

Create a Critter

Use natural modelling materials to create new species with adaptations to their habitat

5-9

Biodiversity and Interdependence



This activity is a hook for science work around biodiversity and adaptation.

It could be a springboard for children to consider the existing biodiversity in their locality; the adaptations of those species and how they can improve the habitats to attract more wildlife.

Equally this is a great stimulus for self-expression through: creative writing; improvised role play; story telling or the artistic sculpture and modelling of new weird and wonderful creatures. If they are made of air-drying clay, they could become a feature of the grounds themselves for small world play.

Equipment

- Home-made natural play dough or clay
- Natural materials
- A varied area with small hidey-holes and corners. It doesn't have to be all natural – for example what would an animal look like that was adapted to live on a school wall?!

Activity

1. Work in small groups or independently
2. Choose a suitable habitat and then make a 'critter' that can use that habitat.
3. In creating the critter ask the pupils to consider how it is adapted to its habitat that is:
 - How it feeds
 - Where it shelters
 - How it defends itself
 - A species' name

Extension

Interview the critter with one pupil as the interviewer and one pupil as the creature. Focus on characterisations...thoughts, feelings and motivations: who, what, where, when, why and how.

What happens when one creature meets another...?



Learning
through
Landscapes

For more resources visit www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources

© This activity sheet was created by Learning through Landscapes
Registered charity no. in England and Wales 803270 and in Scotland SCO38890

