Wildwork JUNIOR TOOLKIT

Teacher & Parent Guide
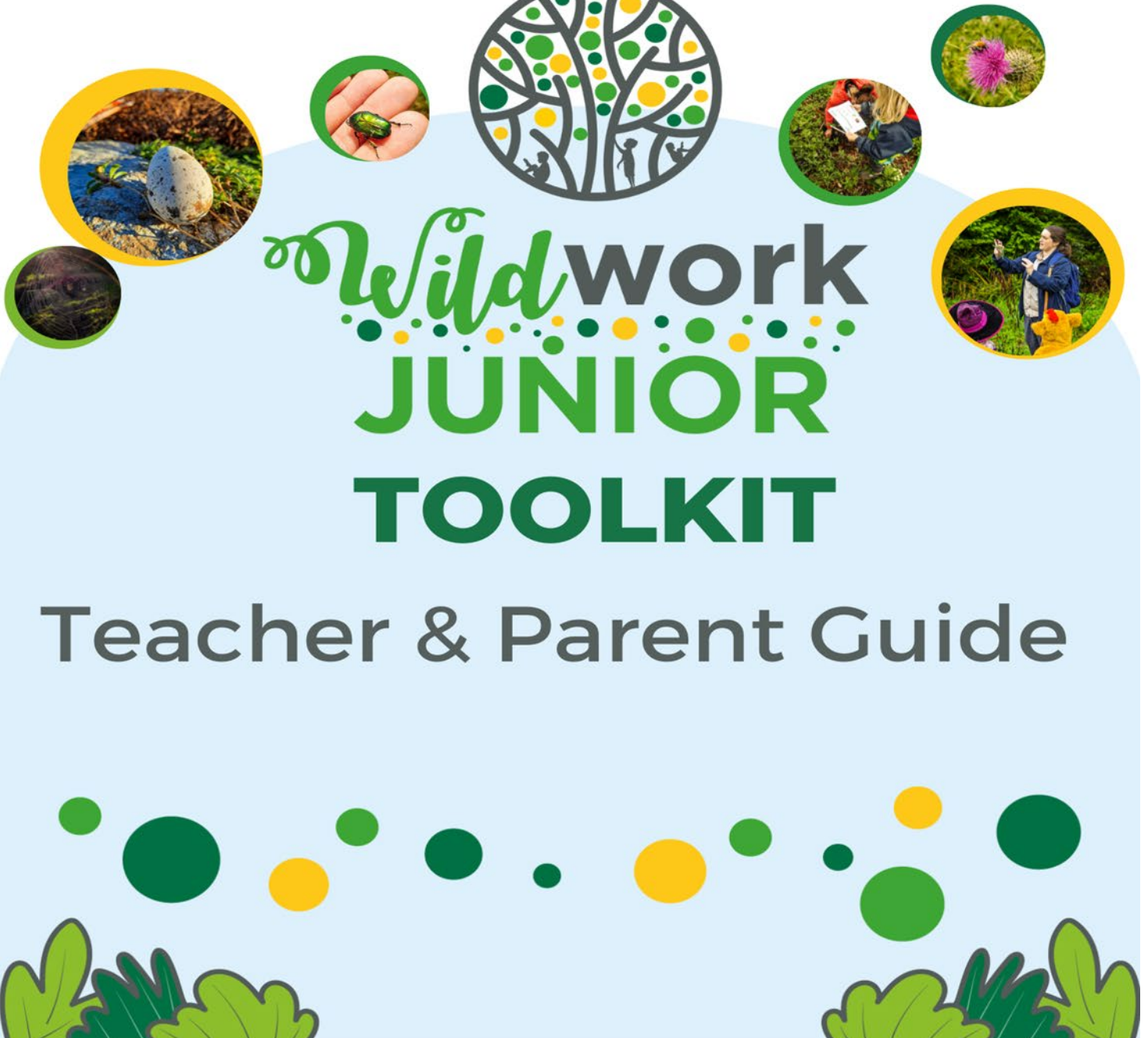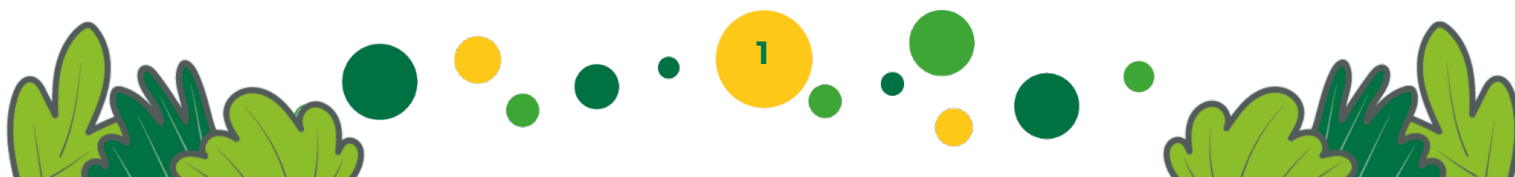
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Acknowledgements:

Council, Cork County Local Community Development Committee, Cavan Local Community Development Committee and Limerick Local Community Development Committee.

About Wild Work

Nature is facing a number of serious challenges. Throughout our landscape, we need to conserve, protect and reinvigorate biodiversity. Wild Work is an initiative to help you, help nature, help you. By working together to sustain nature and biodiversity, we are creating something special to benefit our people, our communities and the places in which we work and live.

All around us, there are numerous natural places that are not being used to their full potential; with Wild Work this potential can be realised – creating beautiful connections – not just ecologically – but between business and community to bring wildness back into people's lives.

Wild Work has a social ethos. Any income generated through our work is re-invested to help people, help nature, help people. It is our hope that people who become part of the Wild Work movement will enjoy helping nature and our environment, as well as having the opportunity to socialise with others and benefit greatly in terms of health and well-being.

Above all, we aim to make a big impact by fostering people's goodwill to ensure that our local flora, fauna and habitats are protected, valued and enhanced.

We believe our collaborative approach with business and communities will prove successful in benefiting biodiversity, our environment and our society; a society dependent on nature for its prosperity...

Hear what people are saying about Wild Work on our Podcast.

About the Junior Wild Work Toolkit

Wild Work created an online toolkit for the whole family. The Junior Wild Work toolkit encourages young Wild Workers to do Wild Work from the classroom to the playground, or from home to the garden, or exploring the town to local woodland and meadows. The toolkit includes Calls to Actions to encourage outdoor activities and the interactive e-learning tools give the foundational knowledge to become a Wild Worker. You can dip in and out of the topics based on your interests, or you can complete an entire topic to gain a broad understanding of Wild Work.

The Junior Wild Work Toolkit has been developed to support the learning of primary school-aged children about the key topics of nature and biodiversity, and how to support their own wellbeing through nature.

Many toolkit items also have simple, age-appropriate creative calls to actions outlined to enable the children to support nature and their own wellbeing. The content has been designed for children in classes 3rd through 6th, although much of the content will still be informative and educational for older children in the Junior Cycle of Secondary School. All content can be used as a stand-alone tool, or to supplement or reinforce place-based learning activities.

The toolkit will grow and change over time. We welcome your suggestions for additions and any corrections.

The Junior Wild Work Toolkit comprises 62 toolkit items across 6 modules:

Module 1 - The Story of Wild Work

Includes 3 toolkit items that introduces the young Wild Worker to the Wild Work ethos and origins of the project.

Module 2 - Wild Work and students - How nature is good for us!

Includes 9 toolkit items. These items teach student Wild Workers about the well-being aspects of engaging with nature. It includes activities such as creating a Nature Journal and finding a Sit Spot in.

Module 3 - Learning about the Irish landscape.

Includes 28 toolkit items. Students are taken on a journey through time to learn about the Irish landscape. Start off discovering how the last Ice Age shaped the landscape, how our rivers and mountains formed and the amazing animals that used to live here. Then learn all about modern Irish habitats and the plants and animals that live in them.

Learn bird song, identify butterflies, discover different woodland types and where to visit them - and so much more! These items include a range of different learning options such as clickable hotspots, flash cards and interactive videos.

Module 4 - Wild Work in action - Take action to help nature.

Includes 10 toolkit items exploring actions that Wild Workers can take to help nature in their garden, school and community. Includes downloadable Call to Action PDFs that can be printed to use offline.

