

Lesson Plan 1**Assessing your school environment****Identifying existing biodiversity and wildlife habitats in a given area.**

Covering National Curriculum Areas in: Geography, Citizenship, Environment, ICT and maths (Block C, handling data).

Objectives:

KS1 and 2 Children should learn

- To investigate places
- To collect and record evidence to answer questions
- How people affect the environment
- Become familiar with vocabulary /terms relating to nature and the environment
- How trees support biodiversity
- To use ICT to present findings

Activities:**Whole Class Teaching**

As a class identify an area which supports wildlife, eg. a wooded area, hedgerow or copse on or near school grounds. Visit the area and gather evidence eg. photographs, sketches, fallen leaves.

Explain the importance of not pulling up wild plants; 'Being kind to nature'.

Discuss with children which trees, plants and animals and insect life are present in the area and identify species. Identify an area on the school grounds that could become a conservation area and attract more wildlife.

Independent Work

Dividing the children into small groups ask each to draw diagrams of how they might represent an ecological system in the designated area eg; a food chain. Soil nurtures plants, plants are eaten by insects which are eaten by birds and bats and small mammals and so on.

Consider planting native broadleaf trees and research which would be most suitable for the area and would suit the soil and have berries which would attract birds and wildlife.

Wordsearch puzzle using associated vocabulary.

Development:

Revisiting the identified area again to produce a seasonal record on what stage plants are in their lifecycle, what insects can be found at different times of year? Which leaves are evergreen or deciduous? Photos and sketches can keep a record of these changes.

Introduce information on migration and hibernation, nut storing by squirrels etc.

Protecting and increasing biodiversity – practical ideas and projects are suggested in **Lesson plan 2**.

Suggested projects and useful links for environmental lesson plans :

- Making a wormery: www.ecofriendlykids.co.uk/WatchingWormsWorkWormFarm.html
- Starting a compost heap: www.compostinstructions.com
- Making a bird feeder (using recycled plastic bottles and tetra packs):
www.wildlifewatch.org.uk
- Rearing common caterpillars: www.wildlifewatch.org.uk
- Useful notes on biodiversity: www.ecofriendlykids.co.uk/BiodiversityNature.html
- Free monthly resource pack on biodiversity for schools:
www.wwf.org.uk/what_we_do/working_with_schools

Resources:

Clipboards, pencils, colouring pencils, camera

Note: This is an adaption of the Geography at Key stages 1 and 2 scheme of work from the Standards site (www.standardsdfes.gov.uk) which focuses on the assessment of natural habitats in the school grounds or local areas.

This Lesson Plan is one of two lesson plans available for free download at www.marchant.co.uk. Marchant Manufacturing is a UK company making refuse sacks which supports recycling, composting and good environmental practices in everything it does.

If you would like any free compostable bags for your school to use as part of any lessons then please do contact us at Marchants. E: jamesmarchant@marchant.co.uk. In return we simply ask that (if possible) you could send us a small selection of work from the classes which used the bags, or the lesson plans, so that we can put them on our website to inspire and encourage the environmentalist in us all.