



## Mapping Microhabitats

Mapping Microhabitats - homes and help for nature - is part of the *Mapping your site* activities, enabling you to explore and map the habitats your site currently offers for nature. Understanding your starting point is really important and will allow you to measure any nature gains you achieve when you start making enhancements to your site. Mapping microhabitats is one of eight habitat mapping sessions in this unit of learning.

### Teaching time

60 Minutes

### Learning outcomes

To learn about some of the microhabitats, homes and resources that can be provided to help nature.

To understand their role and contribution to mapping the habitats on their site as part of the Education Nature Park.

### Step by step

1. Learners can work independently or in small groups. Give each a copy of the *Homes and help for nature* ticksheet.
2. Set a timer (e.g. for five minutes) and ask learners to search a particular area of your site for the pictured items and tick the ones they find.
3. Gather learners together and work through the ticksheet, asking if anyone saw each item and if so, where it was. Add them to your map using the Microhabitat Point option in the Habitat Mapper app. Alternatively, you could ask learners to stay by an item when they find it and put their hand up, and you move round to each in turn and add them to the map.
4. Move round your site, if needed, and repeat this process until you have covered the whole site.
5. Bring the group together and discuss how each item on the ticksheet might support nature - is it a long-term home, a resource for breeding, a source of food or temporary shelter? What kind of animals might use it?

### Green Skills



### Suitable for

Key Stage 1

Key Stage 2

Key Stage 3

### Location

Outdoors

### Season

Spring

Summer

Autumn

Winter

### What you'll need

The Habitat Mapper app on one mobile device (for educator use)

Homes and help for nature ticksheet

### Key vocabulary

Microhabitat



### Reflection

Educators can discuss with learners how many of the different microhabitats you found. Did you only have one of each, or multiple? Ask learners if they noticed any items that were not on the ticksheet and discuss how these might help nature. Are there opportunities to add more, or different kinds, of microhabitats on your site? Encourage learners to share their observations and ideas during the session.



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