

# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

'Making Space for Nature' includes indoor and outdoor activities for pupils to enjoy engaging with the nature on their doorstep. This will inspire pupil creativity whilst encouraging outdoor learning and well-being as they explore their own naturehood.

## Activity 2: Natural Treasures

In this activity, you will take a closer look at nature, identify species and their habitats, and create an imaginary miniature habitat.

Tasks 1 and 3 will be completed indoors. Task 2 will be completed outdoors.

Task 1: What is Biodiversity?



**1. Read the questions below, then watch this video before answering them:**

**Our Planet - What is biodiversity? David Attenborough (3 mins).**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=US58f-SwO0k>

a) Biodiversity refers to the number of living things on our planet and how they interact. Can you give an example of biodiversity reducing?

b) A habitat is the natural home of a plant or animal. It provides the organisms that live there with food, water, shelter and space to survive. Can you give an example of a natural animal habitat?

# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

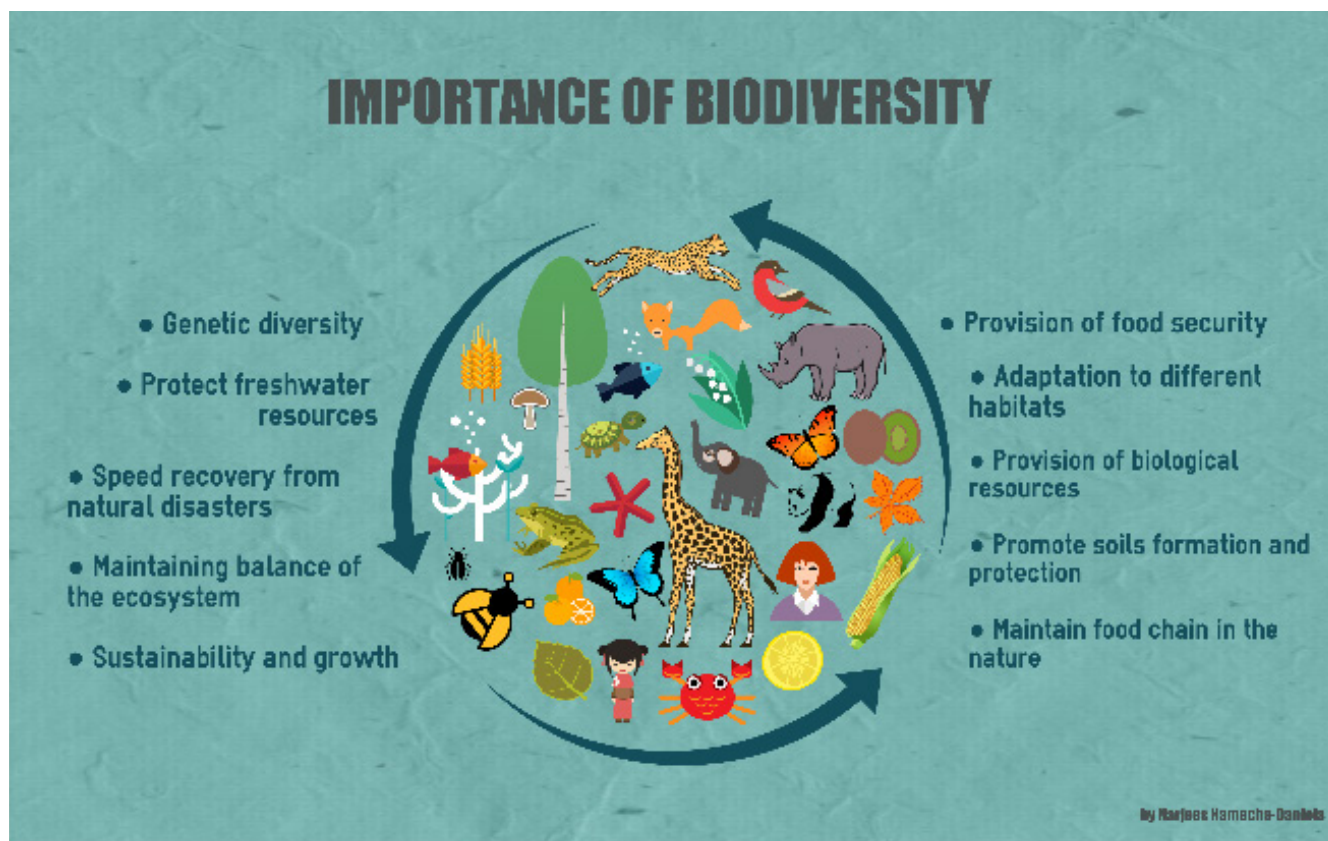
## Activity 2: Thamesmead Natural Treasures

### Task 1: What is Biodiversity? (continued)

2. Look at the picture and find out why biodiversity is important.

Choose the one you think is most important to you.