Module 5 - Becoming a Citizen Scientist.

Includes 6 toolkit items which introduce Wild Workers to Citizen Science and the Irish citizen scientist schemes they can take part in.

Module 6 - Wild Work Thoughts: Reflect on what you've learned.

Includes 5 toolkit items to conclude the Wild Work journey. These activities offer students time for reflection and further inspiration to continue their Wild Work journey.

About the Teacher/Parent Guide for the Junior Wild Work Toolkit:

This Teacher/Parent Guide for the Junior Wild Work Toolkit has been developed to provide an overview of the Junior Wild Work Toolkit so that teachers and parents can best decide on which toolkit items they wish to delve into with their children. For each toolkit item, the following information is included in the guide:

Toolkit Item Title

The title starts with the number of the Module (J M#. item #) followed by the item name.
Instruction and context -
This sets the scene for the subject matter of the toolkit item and gives the instructions the child will be asked to follow. Some toolkit items will have an additional pdf linked as a download, which the child can save onto a tablet or print out so that they can easily follow along with the instructions to complete a particular task.

Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes detail the skills, competencies and knowledge the child will have achieved by the end of the toolkit item (including any additional actions they have been asked to undertake).

Learning Activity

This details how completing the toolkit item will help the child to learn.

Type of Tool

The Junior Wild Work Toolkit features a number of different toolkit types. These are listed below along with a brief description to allow you to select the most appropriate toolkit items for your child.

Links to the Primary School Curriculum

All toolkit items are relevant to the Science subject area, as all relate to the natural world. Other relevant streams are detailed for each toolkit item.

Type of Tools - explained further:

Agamotto

This tool type is used for Calls to Action, they show the steps with short instructions at the bottom of each picture. As you slide over the pictures, the instructions and images change.

Course presentation

This tool type is used to teach a variety of topics presented on slides that you can scroll through along the bottom blue bar.
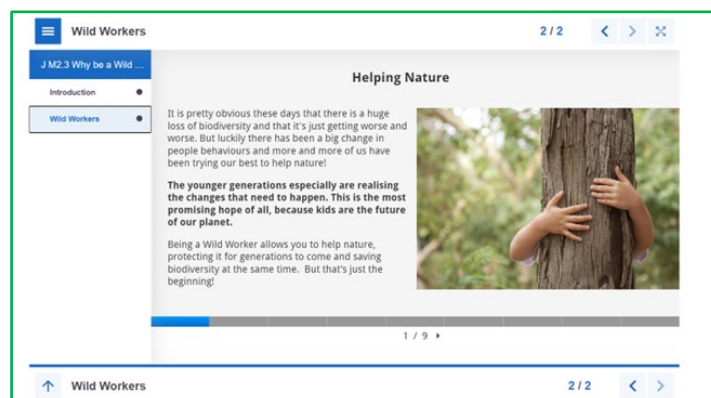
Call to Action

This type of activity offers a downloadable pdf to encourage students to go outside and complete the practical tasks. There are 13 Call to Action activities that use either an Agamotto tool or a Course presentation tool to show the steps for the activity.

Dialogue Cards

This tool acts like flash cards, to ask questions and offer answers to the student.

Drag & Drop

This interactive tool type is used to test and consolidate knowledge. Some exercises include dragging pictures to the correct location, or to drag words to fill in the blanks.

Drag the prints to the matching extinct animal.

Wild boar — Lynx — Grey wolf — European Bison

Check   1 / 3 ▶

Mick explains why working with bees is important.
Drag the words below to fill in the quotes?

"I work with bees, Yes for sure, I do a lot of _____ work. If I class myself as a _____ - I have to say No to that."
"I feel that I don't _____ those bees. I'm only there to _____ them".
"My approach is to provide proper _____ for them".
"What I am doing is providing temporary housing to _____".
"I think it's crucial to pass on knowledge to the next _____"

own   habitat   generation   beekeeper   conservation   help   bees

Check

Hotspot

This tool type shows a large image with points to click and expand with detailed content.

Ireland Through the Ice ...
Introduction
Ireland Ice Age
Glacier Hotspot
Birch

Ice age animals

Throughout the changes of temperature during ice ages, there were lots of different animals roaming around Ireland. At some points, there were massive deer, spotted hyenas, and even humongous mammoths. Just imagine a mammoth strolling through your area!

Interactive book

All the toolkit items are held inside an interactive book with an Introduction section. The content and activities, such as multiple choice and true/false quizzes follow after and below the first two Introduction and instruction slides.
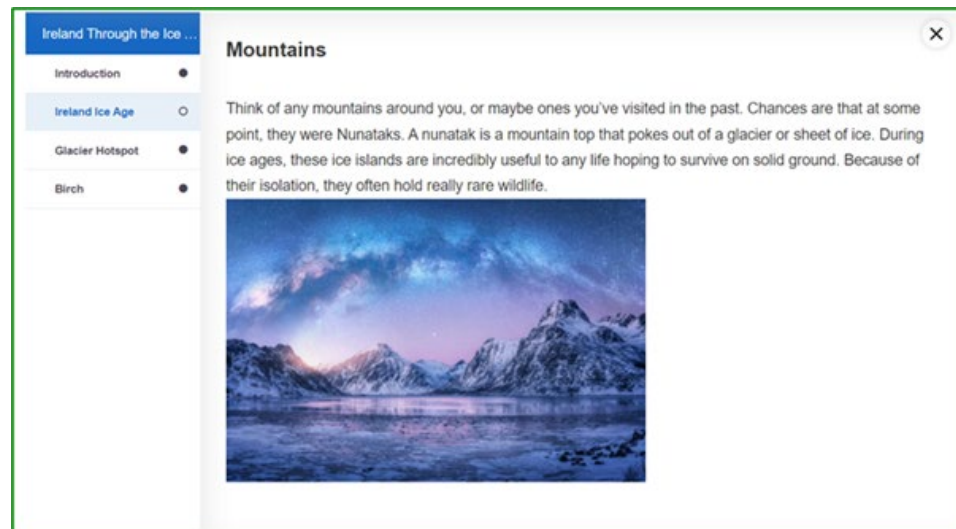
Interactive Video/ Podcast

This tool type can include pause points in the video or podcast audio where the student is prompted to answer multiple choice, true/false or drag the word questions.
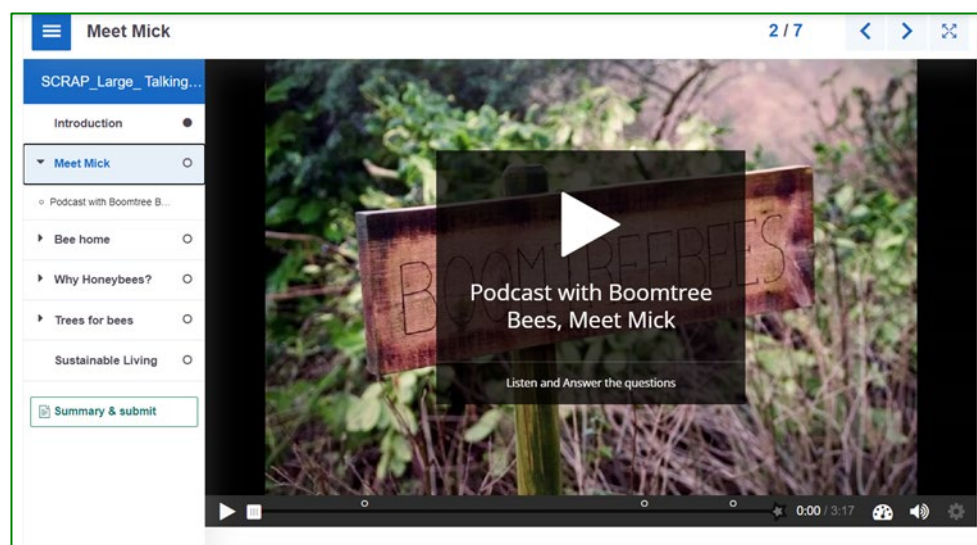
Links to the Primary School Curriculum explained further.

