



Mapping microhabitats

A microhabitat is a small area which differs from the surrounding habitat, creating unique conditions for certain wildlife to thrive. You may have human-made microhabitats on your site to help animals such as insects, birds or bats.

This session will support learners to identify what microhabitats they have on their site before adding them to their Nature Park habitat map.

Teaching time

up to 30 minutes

Learning outcomes

- recognise common features of a wildlife garden

Step by step

Learners can work independently or in small groups. Give each learner or group a Homes and help for nature Worksheet.

There are two ways to run this activity: either set a timer (e.g. for five minutes) and ask learners to search an area of your site for the pictured items and tick the ones they find, or ask learners to stand by a microhabitat when they find one and put their hand up.

Learners or their groups can take it in turns to share what they have found.

If using a printed map of your site: ask learners to mark and label the microhabitat they have identified on the map. If using the Habitat Mapper tool on a mobile device: educators and learners can work together to add the microhabitat to the map.

Move round your site, if needed, and repeat this process until you have identified all microhabitats on your site.

If you used a printed map, remember to add the microhabitats identified to the Nature Park map using the Habitat Mapper tool when you are back in the classroom. This is a really important step to ensure your site and your observations contribute to real-world, groundbreaking research by the Natural History Museum into nature recovery.

Bring the group together and discuss how each item on your map might support nature – is it a long-term home, a resource for breeding, a source of food or temporary shelter? What kinds of animals might use it?

Reflection

Discuss with learners how many of the different microhabitats on the worksheet were found. Did you only have one of each, or multiple? Ask learners if they noticed any items that were not on the worksheet and how these may help nature. Are there opportunities to add more or different kinds of homes and help for nature on your site? Encourage learners to share their observations and ideas during this discussion.

Green Skills



Suitable for

Key Stage 1
Key Stage 2
Key Stage 3

Location

Outdoors

Season

Spring
Summer
Autumn
Winter

What you'll need

Printed worksheets

Clipboards

Drawing materials

Tablet, laptop, or computer to access the online Habitat Mapper tool

Printed map of your site, if you do not intend to use the Habitat Mapper outdoors

Key vocabulary

Microhabitat



National Education Nature Park



For more quality-assured learning resources visit www.educationnaturepark.org.uk

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