

Session Plan – Dyke Dipping (KS1 & KS2)

This session lasts one hour and is suitable for a maximum of fifteen children.



Learning Objectives

- Children understand that the natural world around them holds a diversity of fascinating organisms
- Children understand that organisms' bodies are adapted to their lifestyles
- Children understand that each organism needs an appropriate habitat in which to live
- Children understand that our lives are linked to the lives of other organisms and their habitats
- Children understand that our actions affect other organisms and their habitats

Personal Development Objectives

- Children work in groups and learn to wait their turn
- Children learn to assess risk and behave accordingly
- Children learn responsibility towards other organisms

Curriculum Links

KS1 – Life processes and living things

Pupils should be taught:

- 1b. that animals move, feed, grow, use their senses and reproduce
- 1c. to relate life processes to animals and plants found in the local environment
- 4b. to group living things according to observable similarities and differences
- 5a. to find out about the different kinds of plants and animals in the local environment

KS2 – Life processes and living things

Pupils should be taught:

- 1c. to make links between life processes in familiar animals and plants and the environments in which they are found

- 4a. to make and use keys
- 4c. that the variety of plants and animals makes it important to identify them and assign them to groups
- 5. all points covering adaptation, feeding relationships and micro-organisms

Safety Considerations

Refer to relevant risk assessments for the site and session.

Resources

Nets, white trays, bug pots, identification charts.

Introduction

Explain the session to the group, covering safety considerations. Ask children to check their hands for open cuts, and cover as necessary. Remind them to wash their hands after the session. Demonstrate how to dip safely, kneeling down and being aware of the end of the net when they bring it out of the water. Explain to children that they will be studying the invertebrates living in the water of the dyke. Discuss where they might find most invertebrates and why. Discuss how they will catch the animals and how they will handle them. Explain to children that they will all be able to dip in turn and that the charts will help them with identification.

Activity

Ensure children are observing safe and fair dipping procedure. Circulate among the children, helping them to use the charts, identifying organisms as necessary and prompting discussion of their lifestyles. Encourage children to reflect on the feeding habits of each organism and how their lives are inter-related. Discuss how organisms' bodies are adapted to reflect their habits. Where appropriate, use biotic index score sheets to work out the water's biotic index. Explain to children how this gives a rough guide to water quality.

Conclusion

Bring the children back together to discuss their findings. Ask each group to tell the class about the most interesting organism they found. Discuss what made it interesting. Discuss which creatures were most numerous and why. Where relevant, discuss biotic indices. Where appropriate ask children to discuss sources of water contamination and ways in which we might help improve water quality.

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