

Lesson Plan 2**Improving your school's natural environment**

Choose one or more of the activities to suit your class and time frames.

Objectives:

Children should learn:

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

Activities:

- Making a School Garden: www.thegrowingschoolsgarden.org.uk
- Make a Bug Hotel:
www.thegrowingschoolsgarden.org.uk/downloads/Wildlife-Stations-Make-It.pdf
- Making a wormery: www.ecofriendlykids.co.uk/WatchingWormsWorkWormFarm.html
- Starting a compost heap: www.compostinstructions.com
- Making a bird feeder: www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Whole Class Teaching

Choose one or more of these projects to start a class discussion at the beginning of the unit with key questions, eg:

- *How do people change animals lives?*
- *What improvement will this make to our surroundings and to the life of insects, birds and animals that live here?*
- *How does encouraging natural plant life help with climate change?*
- *How is composting our food waste helping the environment?*

Make a mind map and then compare at the completion of activities for evidence of learning.

Independent Work

Depending on the activity chosen, wordsearch puzzles, produce drawings and diagrams based on their activities.

Making and filling in a log in a table form of how many worms/ birds/bugs can be counted during practical activity. (The RSPB website has useful templates and conduct regular bird counts which pupils can contribute to).

Outcomes

Children appreciate the need for improvement and care in some places; are aware that that particular people have some responsibility for managing and improving environments; make the connection between recycling waste and protecting nature; and develop skills in following diagrams and making items.

Development

Devise an action plan for ongoing maintenance and sustainability in the case of class garden or compost heap projects.

Other Useful Links:

- www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/SchoolsPack.40c16d46.2153.pdf (excellent teachers download on creative composting for KS2).
- www.growingschools.org.uk ('Get your Hands Dirty' project available to download with information on the issues of caring for plants and animals on school grounds)
- www.recyclenow.com (2 downloadable packs for KS1 and KS2 – We recommend the Waste Audit and Action plan schemes of work).

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.