.”

During the song, the children clear up the park, putting the bottles, paper and clothes into the appropriate bins.



DON'T TIP IT IN THE BIN

(Chorus)

Don't tip it in the bin don't throw it away
Take another look at it someone might have a use for it
Don't tip it in the bin don't throw it away
Find another use for it save it for a rainy day

Big bottles, small bottles, brown and green
All your empty jam jars, clear and clean
Glass is precious, just like gold
Help make new bottles out of old
But whatever you do, whatever you do...

(Chorus)

When you're bursting out of your pyjamas and they might go pop
Give them to your little cousin or a charity shop
But if they're worn right through the knees and sides and front and back
Just snip off the buttons and send the rest for rags in a big black sack
But whatever you do, whatever you do...

(Chorus)



Scene 2 - in the park, on the beach, in the town

The children start playing with kites, going on swings, eating lollipops and putting the rubbish tidily in the bin. During each verse, one child throws some rubbish (eg: ice-cream wrappers) on the ground, gets scolded by the others and is marched across to the litter bin, where he/she dutifully places the rubbish.

▶ SONG 2. A LITTLE BIT O' LITTER

Sitting in the park on a windy day
Kite is flying high on a string
Eating lollipops, rubbish away
Rollercoaster swing

(Chorus)
Along came a girl/boy and I heard her/him say
The bin's over there, but it's too far away
But one bit o' litter won't matter, I say
A little bit o' litter won't matter today
A little bit o' litter! No way! I shout
It's a little bit o' litter we can do without

Sitting in the square on a cloudy day
Bags of shopping by our feet
Eating fish'n'chips, rubbish away
Running down the street

(Chorus)

Sitting on the beach on a sunny day
Running in and out of caves
Eating sandwiches, rubbish away
Diving in the waves

(Chorus)



Scene 3 - on the road

Motor cars start zooming noisily around the children, who hold their noses and block their ears.



Suggested lines:

“What’s that awful noise?”

“And what’s that awful smell?”

“It’s the cars, they cause a lot of pollution.”

“What’s the answer?”

“Ride bicycles instead.”

“Yes, they’re quiet and they don’t spoil the air.”

During the song, the children first of all watch the speeding drivers and then one by one take their steering wheels away and give them handlebars instead. In the end, they are all pedalling around in tandem on bicycles.

▶ SONG 3.

I’VE GOT MY CAR

I’ve got my car and I can drive it
I’ve got my car and I can drive
I’ve got my car and I can drive it
Drive, drive, drive, drive, drive, drive

Haven’t you heard of exhaust and pollution
Filling the air, getting worse each day
You and your wheels are just adding to the problem
Hurling and screaming down the motorway
Why don’t you call it a day?

I’ve got my bike and I can ride it
I’ve got my bike and I can ride
I’ve got my bike and I can ride it
Ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride, ride

Climb on a bike and enjoy free wheeling
Fly through the air on a green machine
Glide down the lanes and pedal to the ocean
Follow the sun, and follow your dream
Follow the sun and your dream



Scene 4 - on the road, in the countryside, on the river

Groups of children cycle around in twos (verse 1), go tramping with backpacks (verse 2), and then row gently along the river (verse 3).



GREEN MACHINES

Pedal along on a cycle
Toddle around on a trike
Trundle in twos on a tandem
Go anywhere that you like
Low gear on the mountain
Skid near the ravine
Sliding, gliding, sky-high flying
On your green wheel machine
Out of sight, out of mind
Leave the car behind

Ramble in fields full of poppies
Amble in meadows and lanes
Scramble in ditches and gullies
Hide in a barn when it rains
Watch out for the brambles
Sharp thorns are mean
Stamping, tramping, stumbling, tumbling
On your green heel machine
Off you go, far away
Put the car away

Float in a boat on the ocean
Paddle in rivers and streams
Dangle your toes in the water
Even the fishes have dreams
Head out to an island
No human has seen
Sailing, trailing, streaming, dreaming
On your green keel machine
Splash about on the foam
Leave the car at home
Just remember when you go exploring
Leave the car at home!



Scene 5 - the river

The children in the boats are first of all delighted to see all the sparkling fish, but then upset to see them die because of the pollution.

In verse 1, Ozzy Otter takes centre stage and sings about his tummy ache. The children respond:



“Oh, poor Ozzy. Where exactly does it hurt?”

“All over!”

“Come on Ozzy, we’ll take you to the vet.”