Guidance is given on the relevance of this toolkit time to the current Irish Primary School Curriculum. The following headings are used to position the toolkit according to its relevance to subject areas:

Figure 1: Primary School Curriculum (Govt. of Ireland: 1999)

Getting started online

When you first access the toolkit, you will be greeted with the user tour. This tour will help you navigate through the Junior Wild Work Modules. You can re-run this tour at any point by clicking the 'Reset user tour on this page' link at the bottom of the page.
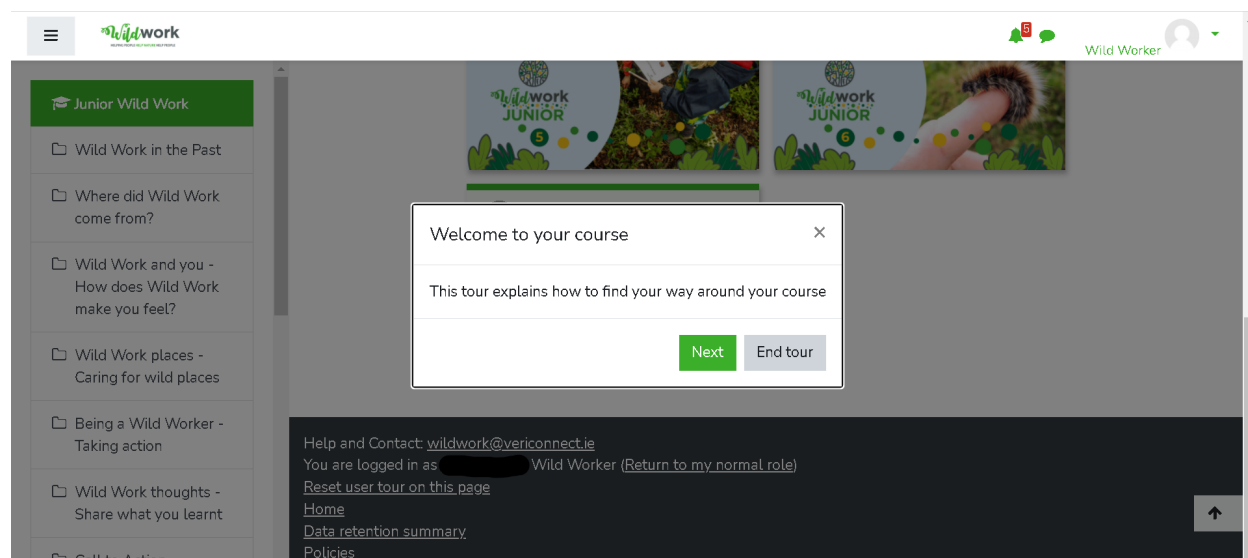
The Junior Wild Work Toolkit can be accessed online Login details can be requested by emailing us: info@wildwork.ie

Content of Toolkit Items

Module 1 - The Story of Wild Work

Title: JM1.1 Introduction to Wild Work

Instruction and context:

Watch the video to see who Wild Work is and what we do.

Learning Outcomes:

After watching the video, the student will understand what services Wild Work offers to the community.

Learning Activity:

Watch the three-minute video.

Type of tool: Agamotto

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Arts, SPHE

Title: JM1.2 Why be a Wild Worker

Instruction and context:

Learn about what it means to be a Wild Worker and why it is important for the students, their community and nature.
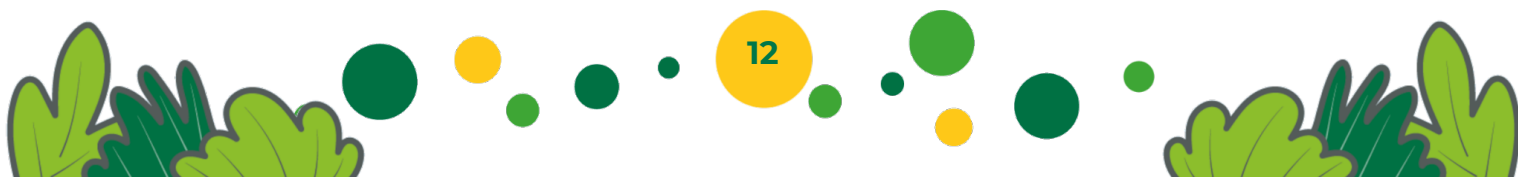
Learning Outcomes:

Understand the basic principles of being a Wild Worker and be able to describe the benefits of joining Wild Work and encouraging others to get involved.

Learning Activity:

Read through the slides to learn about the importance of environmental activism in the community.

Type of tool: Course presentation

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Social, Personal and Health Education

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Title: **JM1.3 What do People Think about Wild Work?**

Instruction and context:

Watch the Why Wild Work? video and answer the questions in the interactive video.

Learning Outcomes:

Understand Wild Work's outdoor learning approach and hear from people who have experienced Wild Work training courses.

Learning Activity:

Watch a 5-minute collage of videos with interactive questions to answer.

Type of tool: Video

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Natural History; Geography; Science
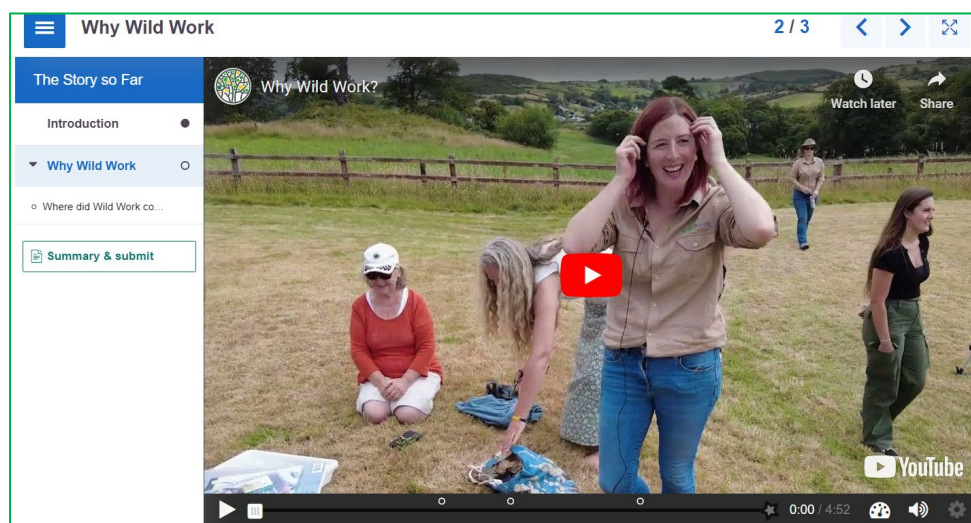
Module 2 - Wild Work and students - How nature is good for us!

Title: **JM2.1 Call to Action - Create Nature Journal**

Instruction and context:

Learn about the magic of keeping a nature journal, then download the PDF to help students start keeping their own Nature Journal.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will have a physical memoir of their time as a Wild Worker which will take the program beyond the screen. The nature journal will be a great tool for students to write down and analyse their findings and feelings about nature.

Learning Activity:

Students will include many different types of observations, collections, notes, drawings, paintings, questions, thoughts, feelings, memories, etc. in their nature journals.

Type of tool:

Agamotto

Links to Primary School Curriculum:

Science, Arts, SPHE

Title: JM2.2 Sit Spot

Instruction and context:

Find a spot outside to visit daily. It can be in a wood or in the garden. It can be anywhere students feel comfortable outside. Notice the sounds, seasons and cycles of nature.

Learning Outcomes:

After watching the video, participants will be more prepared to commit to this outdoor routine.

Learning Activity:

Watch a 2-minute video and go outdoors to find a safe and comfortable place to sit and observe.

Type of tool: Video

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Social, Personal, Health Education

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Title: JM2.3 Start with Small Seasonal Actions

Instruction and context:

Click on the icons to explore the Celtic wheel calendar for seasonal Wild Work actions.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to link the corresponding events and festivals of the Celtic Calendar, Solar Calendar and Christian Calendar. After reading about each event, students will be encouraged to celebrate these eight seasonal times in their own creative way. Students will learn further details about the 8 different Celtic traditions and activities.

Learning Activity:

Click on each of the eight Celtic Calendar events to read about different traditions and learn about the links between the farming activities and festivals.

Type of tool: Hotspot

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Social, Personal, Health Education

Title: JM2.4 Nature's Seasonal Treasures

Instruction and context:

Let's get inspired by the nature treasures students can collect in each season.

Learning Outcomes:

The student will be reminded of the seasonal changes and the specific natural material available during the four seasons.

Learning Activity:

Read through an introduction to each season and the seasonal bounty to inspire creativity.

