



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. Either: 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. Gather learners together and work through the ticksheet, asking if anyone saw each item and if so, where it was. Add them to a printed map of your site.

Alternatively, you could ask learners to stay by a microhabitat when they find it and put their hand up, and you move round to each in turn and add them to the printed map.

3. Educators can work with learners to mark each microhabitat on the printed map of your site, or (if you have internet connectivity outdoors) directly on to the online Nature Park map using the Habitat Mapper tool.
4. Move round your site until you have searched the whole area.
5. Back indoors as a whole class activity, transfer the microhabitat points from the printed map on to the online Nature Park map using the Habitat Mapper tool. If you already did this outdoors, check and review your map with the class.
6. Bring the group together and discuss how each item on the map 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

A printed map of your site

A tablet, laptop or desktop PC to access the Habitat Mapper tool online

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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