

Nature Is Art

Introduction

This activity prompts young people to explore a local green space, before turning it into a temporary pop-up exhibition. They will create a record of the trees, plants and wildlife that they find before producing their own interpretation panels. To finish the project, pupils will add their creations to the site and host their own viewing event.

Duration



3-6 hours

Location



This activity can be delivered on school grounds, in a local forest, woodlands, park or in any green space that has a variety of plants and wildlife.

Topics



Biology



Art & Design

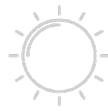


English

Learning Outcomes

Young people will:

- Develop knowledge about local nature, including trees, plants and wildlife.
- Develop their observation skills.
- Develop their written and verbal communications skills.



You Will Need



Pens, pencils and paper.



A device to take photographs at your chosen green space.



Access to the internet to research findings.



Print outs of the interpretation panel templates and flyers, found in this pack (optional).

Follow These Steps

Research

- 01 With your group, **choose a green space** to visit and become the location for your temporary pop-up exhibition. Ensure your choice is safe, practical and has a variety of plants and wildlife. NOTE: you will need to be able to visit this location twice.
- 02 With your group, **visit your chosen location** for 1-2 hours to **conduct your research**. Allow young people to follow their interests and observe, answer and document the following:
 - What plants and trees are in the location?
 - What wildlife can be spotted?



- What can be noticed in findings? For example, colours, textures and shapes...
 - Do the findings prompt any aesthetic and emotional responses?
 - Photograph or draw things that aren't recognised so that they can be researched and labelled back in the classroom.
- 03 Back in school, conduct any **additional research** that is required and add to the findings.

Curate and Create

- 04 Compile everybody's findings together and discuss them. Challenge the group to 'curate' their exhibition and **choose up to 10 specific things** that they find the most interesting. This might be a type of plant, a bird that lives in a tree or even the berries on a branch.
- 05 As a big group or in teams, prompt the young people to **produce interpretation panels** for each thing.
- These can be really simple, like the little blocks of text that are found next to paintings in art galleries. Or they can be more involved, with photographs and illustrations, like those found in science museums.
 - The group should include the names of things and any information they think is interesting. The group can also add quotes, explaining their aesthetic and emotional responses.
 - The group can use the interpretation panel templates found in this pack or create something new.
- 06 Make the panels dirt and water proof by laminating them or putting them in to plastic pouches. Ensure they can be presented at the location by making basic stands to mount them on (ie. lolly-pop sticks can be stuck to the rear and pressed down in to soil) or using string to make hangers.
- 07 Plan the viewing event. The group will need to set a time, date and duration and invite visitors. Use the invitation flyer template found in this pack or create something new.



- 08 The group can create little interactive activities for visitors to the event in order to engage them with the location even further. Get creative! This could be providing materials for tree rubbings, leading a still-life drawing class or producing a quiz sheet, with answers found in the interpretation panels.

The Viewing Event

- 09 Finally, deliver the pop-up exhibition viewing and celebrate the green space:
- Hang and present all interpretation panels before visitors arrive.
 - Adopt roles to welcome visitors and support them with the interactive elements.
 - At the end, make sure to remove all of your interpretation panels and leave the space neat and tidy.

How Can This Activity Connect to Eco-Schools?



This activity can be used to support work on the **Eco-Schools** Biodiversity topic and is a great way of informing and involving other pupils about the variety of plants, trees and wildlife that can be found on school grounds or in local areas.

What Next?

- Post pictures of the interpretation panels on social media so that others can visit the location and read your words after the event. Use #LEAF to keep us up to date.
- Write to the owner of your chosen green space and include pictures of your interpretation panels. For example, this might be the local council or a head-teacher. Ask them if they would consider installing permanent versions of your interpretation panels.