

Topic Focus

Living things and their habitats, plants and animals and working scientifically.

Overview

The activities in this topic encourage children to see burial grounds as important havens for a range of wildlife. They encourage children to explore different habitats and to view burial grounds from different angles. By investigating mini-beasts, habitats and trees as well as important British species like Hedgehogs, Bumblebees, Lichens and Yew trees the children will use and develop observation and recording skills as well as simple field techniques.

The activities are: Tremendous Trees, Green Guardians, Mini-Beast Mania, Habitat Hunter, Let's Investigate Lichens, Creature Comforts - Hedgehogs, Bumblebees, Slow Worms, Swifts.

EYFS, KS1 & KS2

Key Skills

Investigating
Observing
Questioning
Classifying
Identifying
Recording
Measuring

Key Words

Habitat
Conditions
Mini-beast
Lichen

Curriculum Links

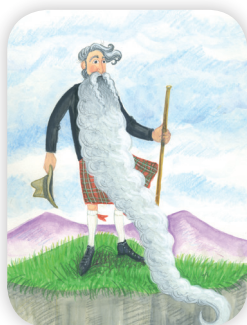
This topic helps develop pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding in Science, Geography, and PSHE.

EYFS

Understanding the World
The World

John Muir Award

Discover
Explore
Conserve
Share



Try the following activities if you are working for any of the following badges:

Rainbows - Look and Learn

Beavers - Explore Activity

Brownies - Environment, Friend to Animals, Science Investigator, Seasons, Wildlife

Cubs - Naturalist Activity

Guides - Animal Active, Science

Scouts - Naturalist Activity, Global Conservation Activity

Habitat Hunter

Burial grounds are an ideal place to study a range of habitats. The suggested activity ideas help children recognise that there are many different habitats in their local burial ground and that they each have different conditions for different plants and animals to live. Children will use simple fieldwork techniques to investigate.

Learning Outcomes

Children will:

- Identify and name different habitats
- Recognise and describe habitat conditions and how they are different

Resources

Magnifying glass, torch, pupil sheet, 4 story sticks, camera.

Habitat Hunter Compare and Contrast

Key Questions

Why do habitats have different conditions?

Activity Ideas

1. Habitat Hunt - Explore the different areas of the burial ground. Ask pupils to hunt for as many different types of habitat as possible, e.g. headstones and monuments, shady areas, cracks in walls, short and long grassland, hedges, trees, scrub etc.

Produce a map highlighting the different burial ground habitats. Include a key to show where the different habitats are found across the site.

2. Grassland Explorer - You will need string, a magnifying glass, 4 story sticks (small twigs or pegs), drawing materials or a camera to complete this activity. This activity encourages children to look more carefully at a grassland habitat.

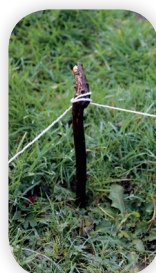
In small groups choose a small area of grassland to

explore in detail. Grass is common in burial grounds and at first glance the grass may appear to be the same. But if you look very closely you will see lots of differences and may find a whole host of other things growing including flowers, moss and clover.

Use a magnifying glass and a torch and get down on your hands and knees to explore. Search for something that stands out to you - something unusual or different. Take a photograph or a quick sketch and put one of your 'story sticks' into the ground to mark the spot. When all four sticks are in the ground use the string to join them together. Follow the string from stick to stick; be ready to tell the other groups about the unusual things you found.

Discussion point - Why did you choose it? What do you like about it? Why is it so special? What do you think would live there? Can you identify the species you found?

You could vary this activity further by encouraging groups to choose grass in a variety of different locations including a shady area, in corners, close to walls, of different lengths etc. Compare the children's findings.



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3. Compare and Contrast - Find a wall habitat and explore it using a magnifying glass and torch. What did you find? Compare the wall habitat conditions with a different habitat. Make a record of the different plants and animals found there using the habitat hunter compare and contrast sheet. Collect examples if possible. Include sketches with labels and photographs.

Plenary

Discuss the different species found living in the habitats. Why do they need different places to live? Tell your partner.



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Back at School

Exciting Writing

Create a fact book or a page from an information text about the plants or animals you found during the visit to the burial ground. Undertake extra research in books and the internet to add more information.

