



Tree Survey activity

Summary information

Age range:	5-14
Curriculum Links:	Science, Geography
Time needed:	40 minutes (first session)
Group size:	2 - 4
Setting:	Outdoors
Learning Cycle:	Motivating
Key vocabulary:	Biodiversity, identification, species



Sustainable learning outcomes:

- To understand more about habitats and ecosystems
- To understand how everyday activities impact on the environment

Resources required

- A range of survey equipment will be identified by the pupils – teachers may wish to provide a selection and discuss their uses with the class.
- Pupils might use the following identification guides:
 - **Trees:** www.british-trees.com/treeguide/
 - **Bugs:** www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/life/insects-spiders/bug-forum/?q=gallery
 - **Birds:** www.rspb.org.uk/wildlife/birdidentifier/

Procedure

- Explain that you are going to collect information about the trees in your school grounds/local area and find out about the wildlife that's associated with them.
- Discussion (whole class)
 - What sorts of information should we collect?
 - How will we do this?
 - What will we need to take with us?
 - What will we bring back?

ONE PLANET
SCHOOLS



- How will we make sure that we don't come to any harm/that we don't cause harm to the biodiversity that we're exploring?
- What's the point of this sort of survey – what could it tell us about the health of a habitat or particular species?
- How would we know what's happened to the biodiversity in the last/next 10 years? Why might this be important?
- Group work: Make preparations in groups and then conduct the survey.
- Plenary (whole class)
- Discuss the pupils' findings.
- How are you going to identify/find out more about that species?
- How are you going to present your findings?

Extension

- 'The oak bears more things beside its fruit than any other tree' – Theophrastus, Greek botanical writer, 300BC. Which species of tree hosts the greatest number of species in your area?

Evaluation

- Visit a tree on your own and jot down a few notes:
 - What do you notice about the tree?
 - What do you know about the tree?
 - What else would you like to know about the tree?