



LANGUAGES

MATHEMATICS

SCIENCE

SOCIAL STUDIES

RELIGIOUS
AND MORAL
EDUCATION

ARTS AND
CRAFTS

PE AND
GAMES

DRAMA
AND MUSIC

CELEBRATIONS

TEACHERS' RESOURCE PACK[®]

A Resource Pack of lessons and activities linking school orchards to the Outdoor Learning curriculum



www.forthenvironmentlink.org



SCIENCE IN THE ORCHARD

Nocturnal Visitors All Ages

Rationale

At night, your orchard will be the home to a variety of nocturnal visitors. Discover what they are and what they are doing.

Aims

- To set up experiments to attract nocturnal creatures to visit the orchard
- To record what they might be and what they are doing there

Resources

6 house bricks, a small bucket of sand, twigs, string, slates, apple pieces or windfall apples.

Method

- Discuss which creatures might visit the orchard: slugs, snails, mice, birds, rabbits
- Use the 6 bricks to make a small roofed shelter, spread sand inside and put some apple pieces at the back. Next day look for footprints
- Make a triangle with twigs and string. Attach to a stick and push into the ground near a hedge or bush. Look for a spider web in the triangle
- Lay a slate pathway to pieces of apple. Check for slug or snail trails at the end



Further Ideas

- Push the end of a twig into a windfall apple and push the other end into the ground near a bush. Check in the morning for little teeth marks or pecks



SOCIAL STUDIES IN THE ORCHARD

Food Miles **Ages 8-12**

Rationale

Labelling of orchard fruits in shops show that much of it has travelled hundreds or even thousands of miles, even though much can be grown in Britain. 'Food Miles' create unnecessary pollution.

Aims

- To look at the origin of the fruit in our shops and supermarkets
- To consider the food miles it will have travelled
- To encourage environmentally-friendly shopping

Resources

A large world map, lengths of coloured wool, a measuring tape and a variety of orchard fruits with labels to show their countries of origin (use peel-off labels attached to cocktail sticks, pushed into each fruit), a model lorry, ship and aeroplane.

Method

- Lay the labelled fruits on their country of origin. Discuss why these fruits don't come from arctic or tropical regions (too cold, hot, dry)
- Discuss that orchard fruits are harvested in the autumn, September - November in the northern hemisphere and February - April in the southern
- Lay wool along the route fruits travel to Britain, measure and compare distances and consider that transport might be by air-polluting plane or ship
- Discuss buying fruit in season and from local suppliers



Further Ideas

- Look at this link for a pupil-friendly calculator of distances: <http://www.organclinker.com/food-miles.cfm>
- Explore ways in which British fruit can be stored for months. Research local suppliers



Forth Environment Link has developed a Resource Pack for teachers with over 100 activities to integrate orchards into the curriculum and to support and enhance outdoor learning.

Schools can request a free copy of the Resource Pack while stocks last (p&p £2.50 to Forth Environment Link, Balallan House, 24 Allan Park, Stirling FK8 2QG). To order copies in bulk, please contact Forth Environment Link at info@forthenvironmentlink.org.

“This Resource Pack is bursting with ideas and suggestions on how to inspire primary school children through outdoor education. Each suggestion offers practical advice and guidance to teachers on how to achieve curricular aims through a school orchard bringing learning alive in every sense....learning through doing – from pip to pie!”

Clara Walker, Executive Director, Forth Environment Link.

“This is a very user-friendly resource that offers activity ideas for primary staff with a range of know-how, from beginners to those looking to refresh their practice. Arranged into curricular areas followed by a section on celebrations, each page describes an activity through clear sections on rationale, specific aims, resources needed, extension ideas and suggestions for how you might structure the activity. A great resource to build your expertise in utilising school orchards. If you don't yet have a school orchard it may inspire to go and find one near you or to plant one!”

Eve Keepax, Keep Scotland Beautiful



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