Type of tool:

Course presentation, drag n drop.

Links to Primary School Curriculum:

Geography, Visual Arts, Social, Personal Health Education

Title: JM2.5 Nature's Treasures

Instruction and context:

Ideas are given for things in nature that the students can count, collect, create and give throughout the seasons.

Learning Outcomes:

Learn four easy ways to engage with nature by noticing the different natural treasures that are available through the seasons.

Learning Activity:

Read prompts for activities in each season.

Type of tool: Hotspot

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Social, Personal Health Education

Title: JM2.6 The Honourable Harvest

Instruction and context:

Let's learn from the "Honourable Harvest" of the Potawatomi people.

Learning Outcomes:

Learn simple ways to approach nature in a respectful way by discovering indigenous teachings from the 'Honourable Harvest' in small actions. The student will be encouraged to explore the outdoors with curiosity.

Learning Activity:

Read the background of the Potawatomi people and their teachings on how to go out in nature. The student will learn through reading the simple prompts on each dialogue card.

Type of tool: Course presentation, dialogue cards

Links to Primary School Curriculum: History, Geography, Social, Personal Health Education

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Title: JM2.7 People Help Nature: Boomtree Bee Man

Instruction and context:

Listen to the podcast segments about building natural hives for the Irish Black Honeybee and answer the questions that follow.

Learning Outcomes:

After listening and answering the questions, the student will be able to describe how humans can help build homes for bees. Students will learn about another approach to keeping bees.

Learning Activity:

Students will practise how to listen and recall what was learnt from the conversation.

Type of tool: Podcast/Interactive video

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography
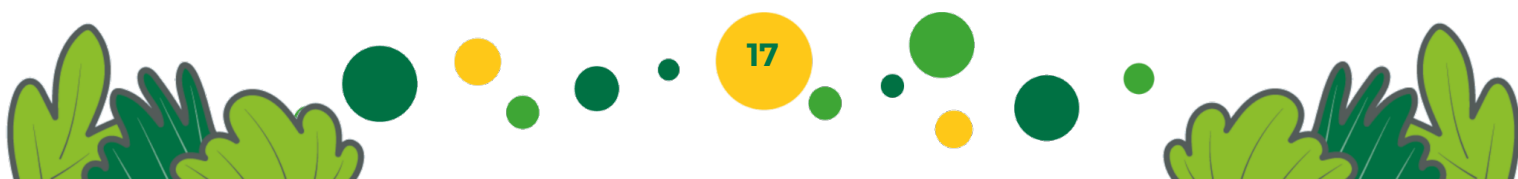
Title: JM3.9 Story of Wolves: Nature help Nature

Instruction and context:

Read about the stories of wolves and answer the multiple-choice quizzes after each page.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the exercise, the student will be able to: Describe how humans have developed cautionary tales of wolves; Explain why the wolves have gone extinct in certain parts of the world.; Choose the appropriate way to look at wolves as kin; Apply their new knowledge to create their own story of wolves.

Learning Activity:

Learn about the relationship between wolves and living and non-living elements in their environment and discover the value of different animals in an ecosystem. Connect the different animals to each other and their home.

Type of tool: Interactive book with columns & multiple-choice questions

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography, History

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Title:JM2.9 Nurture Your Love for Nature

Instruction and context:

Get some tips and inspirations for each day on how students can spend more time in nature.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the exercise, students will be able to: Explore nature alone or with others and appreciate the changing seasons; Think of creative ways to learn, rest and exercise outside; Apply new experiences to invite friends and family for outside activities.

Learning Activity:

Explore healthy alternative uses of technology for documenting nature and navigating in nature. Find ways to be comfortable outdoors on your own and explore activities to take part in with others.

Type of tool:

Dialogue cards, Call to Action

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Arts Education, Social Personal & Health Education

Title: JM3.1 Ireland Through the Ice Age

Instruction and context:

Check out the incredible ice age landscapes and click on the hotspots to learn more. Take a journey back in time to when Ireland was covered in ice.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to imagine what Ireland used to look like in the past, giving them a deeper sense of understanding of their home. Students will learn about how the ice age shaped the world today and about the three different stages at the end of the ice age and the pioneering species that colonised after the ice melted away.

Learning Activity:

Look at the ice age landscapes of what Ireland used to look like, then click on the hotspots to learn more information about Ireland in the past.

Type of tool: Hotspot

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Natural History; Geography; Science
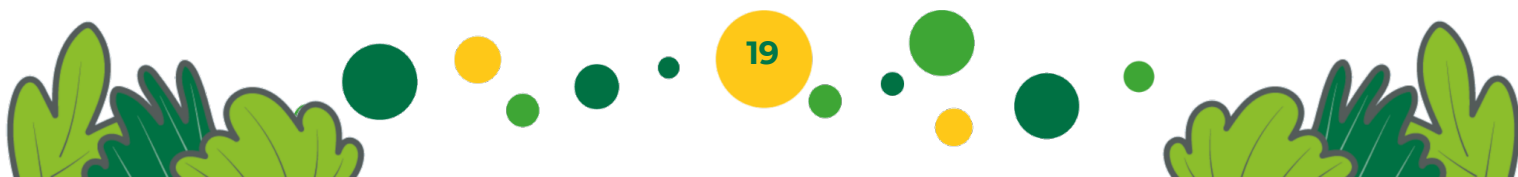
Title: JM3.2 How Ireland's rivers and lakes were formed

Instruction and context:

Read the story and complete the multiple-choice quiz.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the exercise, the student will understand the processes involved in the physical creation of Ireland's waterways.

Learning Activity:

This tool covers the following topics: Understand how Ireland's rivers and lakes were formed millions of years ago; How different events throughout time lead to the Ireland we know today; How rivers begin; How river channels form; What is a tributary; How glaciation can create lakes; What is a turlough

Type of tool: Interactive book with multiple choice questions

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Natural History, Science; Geography

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Title: JM3.3 I'm Lichen It

Instruction and context:

Learn about the different types of lichen

Learning Outcomes:

Learning how to recognise and differentiate types of lichen will make students more aware of often overlooked nature (like lichen) around them. Students will be introduced to composite organisms.

Learning Activity:

Read the description and look at the picture then associate them to the type of lichen described on the other side.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Biology

Title: JM3.4 Repopulating Ireland with Tracks of Extinct Species

Instruction and context:

Explore animals that used to live in Ireland. Match the animal to their footprints. A lot of time has passed since these animals lived here and Ireland has changed greatly. Some of these animals no longer exist but some animals like the Grey Wolf are still found in other parts of the world and may live here once again.

Learning Outcomes:

By learning about animals that used to live here, students will gain a deeper appreciation of how wildlife changes with the changing of climates and landscapes. By associating the animals with its footprint, they will gain a deeper understanding about the animals and the tracks they once left upon the very ground they now walk on.

Learning Activity: Match animals to their footprints.

Type of tool: Course presentation with drag & drop

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Natural history, Science; Geography

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Title: JM3.5 New Neighbours and Old Friends

Instruction and context:

The composition of Ireland's wildlife is always changing as new plants and animals arrive here and others go extinct. Some of the wildlife introduced by humans has become invasive with negative impacts on the Irish environment.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will learn about some of the animals that have recently arrived in Ireland. Distinction is made between those that have arrived naturally and those that have been introduced by humans. Students will further their knowledge about the ever-changing landscape of Ireland and constant movement of plants and animals.

Learning Activity:

Read the description and look at the picture to learn about the animals.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science; Geography

Title: JM3.6 Trees in Ireland

Instruction and context:

Discover some of the common trees found in Ireland. Learn identification tips, fascinating facts and answer the questions.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to recognise some common tree species

Learning Activity:

Practise reading and comprehension skills and test knowledge by answering multiple choice questions after each section about a specific tree species.

Type of tool: Interactive book with multiple choice

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.7 Tree Leaves

Instruction and context:

Leaf characteristics like shape and colour are helpful clues to helping students identify tree species.

Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to learn and memorise key leaf characteristics of some common Irish trees and shrubs.

Learning Activity:

Read the description and guess the tree from a picture of the leaf. The exercise allows the student to self-study by marking off the flash cards that were answered correctly.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.8 Woodland Types

Instruction and context:

Read the information about the different types of woodlands in Ireland then test students' knowledge with the multiple-choice quizzes.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the exercise students will be able to differentiate between types of woodlands found in Ireland. They will understand what makes each type of woodland unique and why native forests are best for biodiversity.

