



## Wild About Your School AT HOME!

JUL 2018

JUL 2021

### Your project step-by-step – more detailed activities below

Discover John Muir - find out about the man behind the John Muir Award



Discover and explore your garden/porch/outside space (**if you have access to one**) - what habitats/plants/animals can you find?



Share what you find - make a list or a map/take pictures/draw pictures/make a video/tell your family



Discover and explore another wild place - head out into your local area - go on a circular walk or visit a park/green space



Time for conservation - What can you do at home/in your local area to have a positive impact on wildlife?



Have what you need? - Put your plan into action!



Finished your project? Have you spent 25 hours or more? Then apply for your John Muir Award at Discover Level.



Introduction video on the Wild About Your School, [Padlet site](#)

## Using the guide

First of all... Well done for getting involved! Whilst you're at home you can use this project to discover the wildlife in your outside space and your local area and take some steps to conserve it. Once you've finished and you've shared what you've done with your teacher you'll be able to apply for your John Muir Award at Discover Level.

You can use this guide by either printing a copy out and writing on it by hand or working on it on a computer.

Do not be put off by the size of it this is to help you through the entire project.



## This guide is JUST A GUIDE!

If you have an idea that doesn't fit with the guide please don't be put off. As long as you are discovering, exploring and conserving wildlife. The guide is here to help you through the project; not to restrict your potentially awesome ideas!

### Doing this project in your local area

- DO enjoy exploring the local area safely
- DO follow social distancing guidance – stay 2m apart from anyone in your local area who is not from your household
- DO follow the [guidelines from the government](#) about how many people you can meet from other households
- DO wash your hands thoroughly before going out and when returning home
- DON'T leave home if you or anyone in your household has symptoms of COVID-19



**Can I plant trees in my local park?** Even though you may want to make changes to habitats in your local area this is not something you can do without permission so if you can focus on your garden/other outdoor space (porch/balcony) then do this.

**So how can I help conserve wildlife?** You can still make a difference in your local area by thinking about campaigning or doing a litter pick (making a poster about litter, writing a letter to your local council). You can also make small changes at home if that's allowed by perhaps making a bird feeder or planting some seeds. Don't forget you can also help wildlife by taking part in national surveys like the Big Butterfly Count. You'll find lots of ideas here.

## When to do your project

When it suits you! As long as you spend at least 25 hours in total you can do the project in a week or 6 months! When you have finished (or when you are back at school) you can apply for your John Muir Award.

Use the table at the back of this guide to make a note of the time you spend and what you've been up to. Think of it as your project diary. You don't need to write a lot – simply a date, how long you did your activity for and what you did. Record all the time you spend working on this project as it all counts towards your John Muir Award!

e.g. 16<sup>th</sup> June – 3 hours – bug survey in the garden

## Padlet for your project



Get onto the Padlet site for Wild About Your School [here](#) – Only people taking part in the project will be able to access this by getting the password through school and you don't need to register to post on it.

Here you'll be able to:

- Watch videos and see useful links to help you with your project
- Post pictures and share what you're doing for each part of your project

NB: When you first join there's a quick guide to look at for sharing things on Padlet.

## Let's get started! #WhoWasJohnMuir?

John Muir made his mark in history through his passion for the natural world and the benefits of being outdoors. Use the Wild About Your School [Padlet](#) to get some ideas on how to find out more about him.



### Activity – Have you learned Muir?

Do one activity to support your research about John Muir:

- Create a quiz
- Make your own storyboard about his life
- Create a video
- Write a poem
- Read some John Muir quotes and share your favourite on our Padlet.

### *John Muir said what?*

There are a lot of incorrect "John Muir Quotes" around online so check [here](#) for some as a starting point.

## #DiscoverYourHabitat –



Watch the intro video on Padlet

### Why?

- Find out what habitats and microhabitats can be found in your outside space
- Find out what wildlife you have in your outside space – this is a good chance to notice some of the smaller species you might not see if you don't explore and look closely!
- Get to know your outside space!

### Don't have any outside space?

Any outside space even a porch counts for these activities but you can spend your time focusing on your local area doing similar activities.



Common Blue Damselfly



### How? – It's up to you – here are some ideas

- Take some time to sit and listen and make a sound map
- Make a habitat map of your outside space – remember not all habitats are big – look out for microhabitats (watch the video on Padlet)
- Map out your outside space marking on the compass directions? How about which areas are sunny and at which times? Are there any areas which are always shaded/sunny?
- Do a "Bioblitz" – spend some time outside counting how many species you see – you don't need to identify the species but there's lots of guides online if you do want to research what you see. Look at useful links on the Padlet in the #Discover sections – make sure to look in the microhabitats!
- Do some sketching or write a poem or an introduction to your outside space
- If you notice any areas where you could make small changes to help wildlife then make a note of them on your map
- Wildlife Tourism – create a guide advertising your outdoor space and habitats to local wildlife – you have to pretend they can read it of course!

### Don't forget to **SHARE!**

Use the Wild About Your School [Padlet](#) to share what you've been up to under the #DiscoverYourHabitat

You can take pictures of what you've done and post it on there, you can even record videos and add those to it. Remember the Padlet is not public it's only for your school group.

