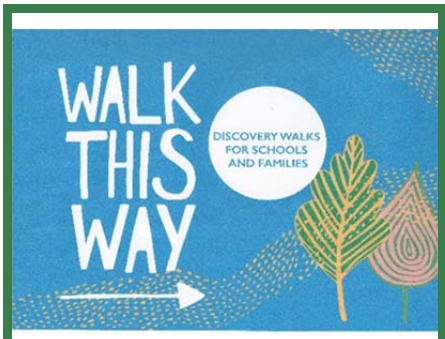

A wild adventure

Learning Walks for Schools

Science Walks
Page 1 of 4

Curriculum Area: Science

Walk Length: 1-2 hours

Suitable for All Key Stages

Equipment: Brushes, containers, magnifying glasses

There is a Plant Hunt, Bug Hunt and House Hunting activity included in the family resource pack

On your walk look out for mini beasts. You can examine shrubs, hedges, climbing plants such as ivy, flowers, long grass, in fallen leaves and the base of trees. Turn over decaying wood, rocks, soil, look on the ground in woodlands, and beside water.

Activity 1

Collect your invertebrates in clear containers using a small brush, (perhaps a children's paint brush. Use an identification book or sheet. Once you have found an invertebrate place it carefully in your container and use a magnifying glass to examine it. Use the record sheet to record your finds.
Be gentle with all the animals and make sure that you return them to where you found them. Don't leave them in the sun. Continue your walk to a different habitat and look for some more invertebrates. Do you find the same bugs or different ones? Discuss the effects of habitats.

Activity 2

Classify different invertebrates into species using identification charts. You could photograph or draw your invertebrates and build up a class collection for display. What do you discover if you walk in different seasons or different parks?

Activity 3 - National surveys

ake part in some survey work and become citizen scientists. There are lots of national surveys of insects that you can contribute to: http://www.opalexplorenature.org/bugscount or https://www.buglife.org.uk/activities-for-you/wildlife-surveys

Other useful information

Identification guides:
http://www.opalexplorenature.org/sites/default/files/7/image/Invertebratesguide-UPDATEDFINAL.pdf
https://www.buglife.org.uk/bugs-habitats/bug-identifier

Activity 4 – Pond or river dipping

NOTE This activity is not suitable for very young children and all children should be carefully supervised near water.

There are ponds and rivers in the following parks: Barnes Green, Crane Park, Ham Common, Kew Pond Please clean all equipment before using it in a different ponds or rivers to avoid the spread of pests and diseases.

Use nets to investigate invertebrates who lives in ponds and rivers. Take a light coloured bowl or container and fill it with river or pond water with you so that you can inspect your catch. Magnifying glasses will help you take a closer look. Record your findings on the invertebrate record sheet. Please be sure to return anything that you catch carefully to where you found it.

Activity 5 – Detailed survey work

The Holland Park Ecology Centre has a Pond Pack suitable for older children and teenagers. It has detailed information, sheets to complete and identification charts.
https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/pdf/pond_pack_2010.pdf

Activity 6 - National surveys

If you are interested in contributing to a national survey to see how healthy ponds and river are see http://www.opalexplorenature.org/watersurvey

Other useful information

The following organisations can provide pond/river dipping activities for schools: WWW Wetlands Centre at Barnes http://www.wwt.org.uk/wetland-centres/london/plan-your-visit/school-visits/ or London Wildlife Trust at Crane Park Island http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/reserves/crane-park-island

Name:						
Date:			Location:			
Season:			Weather condition:			
Where did you find the invertebrate?	What colour is it?	Does he have any distinctive features?	Number of legs?	Does he have wings?	Can you name the invertebrate?	Number found. (Use a tally)

A wild adventure

LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

Name:		
Date:	Location:	
Season:	Weather condition:	
Name of invertebrate	Drawing	Observations

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LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES