

Outdoor Design

Notes

- This lesson is designed to be taught alongside area and perimeter lessons as well as units of measure.
- This lesson also contributes towards persuasive writing.
- Allow more than one session for this lesson so that children can research their target species fully.

Starter

- Recap how to calculate area and perimeter.
- Explain that in this lesson the class will be designing their own conservation outdoor space in pairs.
- Have a look at a few different examples of outdoor spaces designed for wildlife.
- Create a list of species that the class could be aiming to attract. Don't forget to try to attract insects too. Create a list of native plant species that the group could use.
- Set the aim of producing an outdoor space that is going to encourage a high level of biodiversity and recap on its meaning.

Activity

- The class will produce an aerial drawing of the area they are creating. You could give them an outdoor space on the school site or a hypothetical space of set dimensions.
- Explain that you need to see a list of target species that they are trying to encourage as well as exact measurements for each area of their areas, including depth if they are creating a pond.
- Give the class time to research the animals they want to attract so that they can design areas based on their specific needs.
- Once their designs are finished have the children write a letter as if to the local council, or other suitable person, to persuade them to allow the construction of their conservation space.

Plenary

- Photocopy each pair's work and put it around the room. Give the children sticky notes so that they can go around and write bits that they like or questions that they would like to ask the designers.

Extension idea

- Higher ability children must include a pond and must calculate its volume.