

Overview – Lesson 6 “Planet Earth”

Focus: The Unexplored Earth

Inspired by
Attenborough

Theme/Programme Link	Curriculum Links	Learning Objectives/Lesson Outline	Differentiation	Resources
<p>Lesson 6 “Planet Earth”: Focus: The Unexplored Earth</p>	<p>Science Sc2: Living things in their environment 5b: children learn about the different plants and animals found in different habitats Geography: 7c: Children carry out fieldwork investigations outside the classroom.</p>	<p>Learning Objectives: <i>Can I find out about the different types of plants and animals in our playground?</i></p> <p>Lesson Outline: Starter activities/engagement: <u>Unexplored playground</u> Explain that David Attenborough filmed and explored unexplored parts of the earth. Explain that the school playground (alternative: local park or common) is now the “unexplored playground” and it is their job to explore it and to identify elements of nature within it.</p> <p>Whole class teaching: <u>Analysis of unexplored playground</u> Which areas of the playground have they never explored? Have they looked under stones/rocks? Taken samples from the pond? Have they dug up any earth? Do they know the names of trees and plants within the playground? How could they find out? etc. Questions will depend on different school playgrounds and what areas they have within them.</p> <p>Individual work: <u>Treasure hunt</u> Take children into the playground/park. Tell them they are going to complete a Treasure Hunt based on the “Unexplored Playground”. The child who completes the most task cards in the allotted time (suggestion: 45 minutes) is the winner.</p> <p>Extension: Make up their own questions that could be used for this game.</p> <p>Plenary: Summarise all the outcomes of the given cards – discuss findings and go over any questions that arise from what children have seen/found.</p>	<p>Mixed ability pairs for treasure hunt Treasure Hunt cards should be differentiated</p>	<p>Lesson plan 6 (see next page) Powerpoint 6: Planet Earth – Sir David Introduction clip – Cave exploring clip</p> <p>Activities: Lesson 6 – Treasure hunt cards (2 copies)</p> <p><u>You will also need:</u> Petri dishes Polythene bags for collecting things Trowels Scales Rulers Cameras for children/teacher to record with Fact sheets with different plants/insects/birds/trees that may be found in the local environment.</p>

Lesson plan 6 “Planet Earth”

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Starter activities/engagement:

Unexplored playground

Show children Sir David's introduction to the lesson, then watch the video on cave exploring (slide 1).

Explain that David Attenborough films and explores unexplored parts of the earth. Explain that the school playground (alternative: local park or common) is now the “unexplored playground” and it is their job to explore it and to identify elements of nature within it.

Whole class teaching:

Analysis of unexplored playground

Define the words “nature/habitat/environment”.

Ask children what they expect to find in the environment of the playground? What about their local park? How would these differ and why? – use slide 2

Which areas of the playground have they never explored? Have they looked under stones/rocks? Taken samples from the pond? Have they dug up any earth? Do they know the names of trees and plants within the playground? How could they find out? etc. Questions will depend on different school playgrounds and what areas they have within them.

Individual work:

Treasure hunt

Show children slide 3 and use Treasure Hunt Cards from Activities: Lesson 6.

Tell them they are going to complete a Treasure hunt based on the “Unexplored Playground”. Use slides 4-9 to introduce them to certain trees, flowers or insects they may encounter.

Take children into the playground/park.

Each child (or pair) start with a different card – something they have to bring back to the teacher, e.g. “Find me a piece of grass 5cm long”, or “Bring me as many different types of leaf as you can in 5 minutes”, or “Bring me one insect (alive) in a petri dish – bonus points for naming it”.

Make computers available or fact sheets for children to identify different insects/plants/birds/trees from. Bonus points for naming things.

The child who completes the most task cards in the allotted time (suggestion: 45 minutes) is the winner.

Recording: in the next lesson, children could stick in photos taken by the teacher and write about their findings

Extension:

Children make up their own questions that could be used for this game.

Plenary:

Summarise all the outcomes of the given cards – discuss findings and go over any questions that arise from what children have seen/found.