

TEACHER NOTES

Science: Biology

Living Things & Their Habitats - Classifying Tree Types

Contextual Summary

This resource is for students in key stage 1 and lower key stage 2 and relates to the 'Working Scientifically' part of the Science National Curriculum, focusing on identifying tree features, and using classification keys.

The task links to specific aspects of the model village environment, notably the trees and plants & their variation in features and characteristics.



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SUBJECT

Science (Biology)

UNIT

Classification

OPPORTUNITIES FOR USE

- ✗ Pre-Visit
- ✓ On-Site Activity
- ✗ Post-Visit



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They will identify their characteristics and features using a table featuring key questions.

Students can then try to identify the type of tree they have chosen.

It would be useful if students have had prior introduction to simple dichotomous keys (a key with two branches at each stage).

Ability Levels

There are three variants of this resource, one for low ability lower key stage 2 students, one for high ability lower key stage 2 students, and one for high ability key stage 1 students.

The language has been simplified in the lower ability resource, and tasks are less complex.

Teachers could adjust/amend questions as required to suit individual needs, or they could place students of different abilities together in groups for support.

Key skills practised in this unit:

- ▶ Working scientifically
- ▶ Identifying features of variation
- ▶ Recording data
- ▶ Using classification keys to enable identification of leaves

Relationship to Curriculum

The above skills are required to be taught and practised as per the National Curriculum, for key stage 1 and lower key stage 2 Science - *working scientifically: using classification keys.*

CURRICULUM / SYLLABUS

- ✓ National Curriculum 2014
- ✓ Curriculum for Excellence

Applies to Resources numbered:

1	0	9	1	0	1
1	0	9	1	0	2
1	0	9	1	0	3

Learning Opportunities

Pre-Visit

Students could be introduced to classification / identification keys, and their functions/process etc.

During the Visit

Completion of the resource/s linked to this Teacher Note:

Resource ID: **109101** (KS2L low ability) or **109102** (KS2L higher ability)
109103 (KS1 higher ability)

- ▶ Students explore the need to make critical observations of features in the plant material. They also learn that living things often show a lot of variability and this needs to be considered when handling the information. For example, individual plants of the same species may have leaves with different shapes and sizes.
- ▶ Students work individually or in pairs or small groups.

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- ▶ Students can explore the species further using keys of their own, identifying the exact type, and identifying the Latin name.

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Enrichment Opportunities

- ▶ Opportunities exist for students to gain valuable practice in the area of working scientifically.
- ▶ They are applying practical skills by working scientifically with trees within their habitat, and are practising the use of identification/classification keys for some of the many tree types found at The Model Village Godshill.

Learning Outcomes

- ✓ Students will have worked scientifically and will demonstrate an understanding of how to identify key features of tree leaves/branches.
- ✓ Students will be able to identify tree types based on their characteristics, whilst recognising that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.
- ✓ Students will explore their local environment and use classification keys to help group, identify and name living things within it.

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