(There's no right or wrong answer, but it's your opinion).



# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

## Activity 2: Thamesmead Natural Treasures

### Task 2: Spotting Biodiversity Outside

You are going to go outside and identify some of the bio-diversity around you.

You can either use an app or choose your spotter sheets to download [here](#).

If you're using the app, following the instructions below. If not, skip this box and move onto the second box.

To get started download the SEEK by iNaturalist app.

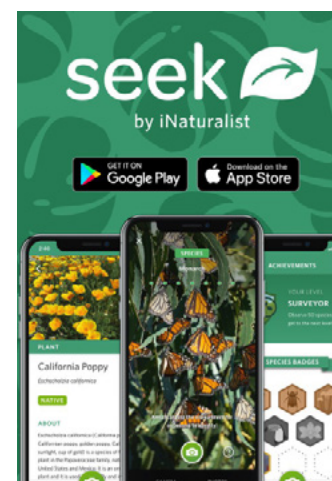
You can do this through the app store - the app is free.

This is what the app looks like.

Once the app has downloaded, open it.

You will be asked if you would like to make an account but click on the bottom option to continue as a guest.

On your walk, use the camera function in the app to photograph and identify five different species of plants, animals or insects.



### YOU WILL NEED:

- Binoculars or a magnifying glass (if you have one) – if you don't, your eyes will work just fine.
- Activity sheets on pages 4 and 5 (or a notebook)
- A pen/pencil
- Mobile phone or ipad with SEEK app
- OR your bird, flower, or tree spotter sheets available to download [here](#).
- A bag or a box for collecting nature's treasures to create your miniature habitat (soil, twigs, leaves, petals, moss, seeds, little stones).

# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

## Activity 2: Thamesmead Natural Treasures

### Task 2: Spotting Biodiversity Outside (continued)

Complete the chart below identifying the species, its habitat and draw a picture of it (if you have no phone or ipad, record what you see by referring to the nature spotter sheets you can download [here](#))

#### Natural Treasures

BIODIVERSITY: BIRDS 

INSECTS, SNAILS & WORMS 

TREES 

FLOWERS 

**Species:**

**Habitat:**

(e.g. water, woods, grasslands, gardens, under a log or stone)

**Species:**

**Habitat:**

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**Habitat:**

# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

## Activity 2: Thamesmead Natural Treasures

### Natural Treasures

BIODIVERSITY: BIRDS



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Species:

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# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

## Activity 2: Thamesmead Natural Treasures

### Task 3: Create a MINIATURE IMAGINARY HABITAT

A 'habitat' is a place where animals find shelter and food, where they reproduce, and where plants find the water, soil (food) and solar energy they need. Habitats are essential for life and survival. Your habitat is your house (shelter) and everything else you need to live (food, heat, sleep, love, affection, and adults who take care of you).

Follow the instructions below to create a miniature habitat for an imaginary species.

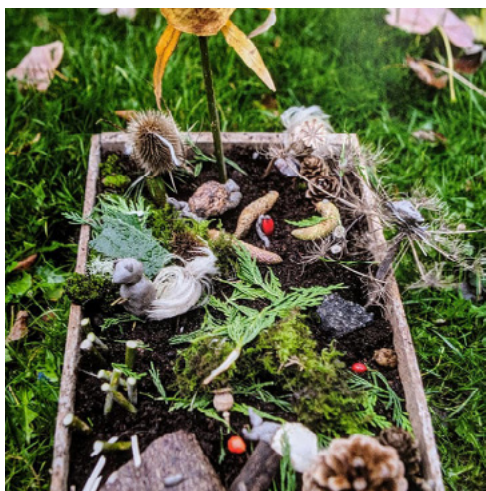
In its habitat, your species will need a sun, food, plants, animals which eat plants and animals which eat animals, water, shelter, and protection.