“It’s the factory that’s causing this pollution.”

“We’ll report it to the council.”

In verse 2, the councillor, with his clip board and pencil, views the situation, ‘Well, of course, there are all these rules and regulations’ and the children exhort him to ‘Do something about it’.

Verse 3 -The factory man Himself (in Dickensian top hat) struts on stage but is confronted by the councillor and the angry children, and exits promising to do something about the pollution.

The fish and Ozzy return in the last stanza and the river is back to normal.





 **SONG 5.** OZZY OTTER AND HIS SPARKLING FISH

(Chorus)

Sparkling fish going bub-bub-bubble
Fins flashing at the doub-doub-double
Scales glistening, tails flickering,
Shoals of us darting around
Water's brown we're in troub-troub-trouble
Dirty foam going bub-bub-bubble
Liquid thickening, feels like strychnine
We will surely drown

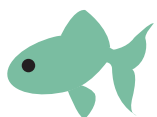
My name is Ozzy Otter and I live up near the lake
I ate a fish this morning now I've got a tummy-ache
It looked a funny colour and I'm feeling rather crock
I think I need some medicine please take me to the doc

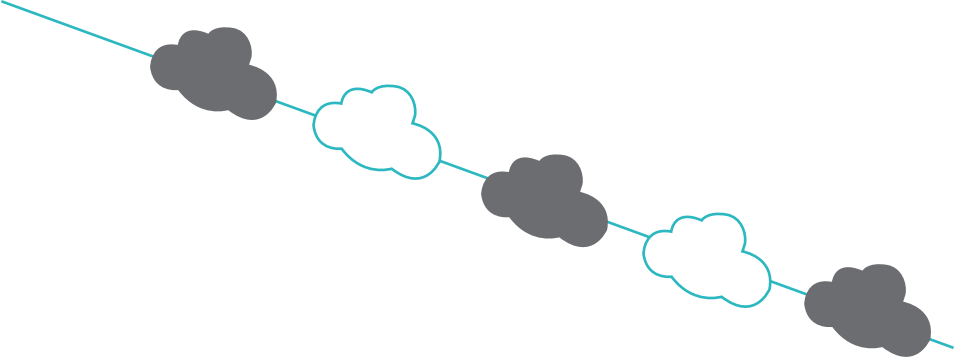
The factories waste and chemicals are causing this pollution
The mess is quite disgusting so we need a quick solution
Now councillor get moving, it mustn't take an age
The fish and fowl are dying while you read the printed page

Now here you have in black and white the facts of my inspection
Your waste disposal plants could cause a serious infection
So tute suite Mister Factory Man please sort out your machine
Or you will get a hefty fine, let's keep the river clean

(Chorus)

Sparkling fish going bub-bub-bubble
Fins flashing at the doub-doub-double
Scales glistening, tails flickering
Shoals of us darting around
Water's clean, no more troub-troub-trouble
Wiggling weed going bub-bub-bubble
Numbers doubling, busy bubbling
Dashing and flashing, shooting and scooting
Sliding and gliding around
Follow the sun and your dream





Scene 6 - up in the clouds



As the factory owner exits, the children grab him and point up at the sky. “Well, Mr Factory Man, you’ve sorted out the river, but just look at that horrible black smoke pouring out of your factory chimneys!”

Children can hold clouds, one white side and one grey, turning them according to the words.



MIND WHAT YOU'RE SENDING UP YOUR CHIMNEY

Mind what you're sending up your chimney
Mind what you're sending up your stack
Don't turn a blind eye
To what you're putting in the sky
As you watch the factory smoke go drifting by

Clouds should be clean and white and fluffy
Clouds should be full of H2O
Full of gas they kill alas
So remember this refrain
What goes up into the sky soon comes back down again

Forests and lakes and streams are dying
Buildings are crumbling to the core
Danger in the air
We had better all beware
Smoke and fumes, exhaust pollution everywhere

Clean up the smoke in all your chimneys
Clean up the air so we can breathe
One golden rule so we all stay cool
Just remember this refrain
What goes up into the sky soon comes back down again



“How are we going to sort out the clouds?”
“We’ll have to go up and test them”

Some children arrive with a hot air balloon.

“Are you going up into the clouds?”
“Yes, would you like to join us?”
“In we get, and up we go”

(Opportunity for ‘ascending’ music)

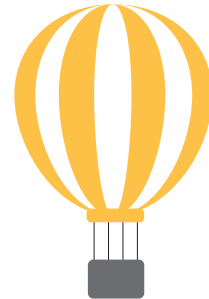
Sound of a gale.

