

Early connections

Wild about Rain gardens

Purpose

This document is a lesson plan for the Early Connections workshops series which connects children to nature through a mix of indoor and outdoor sessions. Workshops are aim to children aged 8-12 years in P5-7. Wild about rain gardens will explain what a rain garden is, why it is needed and explore the conceptual design of a rain garden which would be suitable for the school.

Each session is 45-60 minutes long.

Length (mins)	Activity	Resources	Who
15	Slowing the flow presentation Acting out the water cycle- Fingers represent water, arms represent the direct of flow	Laptop, projector	Project staff
5	Explain the design boards for class work - Homework	Artist boards	Project staff
10	Give out a booklet to each pupil and go through the pages. Pg 1 draw the school ground, pupils can add places where they know flooding occurs Pg2 Ask pupils to add additional ideas that can help slow the flow of water i.e. raised beds, gravel streams Pg3 Suds Ponds go over what a suds pond is and ask the pupils to draw lines from each word to where it is represented in the diagram Time to go outside	Pupils draw their ideas for raingarden design	Project staff
15	Talk about native planting Why is it important to plant native species? Send the children around the school to spot plants and insects and get them to record one in each "My Records" section of the booklet	Booklet and pencil	Project staff

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Length (mins)	Activity	Resources	Who
15	<p>Rain garden game (snakes and ladders type of game using worms as the snakes and roots as the ladders) See instructions</p> <p>It is possible to play the whole class at the same time however time is needed to chalk out 3 boards, using the mats as a template</p> <p>Class is split into 3 groups to become different rain types that will go through the planter:</p> <p>Rain garden Set the play mats to the snakes and ladders</p> <p>Rain types No's 1-6 -Drizzle – slow moving easy to percolate through soil No's 1-3 - Rain – can move through soil but may get waterlogged slower moving than drizzle No' 1-2 - Stormy – Lots of water falling at the same time harder to get through the soil most of it runs off</p> <p>End game and thank the children for taking part and remind them that the word search can be completed on the second last page</p>	<p>Rain garden play mats</p> <p>Dice (3 of)</p> <p>Chalks</p>	Project staff

Partners



Funders



School: _____

No. in Class: _____

Level: Primary ___ Date: _____

No. in Class: _____

Offsite location: _____

No. in Class: _____

Offsite activity: _____

No. in Class: _____



Notes:

Review

What worked?

What didn't work?

How can it be improved?

Quotes/comments

Partners



Funders



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