



Eco Trail

learnlink™

About the activity

Led by our knowledgeable staff, our eco trails take pupils off site to discover the local environment and experience the beautiful surroundings of our centres. Whether by the sea, a river, near mountains or next to forests and open countryside, your students have the chance to learn about basic geographical, ecological, biological and environmental issues – and are able to see the effects for themselves at first hand.

Activity aims

The aim of this activity is to:

- Introduce the Eco Trail and the necessary equipment.
- Allow each participant to explore areas of the centre they might not otherwise visit.
- Encourage participants to explore their natural environment and start to formulate ideas about conservation.
- Ensure participants work together supporting and encouraging each other.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss what they have accomplished.

Progression opportunities

Some participants may also:

- Observe, collect and identify evidence for pollution and wider environmental impacts.
- Understand why the natural environment is under threat, conflicts of interest associated with it and ways it can be protected.
- Be able to describe the locality of the centre.
- Take the initiative in evaluating their performance and that of the group.
- Be able to assess risks and understand how these may be controlled.

In addition, participants should also have developed in the following:

- Interpersonal Communication
- Teamwork

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the activity, participants will have:

- Explored the natural environment and have an understanding of pollution, conservation and environmental impact.
- Demonstrated the ability to listen to, understand and act on instructions received.
- An understanding of associated hazards.
- Effectively worked in small teams supporting their peers throughout the activity and recognising their achievements.
- Contributed to a post activity review led by the instructor identifying what they did well and then suggested ways to improve.

Associated vocabulary

Words relevant to safety e.g. boundaries, hazard, risk assessment, risk, rules, safety.

Words relevant to equipment e.g. collecting pots, magnify, identification chart.

Words relevant to the activity e.g. identify, investigate, observe, patterns, view, adaptation, environment, habitat, organisms, survival problems, pollution, conservation.

Words relevant to teamwork e.g. achievement, communication, co-operation, encouragement, group, individual, listening, participation, review, support.