

# WORLD CLASS

Project plan: Nature trail



# BBC WORLD SERVICE LEARNING ENGLISH



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"Put your school on the map"

**Our Local Nature Trail:**

Design a nature trail for your twin, showing and telling them about the trees, flowers, birds and insects you see near your school.

**How your pupils can benefit from this project :**

***Our Local Nature Trail*** is designed to help your pupils to discover more about the world around them. During Stage 1 of the project, they will:

- investigate their local area looking at, for example, trees, flowers, birds and insects.
- find out about the life cycle of the plants and animals they see
- describe and draw/photograph/video the things they see

In Stage 2 of the project, they will:

- learn about the natural environment around your twin school
- learn about the similarities and differences between different environments

**Age group:** 7-9

**Curriculum areas:** science; geography; literacy.

**Language required:** describing the world around us; describing similarities and differences

## STAGE 1:

### Preparation

- Prepare a puzzle or quiz about the names of flowers, insects, trees and animals which can be found in your area. This could be a crossword, a team quiz, a wordsearch square or a 'word snake' (see the example below). For more ideas for puzzles, see the Learning English website.
- Identify an area near your school where you can take the children to look at plants and birds/insects.
- Prepare a 'nature trail' of the area by making a list of points where the children should stop and look at the various plants or watch for birds/insects. If you have the resources, you could make this list into a worksheet, with numbers indicating each place where the children should stop. (For an example, see the Sample Trail below.)

### Procedure:

1. Set the puzzle in class to help the children focus on things they might find outside on a nature trail (e.g. flowers, insects, trees, animals). (See attached worksheet A for an example)
2. Ask the pupils to work in pairs. Give each pair a copy of the prepared nature trail.
3. Take the pupils on the trail and help them to notice things in their environment by pointing out things of interest. Where appropriate the pupils can collect things or draw pictures for later discussion in the classroom.
4. When the pupils are back in the classroom talk with them about the things they have found e.g. what do they look like? where did they find them? how do they grow? why might they find these things in this particular environment?
5. Provide the pupils with blank copies of the trail they have followed and ask them to annotate it with pictures and brief descriptions of the things they have found. Different groups can work on different parts of the trail.
6. Help the children to make a display of the things found on the nature trail. Take photos or ask the children to draw the display to include this with the material to send to your twin.

## STAGE 2:

### a) Your project in your twin school: Reconstruct the nature trail

The aim of this stage is to help the children at your twin school understand as much as possible about the natural environment around your school. To help them achieve this, use the drawings and descriptions made by your pupils to create a 'jigsaw' activity:

- Send blank copies of the nature trail
- Send copies of some of the descriptions, photos and drawings
- Ask the children at your twin school to read the descriptions and put the photos/drawings on the correct place on the nature trail

(N.B. Make sure you send a completed 'master copy' of the trail, or an answer key, so the teachers at your twin school can help their pupils reconstruct the trail.)

### b) Your twin's project in your school:

When your pupils have reconstructed your twin's nature trail, ask them to identify the main similarities and differences between the twin environment and their own. What surprises them? Is there anything which they want to know more about? If they have found unusual and interesting things, they might want to ask their twin some questions. Make a list of the questions and send them to your twin..

## ADAPTATIONS:

- **Younger age groups:** The class can work on the nature trail together as a larger group so that you can guide and help with necessary language and ideas more easily. You will also need to write the descriptions to accompany the pictures which the children draw.
- **Using technology:** If you have the resources, you could:
  - create a video of the nature trail. The children then write descriptions which the twin class can arrange according to what they see on the video.
  - find the answers to the questions at Stage 2 (b) by searching for them on the internet.