Learning Activity: Read about the different types of forests that are found in Ireland, then answer questions about the content.

Type of tool: Interactive book with quiz

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.9 Woodland Birdsong

Instruction and context:

Listening to bird song is not only a great activity for well-being, with a little practice birds can be identified by their song.

Learning Outcomes:

Recognise what each bird looks like and identify the birds by their call/song.

Learning Activity:

The student is tested on their ability to identify common woodland birds. Interesting facts are used to help the student to reinforce memory retention of each woodland bird.

Type of tool: Dialogue card with sound.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography, Music
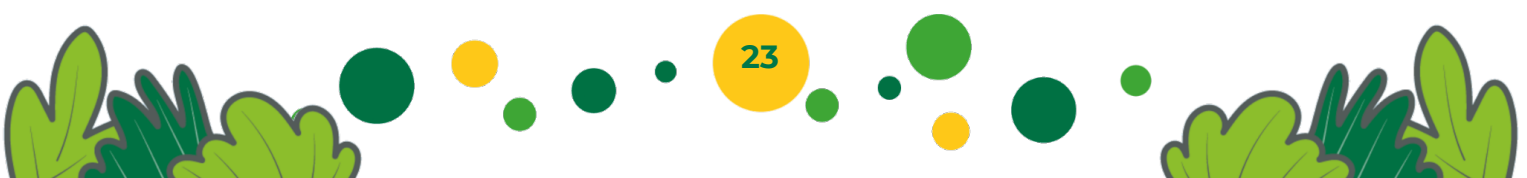
Title: JM3.10 Iconic Woodland Species

Instruction and context:

Read the question and from the picture try to identify the species.

Learning Outcomes:

The exercise aims to improve the knowledge of the student about key woodland species. Students will learn the different animal/plant/fungi through images.

Learning Activity:

Read the clue about different key woodland species and turn the card to see the answer. is to test the knowledge of student.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.11 Iconic Grassland Species

Instruction and context:

Flip the cards and discover the plants and animals of fields and meadows.

Learning Outcomes:

Recognise flowering plants found in the grassland. See that there are different mammals, reptile, birds, insects and plants that live together in the grassland.

Apply this new knowledge to start seeing other local animals and plants in their natural environment.

Learning Activity: Students will learn about different Irish animals and plants in grasslands.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science; Geography

Title: JM3.12 Ireland's Wildflowers

Instruction and context:

Find out about wildflowers. Read about the plants and answer the questions.

Learning Outcomes:

The student will learn to:

Name common Irish wildflowers; Visually identify each plant; Recall the Irish name for each plant and which family it belongs to; Describe interesting facts about each species.

Learning Activity:

Examine the photos and read the description in the text to be able to identify each plant.

Type of tool: Interactive book, with multiple choice quiz

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.13 Butterfly Identification

Instruction and context:

Meet Irish butterflies. Learn the names of some common butterflies by connecting pictures with names.

Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to name some common butterfly species in Ireland. Recognise the butterflies by their colour and pattern, and the time of year they can spot each butterfly species.

Learning Activity

The student is tested on their knowledge of Irish butterflies by having to connect the names of common Irish butterflies to a photo of each species. They will have to exercise decision making skills when choosing which photo corresponds to which name. Tips about when students will see each species help the student to recall and distinguish between each species.

Type of tool: Drag and drop

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.14 Butterfly Food Plants

Instruction and context:

What plants help caterpillars become butterflies? Match the butterfly to its favourite food plant.

Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to: Name the food plants of common Irish butterfly species; Recognise the butterflies by their wing pattern and match each plant visually; Discover an interesting fact about each food plant/butterfly.

Learning Activity:

The student is tested on their knowledge of Irish butterflies' connection to food plants.

Type of tool: Drag and drop

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography
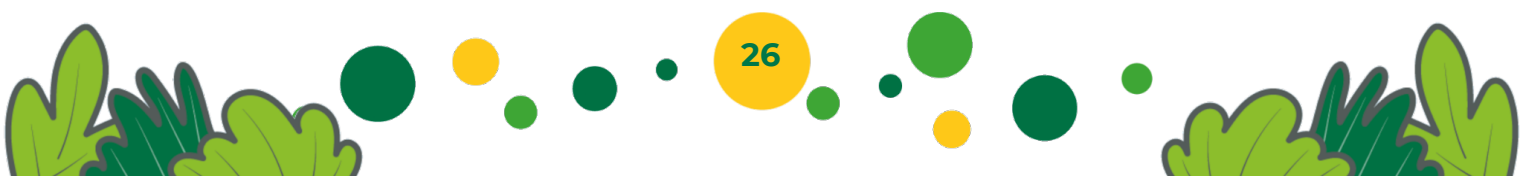
Title: JM3.15 Meadow Birdsong

Instruction and context:

Practice listening and naming birds found in the meadows and grasslands.

Learning Outcomes:

For some common meadow birds, the student will be able to; Recognise what each bird looks like

Identify the birds by their call; Learn an interesting fact about the birds.

Learning Activity:

The student is tested on their ability to identify common meadow birds. The student will need to engage their senses in order to identify each bird (visually and aurally). Tips are used to aid the student in recalling each meadow bird species. Interesting facts are used to help reinforce memory retention of the student of each meadow bird.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards with sound.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Music

Title: JM3.16 Iconic Bog Species

Instruction and context:

Bogs are filled with unique and fascination wildlife. Read the description and look at the image to learn about bog plants and animals.

Learning Outcomes:

By learning interesting facts about bog species, students will be more interested in discovering and visiting bog wildlife and be able to identify what the species look like.

Learning Activity:

Students will look at the picture and read the information leading to a better understanding of Irish Bogs and their inhabitants.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science; Geography

Title: JM3.18 Iconic Hedgerow Species

Instruction and context:

Hedgerows support an array of wildlife species. Read the description and look at the image to see if students know the type of wildlife.

Learning Outcomes:

By learning interesting facts about hedgerow species, students will be more interested in the hedgerow's wildlife and feel a deeper connection with the landscape and its inhabitants.

Learning Activity:

Students will look at the picture and read the information leading to a better understanding of Irish Hedgerows and their inhabitants.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science; Geography

Title: 3.19 Hedgerows and Bird Nesting

Instruction and context:

Click on the buttons on the picture to learn about birds and hedgerows.

Learning Outcomes:

By associating different facts with the locations in the image, the students will have a better understanding of why good hedge cutting practices are important to biodiversity. By learning the facts in the description alongside the beautiful images, the knowledge of this topic will be deeper ingrained in the student's memories.

Learning Activity:

The students will click on different locations in the image of a hedgerow, which will bring up an image and written information about the importance of bird nesting season in relation to hedge cutting.

Type of tool: Hotspot

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.20 What insect am I?

Instruction and context:

Insects make up a significant proportion of biodiversity. Read the information and question below the picture then try to identify what insect students can see.

Learning Outcomes:

The exercise is to improve the student's knowledge about the variety of insect species we have in Ireland. Students will learn how to identify the main insect groups and get tips on how to recognise them.

Insects are suffering a global decline in numbers and the more people we have who can identify them and participate in their recording through citizen science the more we can understand the decline and potentially reverse it.

Learning Activity:

The dialogue card will test the knowledge of the student with regards to the identification of common insects.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.20 Nature help People: Nature's Stinging Friends

Instruction and context:

Find out how stinging insects like ants, bees and wasps are important for balanced ecosystems

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the exercise, the student will be able to: Describe why humans need to change their perception of ants, wasps and bees.; Explain why these insects are important to humans and the ecosystem.; Understand the basic similar functions of these animals. Apply their new knowledge to observe the different ways bees, wasps and ants make and protect their environment.

Learning Activity:

Students will learn about the three related stinging insects: bees, ants, wasps and discover how each builds and renovates their environments and their roles in pollination or pest control. They practise how to see the connection between nature and humans through the view of little insects that surround us.

Type of tool: Interactive book with columns & multiple-choice question.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.21 Story of the River

Instruction and context:

Read through the slides to learn about how nature shapes rivers and discover the different wildlife students might see along the way. Test knowledge by completing the multiple-choice quizzes.

Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to describe the 3 stages of the river and explain the key differences between each of these stages. They will understand how different features found at different stages of the river are created.

Learning Activity:

The student will explore the different stages and features of the river. Diagrams and photos allow the student to see examples of each of these features. Discover what animals are associated with each stage of the river. Multiple choice quizzes will test the student's comprehension of the topic.

Type of tool: Course presentation with multiple choice questions.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.22 Riverbanks

Instruction and context:

Click on the buttons to find out what lives in and uses riverbanks in Ireland.

Learning Outcomes:

Students learn about the functions a healthy riverbank can provide.

Learning Activity: Students will learn about: The importance of shade in rivers **;** How buffer strips reduce pollution**;** How riverbanks can create wildlife corridors; How roots can reduce erosion.

Type of tool: Hotspot

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.23 What's in your River?

Instruction and context:

Click on the buttons to find out what lives in rivers in Ireland.

Learning Outcomes:

Give students the awareness of the variety of life which occurs below the surface of the river. Students learn how different plants and animal adapt to survive in this challenging environment.

Learning Activity:

Students will learn what lives in the rivers throughout Ireland and gain an insight into these plants and animals.

Type of tool: Hotspot

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.24 Water Pollutants

Instruction and context:

Help to clean up the River Deel by removing any rubbish and pollutants students can see and put them in the bin. Leave natural debris and animals behind.

Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to identify different types of river pollutants, the difference between natural debris and animals that are found in rivers, and unhealthy elements that need to be kept out of rivers.

Learning Activity:

The student will be asked to remove 9 items that pollute the River Deel and leave 3 benign items behind.

Type of tool: Drag and drop.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography, Health education

Title: JM3.25 Story of Soil

Instruction and context:

Get grounded in some cool info about the soil beneath our feet and try out the multiple-choice questions.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the exercise, students will be able to: Describe what soil is made of; Explain why soil is the foundation for all life on earth.; Choose the appropriate way to care for healthy soil.

Learning Activity:

By learning about soil, students will understand its importance and therefore will care more about it, the wellbeing of it, which in turn will care for the wellbeing of themselves and the nature they love.

Type of tool: Course presentation with multiple choice questions.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.26 Food Webs

Instruction and context: Read about the picture and decide if it shows a plant (which produce food), a herbivore (who eat plants), or a predator (who eat animals)

Learning Outcomes: Know the difference between primary producers, herbivores and predators; Understand the concept of a food chain; Be able to interpret where animals and plants belong on a food chain.

Learning Activity: By looking at the clues, students will be able to determine what stage on a food-chain animals/plants are found. By reading about what they eat and if they have predators, students will be able to understand whether this creature is a primary producer, a primary consumer or a secondary consumer.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards and drag and drop.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.27 Animal Print Detective

Instruction and context:

Match the animal to its tracks.

Learning Outcomes:

This is to test the student's knowledge of animal tracks of some common Irish animals.

Learning Activity: The student will be able to test their knowledge of tracks left by different animals in Ireland by matching an animal to its tracks. This exercise encourages observation, focus and attention to detail to allow the student to choose the correct set of tracks.

Type of tool: Drag and drop.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM3.28 Man-made habitats

Instruction and context:

Click on the hotspot to discover who lives on our walls, buildings and bridges.

Learning Outcomes:

This lesson will show students how important built structures like bridges, stone walls and derelict buildings can be for our wildlife.

Learning Activity:

The student will learn about the Irish wildlife that shares out urban and built environment and what wildlife to look out for in cities and towns.

Type of tool: Hot Spot

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography
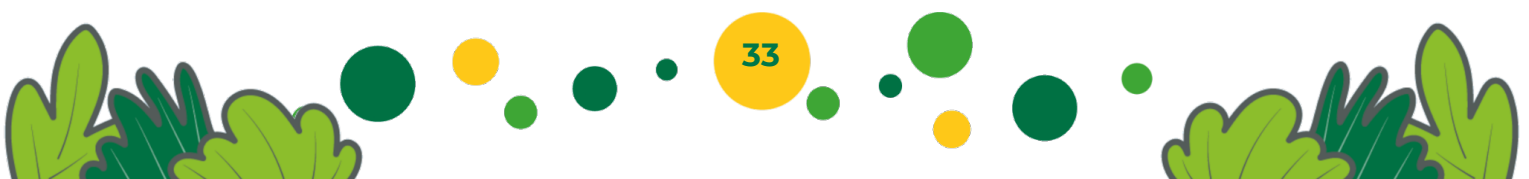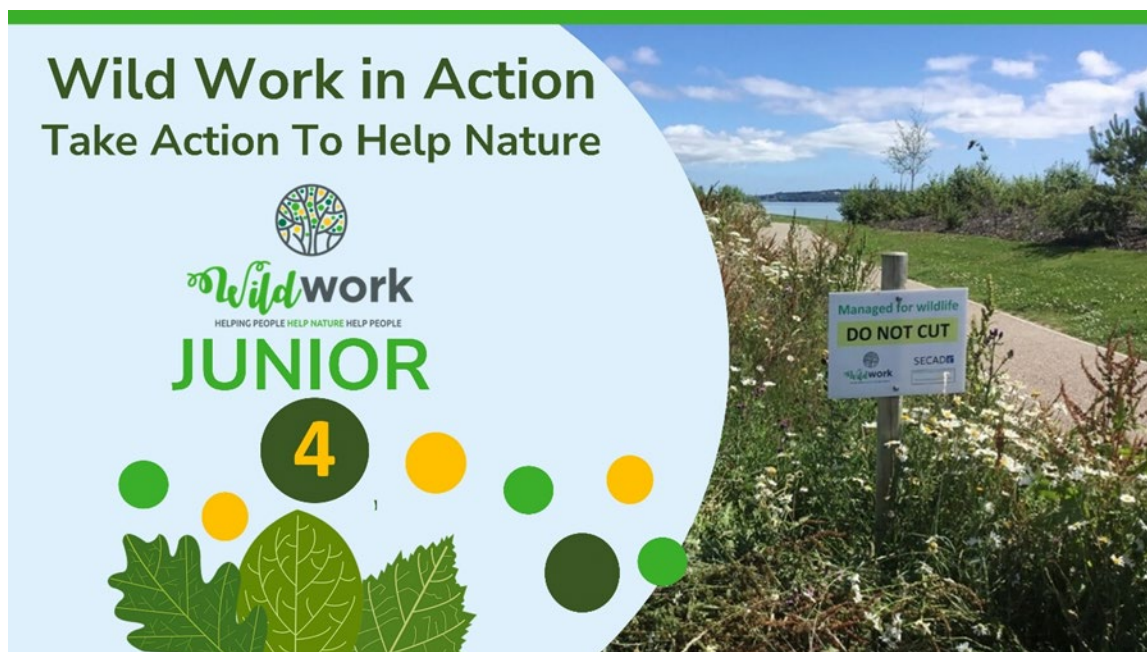
Title: JM4.1 Rewild your garden

Instruction and context: Read through the slides about simple changes students can make in gardens to make it more wildlife friendly and complete the multiple-choice quizzes after each stage.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the exercise, students will be able to describe: What rewilding means; Understand what a wildlife friendly garden looks like and why it benefits our native flora, fauna and people; Understand why simple changes can make a garden more wildlife friendly; Students are helped to realise the potential we all have in our gardens to benefit our native wildlife.

Learning Activity: Learn simple actions to change gardens today, making them more wildlife friendly Learn about what animals, plants and insects benefit from these actions. Understand that "weeds" are our friends and benefit nature & that "clean and tidy" gardens don't really benefit anyone. Realise that small actions can have huge consequences. Encourage students to record changes they observe in their nature journal.

Type of tool: Call to Action; Course presentation with multiple choice

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM4.2 Helping Hedgehogs

Instruction and context:

Go through the slides and find out how to make the hedgehog feel more at home in the garden. Then head out into the garden and do the activities.

Learning Outcomes:

Understand how simple actions can make the garden an ideal habitat for hedgehogs. By learning about hedgehogs and understanding their basic needs for shelter, food and water we are empowering students to make change and engaging them in the conservation of a native mammal species. Students will realise the potential all of our gardens have to become a "Backyard Nature Reserve".

