



How can we use our school environment as a resource for the teaching of science?

20 STEPS TOWARDS AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

Strand:
Living Things

Environmental Awareness and Care

Strand Unit:
Plants and Animals
Environmental Awareness
Science and the Environment
Caring for the Environment

1. What habitats can pupils explore in our local environment?

Woodland	Wall	
Hedgerow	Peatland	
Leaf litter	Soil	
Log pile/rotting log	Grassland	
'Waste' ground	Other?	
Pond		
Stream/River		
Canal		
Seashore		
Marshy area		

2. Choose *one* of the habitats in the school environment.

Go to **SESE: Science, Teacher Guidelines** p.62

Ask a partner the questions in Exemplar 11.

3. What new habitats can we create in our school environment?

4. Which of these trees can pupils explore in our school environment?

Oak	Beech	Cypress	Other?	
Hawthorn	Chestnut	Cedar		
Rowan	Lime/Linden	Spruce		
Hazel	Ash	Pine		
Crab apple	Sycamore	Larch		
Birch	Willow	Alder		

5. What plants that grow in our school grounds can we use to enable pupils to explore variety of

Stems	Eg. ash tree has a thick, grey, vertical trunk/chickweed has a thin, green, horizontal stem
Leaves	
Roots	
Bark	
Flowers	
Fruit	
Buds	



6. What animals can pupils observe easily in the school environment?

Where?

7. Choose *one* of the animals in your school environment.

Go to **SESE: Science, Teacher Guidelines** p.66

Ask your partner the questions in Exemplar 13.

8. Which of the above animals can pupils observe to explore differences in

Ways of moving?	Number of legs?	Homes?
Ways of feeding?	Number of wings?	Use of colour/camouflage?

9. What simple food chains can be observed in the school environment?

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10. How can we make our school environment a better place for observing animals?

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11. What seasonal changes can pupils explore/observe in the school environment?

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12. What examples of the following can pupils observe/explore in the local environment?

Buildings in which the following materials are used			
Brick		Corrugated iron	
Steel girders		Roof Tiles	
Stone		Slate	
Concrete blocks		Wood	
Mass concrete		Aluminium	
Pebble dash		PVC	
Thatch		Glass	

13. List some examples of:

Single-storey Buildings		Three-storey buildings	
Two-storey buildings		Buildings with more than three storeys	
Oldest buildings in the locality		Recently constructed buildings	

14. Name a local building that you think enhances the environment? Why?

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15. Name a building that, in your opinion, doesn't enhance the environment? Why?

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16. What examples of the positive impact of human activities on the environment can be observed/explored by pupils in our school?

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17. What examples of the negative impact of human activities on the environment can be observed/explored by pupils in our school?

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18. What strategies for improving and caring for the environment can pupils implement in our school?

19. What strategies for improving and caring for the environment can be implemented by teachers/parents?

20. What local environmental issues can pupils investigate/help to resolve?