#### YOU WILL NEED:

- a) A shoe box, a seed tray or a plastic box.
- b) Add a thin layer of soil, sand or peat-free compost (which you can collect from outside)
- c) Natural treasures like twigs, leaves, petals, moss, seeds, little stones
- d) Clay or play dough (optional)

Transform the items you collected from outside into miniature trees and plants and combine them with clay or play dough to make tiny creatures. Don't forget to add the sun - the essential ingredient supporting life on earth.

When your mini world / habitat is complete, perhaps you could make up a story about an explorer discovering everything that lives there.



**Photograph your miniature world  
and share it with your class!**

# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

## Activity 2: Thamesmead Natural Treasures

**Well done – you are ‘making space for nature’!**

If you’re interested in other nature activities, you’ll find some here:

- [www.goingwild.net](http://www.goingwild.net)
- <https://www.facebook.com/goingwild/>
- <https://twitter.com/goingwildnet?lang=en-gb>
- <https://wildlifetrusts.org/>
- <https://www.backyardnature.org/resources/>
- <https://www.wwf.org.uk/things-to-do-home>
- <https://mailchi.mp/johnmuirtrust.org/wildinside>
- <https://woodlandtrust.org.uk/search/?q=children&p=1>
- <https://rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/>

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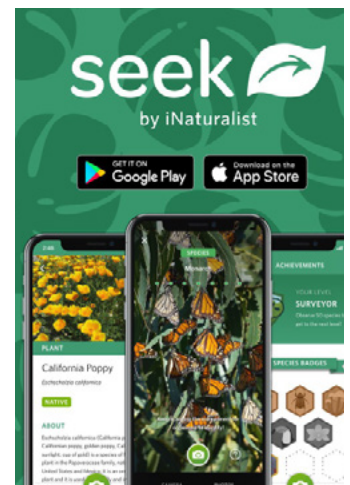
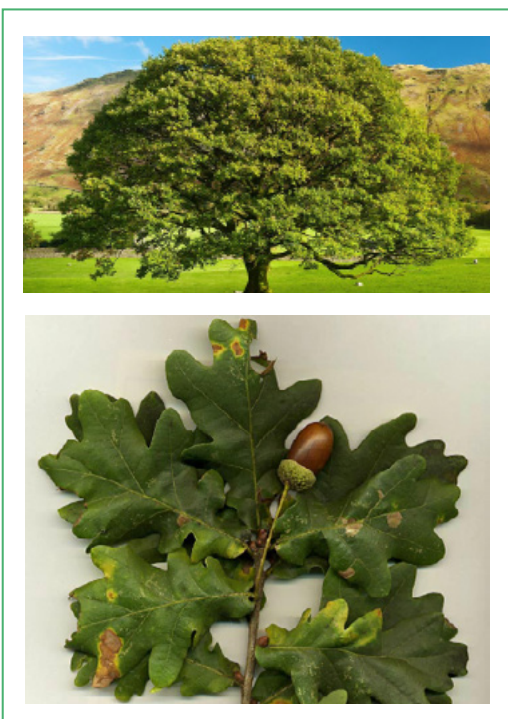
'Making Space for Nature' includes indoor and outdoor activities for pupils to enjoy engaging with the nature on their doorstep. This will inspire pupil creativity whilst encouraging outdoor learning and well-being as they explore their own naturehood.

## Activity 3: I see a tree... what do you see?

In this activity, you will take a closer look at tree species, age and height.

Read through the whole activity before beginning to ensure you fully understand the instructions and take what you need. You may want to do Tasks 2 and 3 on two separate outings.

### Task 1: Can you name these two trees by their shape and leaf?



Answers at end of activity sheet

To identify a tree, you will either use the SEEK app (which you used in Activity 2 – Natural Treasures) or the leaf ID sheet accompanying this activity.