Learning Activity:

Provide shelter for hedgehogs by constructing a simple hedgehog home with basic materials. Leaving out leaves, food and water to provide what a hedgehog needs to make a place its home. Realise that small actions can have huge consequences in gardens e.g. removing slug pellets or creating a "Hedgehog highway" by creating a gap in fencing. Encourage students to record what they observe around their hedgehog home in their nature journal and get them thinking about tracks and signs instead of visual sightings as a way to confirm if an animal is present.

Type of tool: Agamotto, Call to Action.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography, Visual Arts

Title: JM4.3 Create a wetland

Instruction and context:

Learn to create a wetland paradise in the garden, farm or school. Even the smallest wetland can have a huge impact on the wildlife.

Learning Outcomes:

This call to action allows students to bring nature to their home no matter how urban or small their space is. It encourages students to repurpose old containers to benefit nature. Students are encouraged to visit the wetland through the year and note changes they see each season.

Students will understand why wetlands are increasingly scarce throughout the landscape. Students will observe how these micro wetlands can provide refuge for local animals.

Learning Activity:

The student is encouraged to get creative when designing their wetland. Use recycled containers, pick different species, soil types. Students are asked to observe what happens to the wetland throughout the seasons and note observations in their nature journal.

The student is shown that small pieces of nature can have a big impact on local wildlife.

Type of tool: Agamotto, Call to Action

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography, Visual Arts

Title: JM4.4 Wildflower Seed Saving Video

Instruction and context:

Saving wildflower seeds. Watch the video and answer the questions throughout. Learn about local Irish wildflowers students can save seeds from.

Learning Outcomes:

The student will be able to identify 4 plants which are great for seed saving. They will understand when to pick them, the value of picking local seeds as well as picking from a diverse range of plants. The student will be able to describe the steps involved in seed saving. The student will understand the importance of these plants in a meadow and will learn different ways that plants naturally disperse their seeds.

Learning Activity:

The student is tested on their knowledge of seed saving by various quizzes which appear through the video. This develops the students' focus and attention to detail as they watch the video. The student sees various plants ideal for beginning seed saving and learns about their importance. The student gets to see the steps involved in saving seeds. The audio describes the importance of seed saving as well as provides guidelines on how to collect and process seeds.

Type of tool: Interactive video

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM4.5 All about Seed Saving

Instruction and context:

Read the story and complete the quiz. Listen to the conversation and match the pictures with the clues.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the exercise, students will be able to: Describe seed saving and explain why it is important; Choose the appropriate way to share knowledge; Discover new facts about seeds and learn about the value of seed saving.

Learning Activity:

By reading about seed saving and answering the questions, the student will get a profound appreciation for life and its humble beginnings. The student will discover that nature can truly empower everyday people through simple tasks.

Type of tool: Course Presentation with Multiple Choice question

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM4.6 Make Your Own Seed Paper

Instruction and context:

Click through the slides below, then download the PDF to complete this activity.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the exercise, students will be able to experiment with a new way to save local meadow, vegetable and herb seeds.

Students will be able to: Describe why it is important to think of ways to recycle materials; Explain why we save local seed for planting the next season; Choose an alternative way to combine seed saving with recycling.

Learning Activity:

Learn about combining two saving principles in nature to make a useful product. Practise how to recycle paper directly back into the soil, instead of sending it off for costly industrial recycling. Find out how to preserve seeds that students have gathered in their local environment.

Type of tool: Agamotto, Call to Action

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography, Visual Arts

Title: JM4.7 Plant some Irish Wildflowers

Instruction and context:

Click through the slides below, then download the PDF to complete this activity.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to grasp that natural processes occur over multiple seasons and be able to explain the ways to encourage more diversity in their environment.

Students will be able to describe the positive effects of planting wildflowers for pollinator food and habitat.

Learning Activity:

By encouraging students to prepare a suitable planting area and gather suitable seeds, they will learn about adapting to local planting conditions. Students can observe and interact with alternative ways to encourage habitat creation and keep meadows tidy for human aesthetics. Planting a variety of wildflower seeds means students will observe what plants are most suited to local conditions.

Type of tool: Course presentation, Call to Action

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography

Title: JM4.8 Homes for birds and bats

Instruction and context:

Click and read through the slides below, then download the PDF to complete this activity.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will learn about the importance of making homes for birds and bats.

They will experience the pride that comes from helping animals and building a relationship with their wild neighbours. Students will discover the joys of seeing animals using a home they made possible and develop a stronger connection with nature.

Learning Activity:

By reading the information provided and looking at the pictures, students will be encouraged to take their own action to create a safe shelter for birds and bats.

Type of tool: Agamotto, Call to Action

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Visual Arts
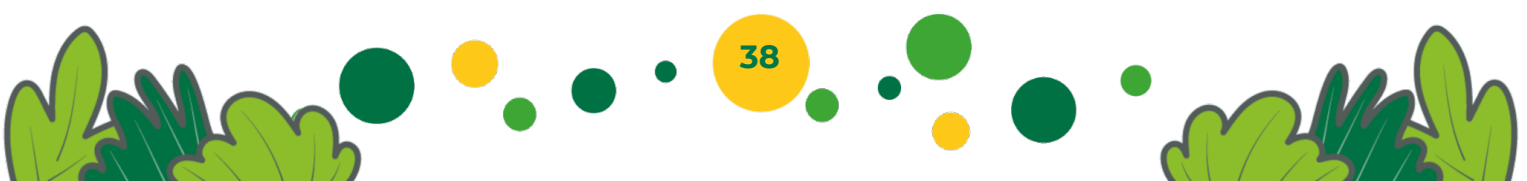
Title: JM4.9 Make a bird feeder

Instruction and context:

Do you like finding treasure outside and inside? Today we will collect goodies from nature and cartons from our recycling that we can UPcycle into easy bird feeders.

Learning Outcomes:

This activity promotes practical and multi-sensory learning opportunities to inspire alternative ways of recycling waste materials and prompts us to reconsider waste and natural materials as useful materials for usable objects.

Learning Activity:

In this activity the student will be encouraged to go on an indoor and outdoor material hunt to find materials that can be combined as both containers, structure and decoration. This activity will allow the students to gather varied materials, group tools and pair both man-made and natural resources to create a container suitable to invite birds into their spaces.

This activity sets up the conditions for students to observe and learn about bird behaviour, by letting them create a tool to lure and help birds.

Type of tool: Agamotto, Call to Action

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography, Visual Arts

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Title: JM4.10 Helping people Help Nature

Instruction and context:

From the picture and the clue, try and guess what you can do!

Learning Outcomes:

To reinforce the general theme of the project

Teach the students thoroughly by having them think for themselves about what they can do first.

By the broad subject matter of these cards, the students will be able to get a broad scope of the many aspects of helping nature help them.

Learning Activity:

By matching the picture with the text, the students will be able to better identify with the subject matter

Type of tool: Dialogue cards

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Social, Personal and Health Education

Module 5 – Becoming a Citizen Scientist

Title: JM5.1 What is science?

Instruction and context:

Read through the information on the slides and learn about what science is, why it's important and discover some world-famous Irish scientists.

Learning Outcomes:

Students will be able to ask key questions such as; What is science? What do scientists do? and what are the impacts of science on society?

Science is becoming more available and accessible to everyone as it gets assimilated into popular culture and citizen science schemes become more prevalent. By reading through this lesson the students will gain a greater understanding of what science is, the main branches within science and discover some key Irish scientists who made an impact on the world stage.

Learning Activity:

This dialog card will teach students about science as a discipline and the main branches of science will be broken down and explored.
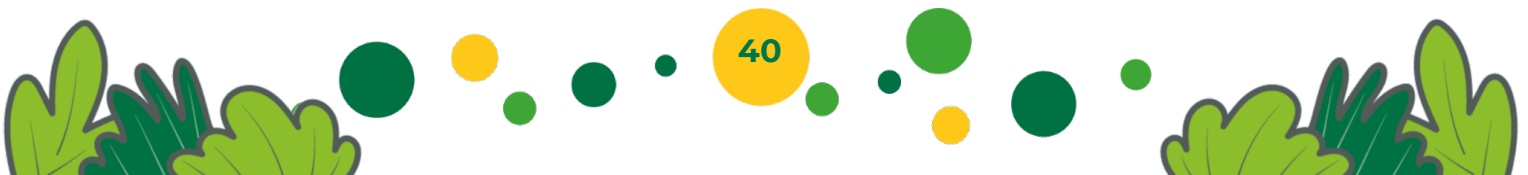
The lesson will explain to the students that scientists are just people who are curious about the world. This will hopefully inspire the students to consider studying a scientific discipline and remain curious throughout their lives.

