



Activity 14 Recording & Re-photography

This activity looks at the living landscapes around us and changes that occur over time, with the support of ICT resources. Using repeat digital photography and simple biological recording, pupils can record variation and change in the environment and explore the reasons why.

Curriculum area(s)	Resources needed	Preparatory activity
<p>Science Planet Earth – biodiversity and interdependence.</p> <p>Social Studies People, past events & societies; people, place & environment.</p> <p>Technologies ICT to enhance learning.</p>	<p>Outdoor space With natural features that can be re-visited regularly</p> <p>Digital cameras</p> <p>ICT resources</p>	<p>School Grounds Many species are restricted to particular types of habitats whilst the geographical distribution of a species is usually closely related to some aspect of the climate. Species either adapt or decline in response to changing environments, often due to human activity. Explore archive maps to see what changes have occurred in your local landscape over time. See National Library of Scotland http://maps.nls.uk/ Ordnance Survey www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk</p> <p>Register with Nature's Calendar for a free starter pack. This interactive website allows you to record and view seasonal events that show the impact of climate change on our wildlife. www.naturescalendar.org.uk/home.htm</p>

Main activity description

The site

Working with your pupils, identify areas in your school grounds or local site that can be revisited easily on a regular basis. This might be a recently redeveloped or planted site, a 'brownfield' site, or edge of a playing field, meadow or woodland. It may be a viewpoint that takes in a wider landscape. Deciding on a mix of sites to record allows a range of perspectives, from close-up detailed changes (e.g. a sunflower growing, flowering and setting seed) to larger scale landscape changes (e.g. building site development; changes in city garden allotments, field cultivation).

Site monitoring

Decide on a timescale and frequency for site monitoring e.g. weekly, monthly, seasonal or annual basis, depending on the expected rate of change. Set a fixed point from where repeat digital photographs will be taken, and note camera settings to ensure consistency over time. Encourage pupils to take robust records of date, time, weather, and other conditions to accompany each photographic record.



Accompany photographic records with species recording using the Nature's Calendar recording forms. Pupils can decide which species to record and follow progress with interactive maps online.

Discussion

Discuss and agree a method of displaying the information gathered.

Look at the images and discuss the habitat/ landscape changes recorded over time. Compare this with the species data. Is it possible to find links between these observations?

Extension activities

Wildlife area

Create a new wildlife area in your grounds or monitor an existing one, and link to your Nature's Calendar recording work. Why not set up an outdoor blackboard for everyone to make and share species observations?

Sources & further inspiration

SNH education pack Advances Series 7 *The heat is up and it's raining: the effects of current climate changes across Scotland.*

LTS climate change information www.ltscotland.org.uk/sustainabledevelopment/climatechange/index.asp