Use the camera function in the app to **photograph and identify five different species of tree by photographing the leaf. Write the species on the activity sheet on page 4.**



# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

## Activity 3: I see a tree... what do you see?

### Task 2. How can you measure a tree without climbing up it?

Watch this video to learn how. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6fltSqImFM>

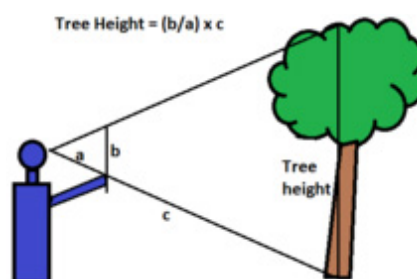
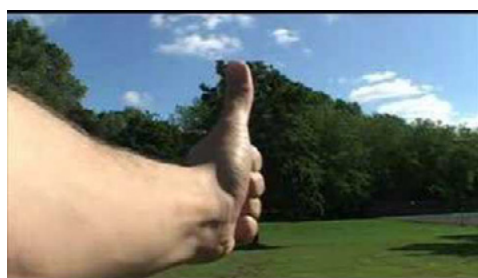
#### YOU WILL NEED:

- Activity sheet on page 4 (or a notebook) and pen/pencil
- Mobile smartphone with SEEK app (or leaf ID sheets)
- A tape measure



#### HOW TO MEASURE THE HEIGHT OF A TREE USING YOUR THUMB

- Stand away from the tree at a distance so you can see the top and bottom of the tree without moving your head.
- Ask your friend to stand at a distance to the left or right of the tree.
- With your arm stretched straight out, with a clenched fist and thumb pointed upwards, put the tip of your thumb in line with the top of the tree and move forward or backward until the bottom of your hand appears at the base of the tree.
- Then rotate your arm 45 degrees towards where your friend is standing so your thumb is horizontal making sure the bottom of your hand is still at the base of the tree.
- Use your friend as a marker where the tip of your thumb appears to be and measure that distance. You may have to ask your friend to move left or right. Your friend should be about the same distance from the tree as you are. That distance will be the height of the tree.



- Use a tape measure to measure the distance between your friend and the tree.
- If you don't have a tape measure, then pace by counting how many steps from you to the tree. Then estimate or measure the length of your pace and multiply it by the number of paces taken and that will give you the height of the tree (length of pace X number of paces).
- Is your measurement in centimetres (cm) or metres (m)? Can you convert the cm measurement to find out the height in metres? (Remember 1cm = 1m.)

# MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

## Activity 3: I see a tree... what do you see?

### Task 3. How can you work out the age of a tree without chopping it down?



You probably know that you can find out the age of a tree by counting the dark rings across its trunk, but we're not going to chop down any trees!

#### TO MEASURE THE AGE OF YOUR TREE YOU WILL NEED:

- Activity sheet on page 4 (or a notebook) and pen/pencil
- A tape measure.

#### HOW TO WORK OUT THE AGE OF A TREE.

You can calculate the rough age of trees by measuring its circumference.

- Measure 1 metre from the ground against the tree trunk (or estimate it at your height).
- Then, measure the circumference of the trunk (measuring to the nearest cm). This is the circumference (or girth) of the tree.
- Approximately, every 2.5cm of circumference represents about one year's growth. So, to estimate the age of a living tree, divide the circumference by 2.5. For example, a tree with a circumference of 40cm will be sixteen years old.

$$40\text{cm} \div 2.5 = 16 \text{ years old}$$


$$(\text{Circumference cm} \div 2.5 = \text{age of tree in years})$$



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## Activity 3: I see a tree... what do you see?

Complete the chart below.

<b>Tree species</b> 	<b>Circumference (to the nearest cm)</b>	<b>Age (divide the circumference by 2.5)</b>	<b>Height (to the nearest metre)</b>

What age was your oldest tree? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the difference in age between the oldest and the youngest tree you measured?

\_\_\_\_\_

Extension activity:

What changes do you think your oldest tree has seen in your area? Imagine the tree could talk and write a short story about all the things that tree has seen throughout its life. (Use your imagination to describe changes to buildings, people, wildlife, parks, spaces and trees around it!)

Answers to Task 1: Left = Oak Right = Common Beech

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## Activity 3: I see a tree... what do you see?

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- <https://mailchi.mp/johnmuirtrust.org/wildinside>
- <https://woodlandtrust.org.uk/search/?q=children&p=1>
- <https://rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/>