

SEEDS TO TREES

5-14 NATIONAL GUIDELINES – Environmental Studies: Science

TEACHERS SHEET

HELPING BIRCH TREE SEEDS GROW WELL

Session aim:

To allow pupils to understand the importance of planting tree seeds carefully and the requirements of tree seeds to grow into trees. To help pupils understand the nature and function of the different parts of a flowering plant.

Activity:

Use the pupil activity sheet 'Planting your birch seeds' to learn the process of planting a tree seed. Why not go out in the autumn and collect the seed off some local birch trees? Contact the local council's Ranger Service if you need help or advice.

Use the pupil activity sheet 'Growing healthy trees' to distinguish the difference between a tree seed that is planted well and will grow healthily, and one that has been planted badly and will struggle to grow.

Extension activities

- Ideally follow this activity with a hands-on experience of tree planting. This can be at an organised community tree planting, or planting trees in the school grounds.
- Pupils can find out more information about what other kinds of plants need, to help them grow. They could then explore the similarities and differences between those and the needs of a tree to grow.

5-14 Environmental Studies National Guideline links:

Science: The processes of life

Level C: describe the broad functions of the main parts of flowering plants

Science: Interaction of living things with their environment

Level A: give examples of how to care for living things

Level C: explain how living things and the environment can be protected

Level D: give examples of how plants and animals are suited to their environment

Skills in Science: : Investigating

Preparing, carrying out and reviewing – undertaking fair testing, observing & measuring, recording & presenting findings, interpreting & evaluating results.

Science: Developing Informed Attitudes

Respect and care for self and others – safe and responsible care of living things and their environment

Social and Environmental Responsibility – importance of interrelationships between living things and environment; consequences of different choices and courses of action

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PUPIL ACTIVITY SHEET

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Draw a picture in each of the boxes below to explain the process:

<p>1. Put a few stones in the bottom of a pot to help the water drain out.</p>	<p>2. Put compost or soil in the pot until 2/3 full. Water the soil.</p>	<p>3. Sprinkle a pinch of birch seeds on top of the soil (the seedlings can be thinned out when they germinate).</p>
<p>4. Cover the seeds with a layer of soil so that they are hidden.</p>	<p>5. Place a plastic bag over the pot and fasten it tightly. Put the pot in a sunny place.</p>	<p>6. It could take a few months for your seeds to start growing. As soon as the seedlings appear, remove the plastic bag. Water the seedlings once or twice a week.</p>
<p>7. If you have more than one seedling in each pot, gently move each seedling to a new pot, taking care not to damage any part of it. This will give your trees space to grow properly.</p>	<p>8. In the summer put your seedling outside if you can.</p>	<p>9. In autumn, plant it in the ground where you want it to grow. Dig a hole bit a bigger than the pot. Gently lift out the seedling with its soil from the pot and place in the hole. Firm the soil down around the roots and water well.</p>