



Activity 6 Biodiversity trail

This activity provides a biodiversity audit of your school grounds and helps pupils develop a sense of place through mapping activities.

Curriculum area(s)	Resources needed	Preparatory activity
<p>Science Planet Earth – biodiversity and interdependence.</p> <p>Social Studies People, place & environment.</p> <p>Technologies ICT to enhance learning.</p>	<p>School grounds</p> <p>Digital camera</p> <p>Plans of your school grounds</p>	<p>School Grounds</p> <p>Explore how your pupils feel about their school grounds, with a focus on any natural elements or areas. Use this information as a baseline to begin to make improvements. Provide a large plan of the grounds. See how many natural elements they can remember before they go outside. Mark these on the plan.</p>

Main activity description

Biodiversity Trail

Depending on pupil age/ability, work as a class or in small groups/pairs. Take a pre-selected route through your school grounds. When you encounter any feature of biodiversity interest e.g. mini-beast log habitat, tree, flower bed – take a picture. Note down the place name of each photograph (e.g. 'by entrance gate'/'behind recycling area' etc) as an aid to remembering where it was taken. Back in the classroom, can the pupils remember the route they took, using the plan map? How do the natural features found compare with their map from memory?

Map the route

Print out each photograph with a code number in the top corner. Ask the class to spread out plans of the school grounds and map the route taken. Work out, on the plan, where each photograph was taken. Sticky labels or post-its could be used to mark the places on the map where a photograph was taken.

For younger children

The photo places could already be numbered on the maps, each group would then only need to work out which lettered photograph corresponded to which numbered point.

Discussion

Discuss which landscape features on the map were used to pin point where the photographs were taken from, and which direction the photographer faced.



Extension activities	Sources & further inspiration
<p>Use this plan for any further design or development work on your school grounds, so that you can protect or enhance biodiversity in your school grounds.</p> <p>Try using more advanced technology to survey your grounds – for example GPS mapping tools, or develop maths skills in navigation and scale.</p> <p>Try comparing pupil memories of their grounds with that of the teachers!</p> <p>Design information labels for your biodiversity trail. Why not feature it on a school open day, and pupils can act as Biodiversity rangers/ guides?</p>	<p>Adapted from 'Photo trail' available through the LTS outdoor learning website www.ltscotland.org.uk/outdoorlearning via 'school/centre grounds – resources' subsections.</p> <p>Grounds for Learning provide ideas and resources for biodiversity in your school grounds www.gflscotland.org.uk See <i>Maps from Memory</i> activity in the membership resources.</p> <p>Eco-Schools (Biodiversity) www.resource.ecoschoolsscotland.org See the 'Biodiversity' section.</p>