Learning about 3 famous Irish scientists and their contributions to science will put scientific discovery into an Irish context for the students.

Type of tool: Dialogue cards.

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Geography, Science, History

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Title: JM5.2 Why be a citizen scientist?

Instruction and context:

Read the information to discover why students should be a Citizen Scientist.

Learning Outcomes:

This exercise teaches students about the benefits of Citizen Science to inspire them to work through the rest of the Citizen Science module and become Citizen Scientists themselves.Citizen science schemes in Ireland are growing in popularity year on year as more people become aware of issues affecting biodiversity in their locality. Citizen Science empowers the individual, connects them with the scientific community, gives them the opportunity to learn new skills and to take a greater stake in their local biodiversity.

Learning Activity:

Learn the benefits of Citizen Science and give some reasons as to why people become citizen scientists.

The lesson will inspire students to become Citizen Scientists by hearing about the great success such schemes have had in Ireland and how we are leaders in Europe for engaging citizens to record pollinators. Learning that Charles Darwin was not a trained scientist but just passionate and curious about the natural world will inspire students to become citizen scientists and utilise their innate curiosity for nature.

Type of tool: Dialogue card

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Geography, Science, History

Title: JM5.3 The Citizen Science Stream Index

Instruction and context:

Watch the video about the Citizen Science Stream Index (SCSI) and answer the questions throughout

Learning Outcomes:

The student will learn how to undertake the SCSI protocol in order to grade the health of a stream and the equipment needed.

Learning Activity:

The student will watch a 14 minute video that explains how to carry out the Citizen Science Stream Index.

Type of tool: Interactive video

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Geography, Science, Health Education

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Title: JM5.6 Flower Insect Timed Count

Instruction and context:

Read through the slides explaining what a Flower Insect Timed (FIT) count is and discover how to take part in an exciting citizen science scheme. Then complete the exercise that follows a test on insect identification skills.

Learning Outcomes:

The Flower Insect Timed (FIT) count aims to gather data about pollinator abundance across Ireland.

After completing the exercise, students will be able to take part in a FIT count and contribute to an important citizen science scheme.

Learning Activity:

Work through the slides and learn about a citizen science scheme run by the NBDC. The scheme aims to monitor pollinators across the country. Students will be provided with all the information required to carry out a FIT count in their locality further resources to supplement the learning experience.

They will be encouraged to contribute data to the FIT count scheme by inputting data onto the National Biodiversity Data Centre's database.

Type of tool: Agamotto, Call to Action

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Geography, Science, Maths

Title: JM5.7 Significant Tree Recording Methodology Video

Instruction and context:

Learn about the Wild Work Significant Tree Project and how students can take part.

Learning Outcomes:

Trees are an important part of our world. They add beauty and peace to our communities, clean the air we breathe, and provide shelter for birds, small animals and insects. The Significant Tree Project aims to bring people, science and nature together by encouraging and guiding everyone to spend more time in nature while discovering, recording and helping to save the significant trees within their local community.
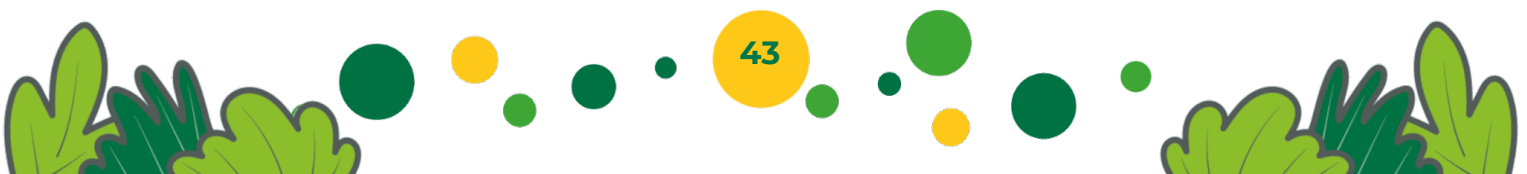
Learning Activity:

Watch the methodology video and answer the questions.

Type of tool: Interactive Video

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Geography, Maths.

Module 6 - Wild Work thoughts – Reflect on What You've Learnt

Title: **JM6.1 Before and after Wild Work**

Instruction and context:

This lesson encourages the student to take a moment to reflect on how Wild Work has impacted them.

Learning Outcomes:

The student will be reminded of the role they play in the community. They will be encouraged to continue learning more about our natural world. They will be able to connect traditional Irish proverbs to being a Wild Worker.

Learning Activity:

Read through the text about continuing learning and Wild Work journey.

Type of tool: Course presentation

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Social, Personal Health Education, Gaeilge.

Title: **JM6.2 Nature Journal Reflections**

Instruction and context:

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

Learning Outcomes:

This lesson will help students to reflect on their time with Wild Work. Reflection is one of the most important parts of learning and it allows students to be more self-regulating and independent. Reflection is also great for students to learn mindfulness and attentiveness.

Learning Activity:

Students will answer a series of questions which will encourage to reflect on their time with Wild Work.

Type of tool: Course presentation

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography, Visual Art, Social, Personal Health Education

Title: JM6.3 Create a Me Tree

Instruction and context:

Read the text and follow the instructions that follow to create a Me Tree.

Learning Outcomes:

"The Me Tree" is a fun and creative way for students to reflect on the positive people, places and nature they met, visited and learnt on their Wild Work journey.

Learning Activity:

Students will follow the instructions to create a Me Tree

Type of tool: Course presentation

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Visual Art, Social, Personal Health Education

Title: JM6.4 More Reflection Activities

Instruction and context:

Read the text and attempt the activity.

Learning Outcomes:

A variety of reflection activities are explored for students to try out. These can be done at home or in school. Activities include story writing, putting on a play, writing a song and creating some environmental art – something for everybody!

Learning Activity:

Follow the instructions and attempt one or all of the reflection activities.

Type of tool: Course presentation

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Visual Art, Social, Personal Health Education
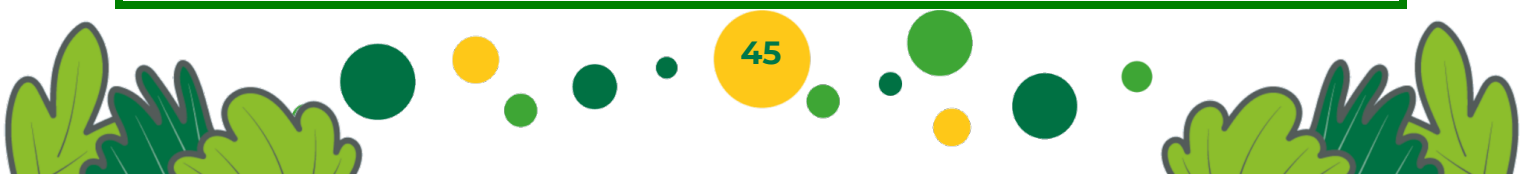
Title: **JM6.5 Journey with a blade of grass**

Instruction and context:

Read the text and listen to the recorded meditation.

Learning Outcomes:

This is a reflection activity to help students build empathy for the natural world. Having empathy helps children build social connections and feel connected to others. Having empathy for nature can increase a child's emotional bond with nature and has been regarded by environmental thinkers as a key in conservation efforts. Here the child is invited to imagine themselves as a blade of grass.

Learning Activity:

Read about the importance of empathy and then listen to a meditative story about a blade of grass through the seasons.

Type of tool: Course presentation

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Social, Personal Health Education

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Title: **JM6.6 Junior Wild Work Quiz**

Instruction and context:

Answer the quiz questions.

Learning Outcomes:

Students can test their knowledge from the lessons in the Junior Wild Work Toolkit.

Learning Activity:

Answer the multiple-choice questions and see how much students remember!

Type of tool: Course presentation

Links to Primary School Curriculum: Science, Geography.

We hope you enjoy sharing this toolkit with your students and children.

The Junior Wild Work Toolkit can be accessed online

Login details can be requested by emailing us: info@wildwork.ie

wildwork

HELPING PEOPLE HELP NATURE HELP PEOPLE