

Eco - Schools

Extra Curricular Ideas for Busy Teachers

This pack contains activity ideas and resources that can be used for Eco-Clubs, Eco-Committee meetings and other extra-curricular clubs with an environmental flavour. They are designed to be simple and to require minimal preparation.



Biodiversity

1



Create a Bug Hotel

- Collect stones, twigs and leaves from around the school grounds
- Break up the sticks into lengths between 15 and 30 cm (roughly)
- Find a sheltered and secluded spot (against a wall or hedge is ideal)
- Arrange your building materials into a pile made up of layers, be careful not to make it too high or it may become unstable
- Remember that many small creatures like dark, damp small spaces .
- It may be worth letting your classmates know that you have set up hotels and ask them not to disturb them - you may want to create an information poster
- You can return to your hotel after a few weeks to check whether or not you have guests!



**CREATION
CARE**



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Energy 1



Know Your Energy Sources

- Work as a pair or a group
- Cut out the pictures
- Sort them into renewable and non renewable sources of energy and stick them onto the sheet
- Add the names of the energy sources
- See if you can find an advantage and a disadvantage of each energy source.
- If you were to power your school or your home with one of these sources, which would you choose and why?
- Discuss your choice with other pairs and groups and see if you can come to a whole group decision.



Global Citizenship 1



Reducing Food Miles

- Watch the video below to explain what food miles are
- [What are food miles and why are they important? - BBC Bitesize](#)
- In pairs or small groups, make a list of foods that you can see being produced locally
- Look at the pictures of food in the supermarket trolley, how can we tell where they come from?
- Sort the foods into those that can be found locally and those that can't
- Come up with some ideas about how we can reduce air miles
- Design a poster encouraging others to buy local produce, include information about what to look for in the supermarket and where to find (or grow!) local food
- If you have time, you can explore more of the BBC Bitesize web page.



Healthy Living 1



Create a Game

- Have you ever played the game “Beans”? Try it now.
- The great thing is, that with adjustments, it can be played indoors or outside and that it involves as many people as wish to play - no-one gets left out!
- The other thing is that everyone is active all the time - it’s great for keeping you fit.
- Today, working in pairs or small groups, you are going to create a simple game to play with your friends
- Make sure that it is a game that involves people of all ages and keeps everyone moving all the time - no-one wants to stand around in a cold playground waiting for their turn
- You can base your game on “Beans” if you like
- Perhaps next time you have a PE lesson, your teacher will let you teach your game to your class.



Litter

1



Litter Pick

- Walk around your school go into classrooms and pick up anything you find on the floor that you think is litter (you might want to wear gloves for this)
- Now go outside and do the same in the school grounds
- Sort the things you have found into things that can or cannot be recycled
- Which is there more of?
- Use the recycling you have found to make a picture or a model of a monster, give your monster a name.
- Next time you report back to your class or have an assembly, show your monster to the other children and use it to remind the other children to throw away or recycle their rubbish.



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Marine

1



Art Project

- You will need a paper plate or a circle of card. Paint this blue or a mixture of blues and greens to create your sea background
- Leave it to dry while you create some fish or other sea creatures. Why not use paper or card from the recycling bag for this?
- Colour your sea creatures with crayons or felt tips and cut them out carefully
- Once your background is dry enough, dab on yellow paint for the sandy bottom of the sea (A finger is good for doing this) alternatively, you could glue on some real sand.
- Seaweed or other marine plants might look good, you might be able to use green paper or ribbon for this.
- Finally add your sea creatures
- Your teacher might want to display your circles like a row of bubbles along a corridor or classroom wall.



School Grounds 1



Mini-beast Safari

- Think about the places to find mini-beasts. They like often like dark, damp places, but can equally be found on the hedge or flying above you. If you are lucky enough to have a pond in your school grounds, this is a great place to look
- Go on a mini-beast safari, see how many different types of creature you can find
- Make a note of where you find them, this will tell you where different types of creature like to live
- You may want to pick up the creatures to look at them with a hand lens, but remember to treat them very gently and put them back where you found them straight away. All God's creatures deserve respect, even the tiniest ones
- You can use the bug chart from the Bedfordshire Natural History Society to help identify your mini-beasts. Websites such as this one might also be useful.
- <https://www.buglife.org.uk/bugs/bug-identification-tips/>



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Transport

1



Travel Survey

- Stand in a safe place where you can see the road clearly
- If you can see more than one road, you could split into teams and survey both roads
- Use the tally sheets to count the types of transport you see
- If the road is very busy, you may have to count one or two types each
- You can also survey the number of passengers in the vehicles
- Discuss your results, which is the most popular form of transport? Why do you think this is?
- Watch the [video](#)
- Discuss what could be done to cut the amount of carbon dioxide produced near your school
- Perhaps you could plan an event for your school to encourage sustainable travel to and from school.



Waste

1



What Can We Recycle?

- Watch the [video](#)
- You can also have a go at the recycling quiz at the bottom of the web page, if you like
- Have a look through the bin in your classroom (Wear gloves for this bit and take care)
- Is there anything in the bin that could have been recycled?
- Different parts of the UK have different facilities for recycling, this means that what you can recycle easily depends on where you live
- Have a look at the resource sheet at what can be easily recycled in Cornwall
- Is there anything in the bin that we cannot recycle in Cornwall?
- Check out [Cornwall Council's website](#) to see how they plan to improve recycling, what do you think of their ideas?
- Design a poster encouraging your classmates to recycle rather than throw away things that can easily be recycled.



Water 1



Create a Water Game

- Think about how many times today you have used water
- Make a list, include drinking, washing, flushing the toilet, cooking and anything else you can think of
- Watch the [Why is water so important? - BBC Bitesize](#) video
- Water often gets wasted, talk about how this might happen.
- Today you are going to create a board game, you can move spaces forward for saving water and move spaces backwards if you waste water.
- Use your ideas along with those on the resource sheet to design your game. You can complete the game that is on the sheet or create your own from scratch
- When you have finished, play your game with your friends.