“Oh no, we’re being blown away!”

They shift from side to side of the stage, along with the clouds.

“Where are we?”
“Over the sea!”
“Over the land!”
“It doesn’t look like the UK!”
“No, I can see a giraffe!”
“So can I, and it’s not in a zoo.”

The children exit with balloon, and the giraffe come on stage...





Scene 7 - Africa

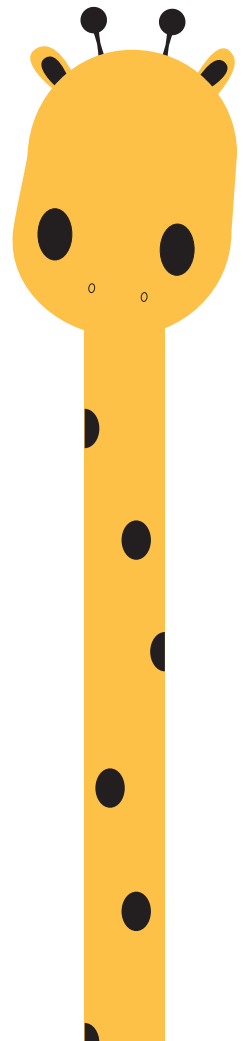
The giraffe, with an aloof expression, walk elegantly around the stage.
The rhino are dwarfed by the height of the giraffe.

▶ SONG 7. GIRAFFE

Giraffe reaching for the highest leaves
Giraffe you tower over trees
Gazing over the African plain
Patches on your skin and a tufty brown mane
Giraffe elegantly elevated
Giraffe you're highly cultivated
Looking down on the world around
Wondering why the rest are so close to the ground

Who's that crawling down so low?
Could it be the rhino?
You tell me, I don't know
Belly on the floor but I can't be sure
Looking from under my long eyelashes
I think he's the one who charges and dashes
Very dumpy and rather stout
Mind what you're calling me - you'd better watch out!
There's danger about, there's danger about

Giraffe bending down to sip the lake
Giraffe legs akimbo, will they break?
Wobble as you try to stand up again
Everyone is different you mustn't be vain
Giraffe you're too serious by half
Giraffe it's time to have a laugh
Cos some of us are short and some of us are tall
Some of us enormous and some of us quite small
Some can leap from tree to tree and some of us just crawl
But there's room on the reservation for us all





Scene 8 - still in Africa

Rhino gallop and charge about.

▶ SONG 8.

RHINO, RUN!

(Chorus)

Rhino run with a lumbering dash
Rhino run with a blundering crash
Rhino run with a thundering splash
Tap it for the rhino
Clap it for the rhino
Slap it for the rhino
Save the rhino with the rhino rap!

Into a water hole, a muddy ocean
Cover me up with a muddy sun tan lotion
Save my skin from the scorching sun
But who'll save me from the man with his gun?

(Chorus)

Rhino run with a lumbering dash
Rhino run with a blundering crash
Rhino run with a thundering splash
Tap it for the rhino
Clap it for the rhino
Slap it for the rhino

Save the rhino with the rhino rap!
Hide your face
Say it's a disgrace
That the human race can't leave a space
For the last living rhino with a horn on it's face!





Scene 9 - Africa

Elephant roam about the stage.

SONG 9. MY ELEPHANT SKIN

Here I stand
You must admit I'm rather grand
With my long waving trunk and flapping ears
A memory that lingers on for years and years
Across the land we travel in our elephant band
Please don't lock me up in a cage
For that would really put me in a rage
Whatever you do, don't dress me up for circus or for stage
'Cos I'm very comfortable in my elephant skin.

Our needs are few
Water, land and trees will do
We have to go a long way half the forest's gone
Trunk touching tail, plod, plodding on
The plain is wide water's on the other side
Mothers, sons and daughters, we all agree
We have a lot of fun in each other's company
So let us live the way we were intended to be
'Cos we're very comfortable
We're very comfortable
We're very comfortable in our elephant skin!



Scene 10 - India

The children in the balloon get blown across the seas and catch sight of a tiger. They land and are alarmed to see a hunter stalking the endangered animal. They persuade the hunter to shoot with a camera, rather than a gun.



TIGER!

