Holland Park Ecology Centre
Teachers' Notes

Holland Park Ecology Centre

Terrific Trees *Explore plant lifecycles and learn how to identify and classify using keys.*	**Years:** KS2	**Total Duration:** 2 hours
	Science 1A 'Ourselves' and early learning goals for knowledge and understanding of the world 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 QCA: Science Unit 1A Ourselves, Science Unit 2B Plants and animals in their local environment Science Unit 2C Variation	

Intended Learning Outcomes

- that flowering plants reproduce
- that insects pollinate some flowers
- order correctly the steps in the life cycle of the plant
- about the life cycle of flowering plants including pollination, fertilisation, seed dispersal, and germination
- the factors that ensure healthy plant growth

Programme Summary

This session gives pupils an opportunity to examine the life cycle of different plants. They will be introduced to the concept of a life cycle and that a plant lifecycle involves a number of different stages. The pupils will be taken to the wildlife area where they will see, search and record plants at different stages of their life cycles. There will also be an opportunity for plant identification and how to use keys. The session will end with bark and leaf rubbing.

Session outline

- Short introductory talk about the Ecology Centre
- Time for the children to look around the centre
- Talk/discussion on plants, plant growth and the key stages in their life cycles using plants, models, artefacts in the centre.
- Explanatory talk on how to use keys
- Walk to wildlife area
- Exploration at the Wildlife Area – nature walk, plant identification and observational drawing, leaf and bark rubbing
- Walk back to the centre, washing hands and recapping of session objectives

Previsit Preparation

It helps to brief the children before a visit. Talk through the activities that they will be doing and discuss key vocabulary. What is a lifecycle? What animal lifecycles do they know? Recap well known lifecycles like the butterfly or frog. Discuss the human lifecycle. Contrast with a plant lifecycle.

If you have not visited the centre before a previsit is essential

Previsit ideas	**Post visit ideas**
Work on life cycles and using keys would be of benefit. ICT research on lifecycles Lifecycle matching and ordering games. Matching games for tree names, leaves and fruit.	Research project on a plant's lifecycle and stages. Lifecycle wheels. Maths work on the differing lengths of different plant life cycles. Pattern work based on bark and leaf rubbings.

Organisation, roles and responsibilities for led sessions

Adult helpers
Read activity instructions.
Lead activities with their group.

Class teacher
Organise adult helpers to support the trip.
Brief adult helpers and pupils.
Organise the class into smaller groups, approximately five pupils with one adult helper for each.
Maintain overall responsibility for class management.

Ecology Centre staff
Lead session.
Introduce and discuss topic with the class.
Lead class to and from the wildlife area.
Support group activities.
Liaise with class teacher over timing and content of session.