Teachers' Notes

Nature's Recyclers

To learn about the role of detritivores in recycling animal and plant waste

Years: Upper KS2 Year 5-6	Total Duration: 2 hours
Curriculum Links (2000 curriculum): Sc2 Life processes and living things - Unit 2b, 4b, 5a, 5b, 5c KS2/Sc3/2d & f and QCA unit 6D - Reversible and irreversible changes QCA unit 6 - Developing our school grounds	
Learning Objectives	**Learning Outcomes**
Children should learn… •That recycling is important •That trees and plants are recycled in nature by detritivores •To state what nutrients are and why they are so important to plant growth	All children will be able to state that some animals eat dead leaves and animals. Most children will be able to state the food source of a detritivore. Some children will be able to identify the different stages of the nutrient cycle.

Programme Summary

The 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, focusing 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 returning to the centre, the children, in small groups turn an old 2 litre plastic bottle into a wormery.

Pre-visit Preparation

If you have not visited the centre before a pre-visit is essential.

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?

Pre-visit ideas	Post-visit ideas
Research on recycling Datahandling on class recycling Link to Ecoschools	Observe and maintain the wormeries for 2-3 weeks before releasing the worms

Please refer to our Health & Safety Information for risk assessments and an outline of the school and Ecology Centre responsibilities.