

NATIONAL SCHOOL SCIENCE BUNRATTY CASTLE & FOLK PARK

NATURE DISCOVERY TRAIL

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LINKAGES

Environmental awareness and care: caring for plants and animals

Materials: Properties and characteristics e.g. rough, smooth, shiny, big, small etc Clothes we wear in different seasons.

Sound: Identifying animal sounds

Light: Light as a form of energy essential for growth of plants.



CROSS CURRICULA INTEGRATION

- **Language Development** – English and Gaeilge
- **Visual Arts:** pictorial representation of observations / leaf rubbings
- **Maths:** Sorting activities using pictures – animals with two / four legs / wings etc. seeds – rough / smooth / colour / big / small etc. Flowers – colour / number of petals etc Measuring growth of plants. Sequencing pictures.
- **Music:** Identifying animal sounds
- **Geography:** Exploring natural environments

NATURE DISCOVERY TRAIL

FOLK PARK WALK FOR JUNIOR CLASSES

Content Objective

Observe, discuss and identify a variety of plants and animals in different habitats in the immediate environment

OBSERVING AND RECORDING ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

- Children should:
- Observe the location of the habitat and its relation to other habitats, buildings and features of the natural and built environment
- Observe and record the different materials that make up the habitat, such as wood, soil, stone and water
- Measure the size of the habitat, using standard or nonstandard units eg. how many steps is it.
- Make a sketch of the area on a worksheet. Emphasis should be placed on the recording of useful information, e.g. location of a stream, hedge, grassy area, trees. These sketches should be used by different groups to record the areas they investigated so that they can return to the area and make further records for comparison with the records of their first visit
- Draw maps of the area or use prepared maps to illustrate the main features of the area
- Record the climate of the habitat. Is it cold or warm? Is there wind? Can you tell what direction it might be coming from?
- As well as environmental features, the types and numbers of living things in the habitat could be observed and recorded. It may be helpful for the teacher to divide the class into small groups to explore the site and see how many different kinds of animals they can find.

Encourage the children to examine the area closely, looking at the underside of leaves, in cracks in the earth, under stones, on walls and at pieces of wood. Initial explorations should focus on a small area at a time. Children can record their findings in various ways.