## #DiscoverYourHabitat - *what did you do?*

Just use the box below to write words/draw pictures/insert photos of what you did to discover and explore your outside space. This doesn't need to be detailed – a list is fine.

Make notes here about interesting things you may have seen/found out whilst discovering your outside space.

## #DiscoverLocalWildlife

The next stage is to discover and explore in your local area. This could be focused on a greenspace or on a walking route. If you want to find some greenspace near your home you can use the [Ordnance Survey online map](#) to find greenspace near you.

**All the suggestions for discovering your outside space will work here too.** You could plan a route to walk in your local area, map it and then add a layer over your map showing the habitats and perhaps even some species that you have seen on your route.  Watch the video guide on Padlet.

## #DiscoverLocalWildlife – Activity – plant species richness survey



- If you have mapped out a greenspace or your local walk (either printed, electronic copy or hand drawn) you can set up a small survey of several points on the walk and record your data in a table to make comparisons
- 1. Set out your survey points on a visit to your mapped location. Pick locations that are:
  - a. Safe and easy to access
  - b. Public spaces that you can access without asking permission (e.g. not private land/gardens/no keep out signs!)
  - c. Different from each other e.g. next to trees; next to a stream, in the middle of the park in full sun
- 2. Create a table which you can write the site letter/name; the date and the number of plant species you saw
- 3. At each site you choose:
  - a. Mark the survey point on your map and assign it a letter/name (be creative with the names if you like)
  - b. Normally a quadrat (a square frame of a specific size) would be used to survey an exact sized area. If you do have something at home which is a set shape/size and can be carried around safely (e.g. a hula hoop) you can use this. If you can't find anything at home to measure out a set area and carry it with you just mark out a square using 4 sticks/stones that is measured by one of your paces. This means that each area you count in will be the same size.
  - c. Count how many different plant species you can see in the square. All plants count here and if you just look at the leaf shape or the flowers if there are any you can make a note of how many clearly different species there are. Make sure if you are counting a flower you feel around to see which leaves are attached to it and don't count this as a different species. You can always sketch the leaf shape/flower (being careful to get number of leaves/petals exact)
  - d. If you have access to a camera you can take a picture of your marked out survey spot and one of the wider area around your site – this will give you some idea of what could be influencing the plants there

NB: You can have ago at using the “Seek” app (mentioned earlier) to identify some of the plants if you like but you don't need to.

- e. Record how many different species of plant you see (this is species richness)
4. Visit the sites at least another 2 times (spread the visits out by a few days/a week if you can) and follow point 3 each time.
5. You can now compare the data. Which site has the highest species richness? Which has the least? Can you see any reasons why when you visit?

## #DiscoverLocalWildlife – *what did you do?*

Place(s) visited:

What did you do there? (you can draw pictures/add photos instead of writing about it if you want):

What did you learn/see/anything worth making a note of should go here:

Don't forget to **SHARE!**

Use the Wild About Your School [Padlet](#) to share what you've been up to under the #DiscoverLocalWildlife

You can take pictures of what you've done and post it on there, you can even record videos and add those to it. Remember the Padlet is not public it's only for your school group.

## Discover and explore another habitat

If you get the opportunity to go to another area you can write about it in the box below.

Place(s) visited:

What did you do there? (you can draw pictures/add photos instead of writing about it if you want):

What did you learn/see/anything worth making a note of should go here:

### Why?

- Now you've had chance to see what wonders of wildlife can be found around your home and local area you can do something to help.
- This is the final stage of your John Muir Award and can be done in many different ways depending on what you have access to at home.

### Conserve Wildlife? How? – It's up to you!

Here are some ideas (links on [Padlet](#))



- **Get practical!** Create a new habitat. This could be made out of household items that are going to be recycled. You shouldn't have to go out shopping to make something so try to use what's around the home and don't worry if you can't do this if you don't have the resources at home. It could even be as simple as leaving some of the grass on the lawn (if you have one) to grow long and not mowing until late summer as this will increase the habitat for lots of invertebrates (e.g. butterflies, bees and moths)
- **Get some data!** Take part in a recording scheme for different species visit this [RSPB guide](#) for lots of suggestions of how you can help wildlife by adding to the records for different species. You can take part in more than one survey throughout the year to add to your conservation phase
- **Be a hedgehog champion!** You can register as a hedgehog champion and help the [British Hedgehog Preservation Society](#) find out more about how hedgehogs are doing in your local area.
- **Influence people!** Create a resource (video, presentation, fact file) to educate people about local wildlife. This could be on one particular species or it could be about why wildlife is so important. You could create a video about what people can do to help wildlife in their local area. If it's really good it might even be featured on the Beyond the Classroom and #PeakDistrictConnect websites (with your permission of course!)



Hedgehogs After Dark



Herbology Hunt



Butterfly Count Chart

Don't forget to **SHARE!**

Use the Wild About Your School [Padlet](#) to share what you've been up to under the #GetConserving

You can take pictures of what you've done and post it on there, you can even record videos and add those to it. Remember the Padlet is not public it's only for your school group.

## Project diary

You can log the time you spent and what you did below. This is only a record of your time so don't write too much e.g. *16<sup>th</sup> June - 3 hours - bug survey in the garden*

| Date | What we did and for how long |
|------|------------------------------|
|      |                              |