



## Glenveagh Nature Education Programme

### Module Fact Sheet for Teachers: Making Nature Count

#### Book this module if:

- Your children are in 5<sup>th</sup> class upwards.
- They can discuss and estimate percentages.
- They understand the basic idea of Biodiversity and the concept of habitats.
- They are familiar with bar graphs.
- They have been introduced to the layers of a woodland.
- You can spend the full 4 hours with us and are able to do relevant preparation work with the class.

#### Learning Outcomes: what we hope the children in your class will gain from the module:

- Knowledge and understanding of how mathematics is used by scientists in nature.
- Facts to think about why surveys are conducted in nature.
- The meaning of the terms Biodiversity and Habitats.
- Information about current threats to our habitats.
- The ability to name of the layers in a forest.
- Opportunity to experience conducting a simple survey of a woodland habitat.
- Skills in how to show the survey results visually.

#### Methods of teaching and activities: what children will experience:

- Opening discussion about the use of maths by nature scientists.
- Questions and challenges encouraging children to think about habitats and biodiversity at a global level and a more local level with a focus on woodland habitats
- Hands on surveying, including percentage estimating and measuring.
- Team work and communication skills.
- Creating graphs from the days records, plotting results of percentage estimates in the 4 woodland layers on a bar chart.
- Group discussions and analysis of results, presentations of findings and conclusions on what surveys actually mean.

### Suggested preparation activities to do in school:

- Discuss what Biodiversity and Habitats are.
- Talk about the layers of a woodland. Go to your nearest tree and look at the different layers in the outdoors. This can work well even if it's a lone tree.
- Talk about where surveys have been done in nature, such as surveys of the rainforest, polar monitoring, fish numbers etc.
- Encourage the class to think why surveys are done, why we need to monitor nature and why nature matters to us.
- Discuss ecosystem services, such as forests providing wood and oxygen, bogs helping to prevent flooding, freshwater for drinking, fish for food and leisure pursuits etc.

### Suggested follow up activities to do after your visit:

- Conduct your own survey.
- This could be a survey of different plants in a hedgerow, different bugs in the ground, different birds at your bird feeder etc.
- Plot your results in a graph.
- Carry out a winter survey around some trees or hedgerow, followed up by a spring survey and a summer survey.
- Compare the results of the same area in different seasons.

### Useful links for further information:

[http://www.noticenature.ie/Nature\\_Surveys.html](http://www.noticenature.ie/Nature_Surveys.html)

<http://www.noticenature.ie/Educators2.html>

<http://www.noticenature.ie/>

<http://www.ispynature.com/>

<http://www.treecouncil.ie/>

<http://www.biology.ie/>

<http://www.npws.ie/>



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