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| <b>Nature's Recyclers</b><br><i>Learn about nature's own recyclers: worms. Discover how to charm them and build a wormery.</i>   | <b>Years:</b> KS2  | <b>Total Duration:</b> 2 hours |
|  | National Curriculum links - Sc2.2 Nutrition; Sc2.4 Variation and classification; Sc2.5 Feeding relationships; PSHE and cit2 Preparing to play an active role as citizens   |                                |
| <b>Intended Learning Outcomes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To realise the importance of recycling</li><li>To understand how trees and plants are recycled in nature</li><li>To state what nutrients are and why they are so important to plant growth</li><li>To understand the role of worms in recycling</li></ul>  |  |                                |
| <b>Programme Summary</b> <p>This session covers the topic of recycling. First we discuss the reasons why we recycle materials like glass and plastic before examining the role of detritivores and decomposers as recyclers in nature, focussing on worms. The children are challenged to find at least 5 worms in a minibeast hunt and get the chance to try worm charming. We also search for other key recyclers in nature like woodlice and fungi. Upon the return to the centre the children in small groups turn an old 2 litre plastic bottle into a wormery.</p> |  |                                |
| <b>Session outline</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Short introductory talk about the Ecology Centre</li><li>Time for the children to look around the centre</li><li>Talk/discussion on recycling and how to do a minibeast hunt</li><li>Worm charming on the lawn</li><li>Walk to wildlife area</li><li>Minibeast hunting - focus on collecting worms and other detritivores</li><li>Walk back to the centre, washing hands</li><li>Plenary: recapping of session objectives</li></ul>   |  |                                |
| <b>Previsit Preparation</b> <p>It helps to brief the children before a visit. Talk through the activities that they will be doing and discuss key vocabulary. What is recycling? Why is it important? What materials can we recycle? What recyclers might live in a wood? Where do minibeasts like to live? What minibeasts do they know?</p> <p>Possible teaching ideas, ID and background information can be found in our minibeast pack on our website.</p> <p><b>If you have not visited the centre before a previsit is essential.</b></p>                          |  |                                |
| <b>Previsit ideas</b> <p>Work on recycling and what a minibeast is would be of benefit.<br/>Minibeast hunt in school grounds.</p>  | <b>Post visit ideas</b> <p>Observe and maintain the wormeries for 2-3 weeks before releasing the worms.</p>  |                                |
| <b>Organisation, roles and responsibilities for led sessions</b>   |  |                                |
| <i>Adult helpers</i> <p>Read activity instructions.<br/>Lead activities with their group.</p> <i>Class teacher</i> <p>Organise adult helpers to support the trip.<br/>Brief adult helpers and pupils.<br/>Organise the class into smaller groups, approximately five pupils with one adult helper for each.<br/>Maintain overall responsibility for class management.</p>  | <i>Ecology Centre staff</i> <p>Lead session.<br/>Introduce and discuss topic with the class.<br/>Lead class to and from the wildlife area.<br/>Support group activities.<br/>Liaise with class teacher over timing and content of session.</p> |                                |