Further Activities

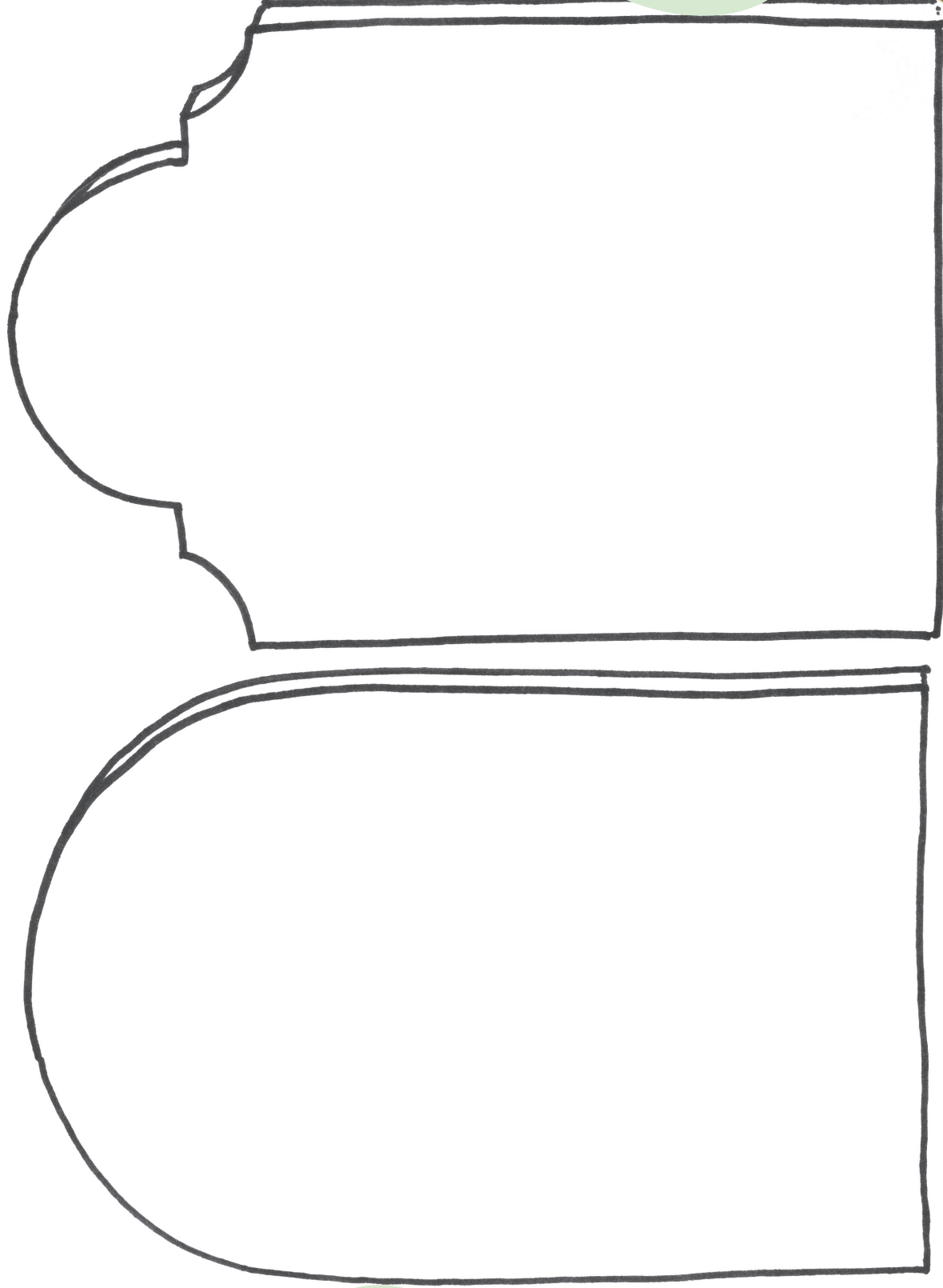
4. Help birds create their home for nesting - in the spring put nesting material in a string bag and hang it up somewhere visible e.g. a tree outside a classroom window. Fill it with; un-spun sheep wool, lengths of knitting wool (about 3 inches long), kapok, dry grass, hair, moss, lengths of string and feathers. Watch the birds come and pull bits out for their nests. Hang this up from early March through to end May, keep adding more material and refilling.

5. Research - the work of inspirational naturalists and conservationists such as John Muir, Octavia Hill, Alfred Russel Wallace and David Attenborough.



northeastwildlife.co.uk

Habitat Hunter Compare and Contrast



How are they
different?



Tell your
partner
what you
have found
out