Tiger, tiger, creeping quietly through the jungle
 Tiger creeping after your harmless prey
 What do you want it for?
 To feed my cubs who are hungry for more
 I go hunting everywhere while they hide in our lair
 Why does it have to die?
 We need to eat that's the reason why
 Tigers kill, you understand, it's part of nature's plan

Hunter, hunter, sneaking softly through the jungle
 Hunter sneaking after an easy prey
 What do you want it for?
 I want its skin to lie on my floor
 Gaping mouth and staring eyes
 A look of dead surprise
 Why does it have to die?
 I want to rule the earth and sky
 My hand commands the gun and makes me number one

We have the power to choose right and wrong
 No need to kill to feel strong
 Pick up a camera, shoot it alive
 Take it on film, let the tiger survive

Hunter, hunter, filming tiger in the jungle
 Tiger free to live and feed your cubs another day
 Take 1, 2, 3 and 4
 Shoot it for your cutting room floor
 Keep it in your memory and keep it in your mind
 Take 1, 2, 3 and 4
 We can watch it for evermore
 Leave the living tiger, leave the living tiger
 Leave the living tiger behind
 Let the tiger live!



Scene 11 - China

Again the balloon is whisked along, round the world, while the children talk about endangered species. They wonder where they are going next, but then they spot a panda lurking in the bamboo forest.

▶ SONG 11. BLUES FOR A BEAR

I'm a big big bear
A very special kind
A black and white bear
A few of us you'll find
I only eat bamboo
That's how I'm inclined (that's my style)
I'm a laid back panda but I'm sad behind my smile

I don't hunt animals
I look for bamboo
It's very rare like me
And very hard to chew
The bamboo's disappearing
'cos people want to grow their veggies too (that's their style)
I'm a laid back panda, but I'm sad behind my smile

I'm a solitary bear
I shun company
I eat lying down
To conserve energy
My habit is shrinking
Will you help conserve me? (and my style)
I'm a laid back panda, but I'm sad behind my smile (you know why)
I'm a laid back panda, but I'm sad behind my smile





Scene 12 - Australia

After another exciting flight, the balloon floats over Australia. The children are delighted with the antics of the kangaroos.

SONG 12. THE KANGAROO HOP

(Chorus)

Hop, hop! Hoppa-doo-wa-doo-wa! (x5)

Hop, hop! It's the kangaroo hop!

Well, the kangaroo has these little ears
When he hears you coming he disappears
Kangaroo has these little eyes
You can't creep up and give him a surprise
Kangaroo has these big feet
Help him go a-walking down the street

(Chorus)

Hop, hop! Hoppa-doo-wa-doo-wa! (x5)

Hop, hop! It's the kangaroo hop!

Kangaroo has these little paws
Help her go a-scrabbling out of doors
Kangaroo has this big long tail
Help her keep her balance like a mighty sail
Kangaroo has this big pouch
Oh! The little joey comes popping out!

Hop, hop! Hoppa-doo-wa-doo-wa! (x5)

Hop, hop! Hoppity doo-wa-doo-wa!

Hop, hop! Shiggly hoppity doo-wa-doo-wa!

Hop, hop! It's the kangaroo hop!



Scene 13 - Antarctica

The balloon flies over the sea to Antarctica.

SONG 13. ANTARCTICA - THE PENGUINS' PLEA

(Chorus)

Don't bring your rubbish and viruses and germs to Antarctica
Leave us the land where we've lived for millions of years
Don't bring your rubbish and viruses and germs to Antarctica
Humans, use the brains which nestle between your ears

We glide and we slide
It's twenty below in the ice and snow but it's never too cold for me
We glide and we slide
We go diving for fish in the South Atlantic sea

(Chorus)

Don't bring your rubbish and viruses and germs to Antarctica
Leave us the land where we've lived for millions of years
Don't bring your rubbish and viruses and germs to Antarctica
Humans, use the brains which nestle between your ears

Circling under freezing skies in the bitter weather
Huddling up in bitter winds, we're keeping very close together
Will my Dad find me here? I'm listening for his song
I've been standing waiting so very long

(Chorus)

Don't bring your rubbish and viruses and germs to Antarctica
Leave us the land where we've lived for millions of years
Don't bring your rubbish and viruses and germs to Antarctica
Humans, use the brains which nestle between your ears



Scene 14 - South America

The balloon is taken over the seas to South America, where it flies very low and crocodiles snap at the travellers.

