

Introduction

Welcome to the Nature on your doorstep activity pack. This has been produced by Scottish Natural Heritage with help from Eco-Schools Scotland, RSPB, Forestry Commission and Grounds for Learning. The pack includes eight activity ideas and lots of web links to other biodiversity activities. It has been produced to celebrate biodiversity during 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. See www.cbd.int/2010 for multimedia resources you may wish to use in the classroom to introduce biodiversity.

How to use this pack

Get outdoors! There are 16 activities in the pack and a page of simple definitions for you to use with your class. The activities are aimed at all age groups and identify key curriculum areas and resources required. These are tried and tested ideas which you should adapt to suit your particular circumstances. There are many more activities available on-line at www.snh.gov.uk – follow the links for teachers. Our work with Learning and Teaching Scotland on their outdoor learning web site also offers lots of activities, resources (including people!) and information about outdoor spaces close to your school. Visit www.ltscotland.org.uk/outdoorlearning and follow the links to resources via Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning.

A cross-curricular resource

Curriculum for Excellence notes that one of the features of effective learning & teaching in the expressive arts includes “establishing links within the expressive arts subjects and with the wider curriculum”.

Technologies are also naturally brought on board through use of media such as digital photography and ICT.

Social studies (people, place and environment) can be engaged when addressing care for the environment.

The changing nature of Scotland can be explored through studying human impacts on the environment. Species re-introduction programmes demonstrate what positive changes can be made, but can also create **debate** among different human interest groups.

Mathematics can be engaged through activities that require numbers and measure, and information handling.

Biodiversity is a catalyst that allows both teachers and learners to find a natural expression for those areas that are the responsibility of all – **health and wellbeing, literacy and numeracy**.

The activity sheets indicate the most obvious curriculum areas supported, but teachers will find they make their own creative connections – naturally!

Nature is on your doorstep – get out more, get more out!