▶ SONG 14. CROCODILE RAG

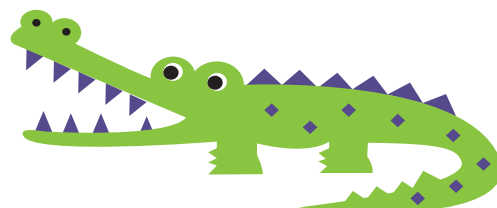
(Chorus)

Snap, snap! I'm a little crocker!
Snap, snap! Proper little rocker!
Don't make me into a bag
Don't make me crocodile swag!
Snap, snap! I'm a little crocker!
Snap, snap! Proper little rocker!
Don't make me into a bag
Just join in our croco-crocodile rag
Come and join our croco-crocodile rag!

Smile when we see a proper crocodile
Waddling in such a super style
Showing off the pattern of his teeth which fit so very neatly
Mind you don't go up too close or you will find
There's a little finger left behind
That is why the crocodile is smiling, oh, so very sweetly

(Chorus)

Snap, snap! I'm a little crocker!
Snap, snap! Proper little rocker!
Don't make me into a bag
Don't make me crocodile swag!
Snap, snap! I'm a little crocker!
Snap, snap! Proper little rocker!
Don't make me into a bag
Just join in our croco-crocodile rag
Come and join our croco-crocodile, snip, snap
With my super smile, snip, snap
Snip, snap, snip, snap, watch those teeth
Croco-crocodile rag! Snip, snap!





Scene 15 - South America

The children are alarmed to see the devastation of the rainforest, and make a bid to stop the destruction.

SONG 15. STOP CHOPPING DOWN TREES

Chop, chop, chopping down trees
Chop, chop, chopping down trees

Listen to the birds sing (whistle like birds)
Listen to the monkeys talk (monkeys chattering)
Listen to the mice squeak (mice squeaking)
Listen to the parrots squawk (squawk! squawk!)

Chop, chop, chopping down trees
Chop, chop, chopping down trees (nee-aw!)

Listen to the chainsaw (nee-aw!)
Listen to the engine roar (brrrrmm!)
Listen to the lorries go (brrrrmm!)
Listen to the trucks go (brrrrmm!)

Chop, chop, chopping down trees
Chop, chop, chopping down trees

We have made a big space
You have made an empty space
Listen to the birds sing
Now there's nothing

Stop, stop chopping down trees
Stop, stop chopping down trees
Stop, stop chopping down trees
Stop, stop chopping down trees

We want to hear the birds sing (whistle like birds)
We want to hear the monkeys talk (monkeys chattering)
We want to hear the mice squeak (mice squeaking)
We want to hear the parrots squawk (squawk! squawk!)
Stop, stop chopping down trees
Stop, stop chopping down trees (whisper)
Stop, stop chopping down trees



Scene 16 - Home

The balloon flies the children back home and they talk about their adventures, and what they can do to help sustain our planet.

▶ SONG 16. ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER WAY

There's only one world for everyone to share
Creatures on land, in the sea and the air
What will you promise to do so they all
Have enough space to walk in, to fly, swim or crawl

(Chorus)

We'll find a way to live another day
We'll leave the trees and clean the seas
Clear the air, save the ozone layer
We'll live another day, another way
We'll find a way, we'll find a way, we'll find a way

Space for the tigers to stalk and to prowl
Space for the dolphins and whales in the sea
What will you promise to do so they all
Have a future that's safe and a future that's free





Scene 17 - Home

The last song encourages the audience to make some lifestyle changes to help the environment.

SONG 17. SAVE OUR WORLD

(Chorus)

Well you can go home now
But don't forget the message
Save our world, the land, the sea, the shore
Change your style
Start wearing your green badges
And we'll keep our planet spinning for evermore
Change your style
Start wearing your green badges
And we'll keep our planet spinning for evermore

Use your silver wheels, yeah!
Use your little heels, yeah!
Use your floaty keels, yeah! Y
eah, yeah, yeah!
Recycle glass and tin,
Recycle plastic, recycle everything
Yeah, yeah, yeah!
Save our world

(Chorus)

Well you can go home now
But don't forget the message
Save our world, the land, the sea, the shore
Change your style
Start wearing your green badges
And we'll keep our planet spinning for evermore
Change your style
Start wearing your green badges
And we'll keep our planet spinning

Keep our planet spinning
Keep our planet spinning
Round forever, ever, evermore.
Save Our World!