

Our Beautiful Neighbourhood Teachers' Workshop Plan

This plan is for teachers running a self-led workshop as part of *Our Beautiful Neighbourhood* project. It can be used in conjunction with the workshop slides provided.

This step-by-step plan encourages pupils to observe local nature and create a bold, colourful collage of something they have seen (such as a leaf, plant, bird, animal, insect or feather). Your pupils' collages will be photographed together and turned into a large-scale, colourful banner that will be exhibited in a public space in Wandsworth alongside artwork by other schools in the borough.

If you have access to an outdoor space where nature can be found we encourage you to include a visit to that space. While outside, encourage your pupils to observe and document nature by drawing any birds, animals or insects they see and by gathering specimens (like leaves, twigs, acorns, feathers etc). Then take those observations back to the classroom and use them as the inspiration for collages.

If you don't have access to a suitable outdoor space we have created a pack of images and information about local Wandsworth habitats. The images in this pack can be used as reference material so that pupils' collages are inspired by local nature.

This session can be adjusted depending on how much time you have. To shorten the session do fewer or no warm-up drawings. To extend the session do more warm-up drawings or add in some discussion about local ecology / green spaces. Please feel free to make adjustments; you are welcome to adapt the plan whilst keeping in mind the key outcomes that are required for your pupils' work to feature in the final artwork.

We have provided a set of workshop slides you can use to support the session if you wish. You are not expected to talk through every slide! You are welcome to choose and adapt the slides you want to show. We have also provided a set of slides about Wandsworth Habitats and some detailed notes about the activities outlined below for you to use if you wish.

Overall workshop plan:

- **Start:** Introduction to project & activity + introduction to biodiversity and habitats
- **Go to outside space for exploration (if applicable):** observing, gathering and documenting nature
OR Each table given a different habitat and set of nature images to work from: using habitat information and images provided
- **Warm-up drawings:** to help observe the nature samples that have been collected or the nature images provided
- **Collage activity:** each pupil creates a collage based on something they have seen (ie a leaf, bird, feather, rock, insect etc)
- **Names written** in pencil on drawings and collages
- **Collages and drawings in a labelled envelope**

The key aims for the session are that pupils:

- know they are part of a big and exciting art project
- are aware that there are diverse nature habitats in Wandsworth
- spend some time observing nature (either in their playground or from the resources provided)
- make a collage piece that will form part of the final artwork (that they will get to see exhibited in public in March 2026)

The key outcomes for the session are:

- A nature collage by every pupil. Collages should not be stuck down to a background. Collages can range in size but shouldn't be larger than A4. A mix of sizes and shapes will be great!
- One collage per pupil. If a pupil makes more than one collage, please ask them to select one to be part of the final artwork. They can keep the other one.
- Pupils write their name, class and school on the back of their collage in pencil so it doesn't show through.
- One pupil to write the name of the class and school in black pen on a piece of paper (for exhibition labels).
- Black & white warm-up drawings (if you've had time to do these).
- Collages, warm up drawings and class name all in an envelope. Envelope labelled with class name, teacher's name, school address
- Any materials provided by Wandsworth to be packed up and returned along with the collages.

Materials:

For outdoor exploration:

- Plastic freezer bags (for nature samples)
- Magnifiers - one or two per group (if you have them)
- Clipboards and pencils / whiteboards and pens
- Scissors (for adults to snip some leave specimens)

Classroom activities:

- Black / dark-coloured pens and pencils of different thicknesses for warm up drawings
- A4 white paper
- Wandsworth Habitats images (see resource folder)
- Coloured paper
- Glue sticks
- Envelope to send finished collages & warm-up drawings in
- Workshop Slides (see resource folder)

Room set-up:

- Pupils organised into groups around tables, ready to go out to outdoor space (if applicable)
- Coloured paper laid out at the front or side
- Scissors for every pupil and a few glue sticks on every table.
- Nature exploration kit on every table or ready to give out to groups (if going outside): plastic freezer bag, scissors, clipboards, paper, pens/pencils, magnifying pots.
- Slides on screen
- White A4 paper ready for warm-up drawings
- Selection of black/dark-coloured pens of different thicknesses ready for warm-up drawings

Time	Activity	Slides	Materials	Key things
	Introduction to the project (see workshop notes for more detail)	Project introduction and habitats slides		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the project • Artwork will be exhibited around Wandsworth • What is 'biodiversity' & 'habitats'? • Wandsworth's diverse habitats • What are we looking for outside?
	Getting ready to go outside		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic bags for collecting nature examples • Magnifiers • Clipboards + pencils • Scissors for adults to snip leaves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils in small groups with an adult per group • Each group has a kit for exploring and documenting nature.
	Exploring outside and gathering nature examples		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic bags for collecting nature examples • Magnifiers • Clipboards + pencils • Scissors for adults to snip leaves 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage focus on looking closely, noticing differences and details. • Making drawings of anything that can't be brought back to the classroom. • Reminders to look low down on the ground and up into the sky.

	Return to classroom and lay nature examples out in the middle of each table.	Botanical illustration examples slides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White paper - A4 or A5 • Selection of black pens of different thicknesses on each table to share. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they haven't collected many examples, you could also provide some of the photographs of nature included in the resource pack.
	Introduce warm-up drawing activity			
	Warm-up drawing (see workshop notes for more detail)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • White paper - A4 or A5 • Selection of black pens of different thicknesses on each table to share. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupils doing several quick drawings (1 min / 2 mins), looking carefully at nature examples. Focus on: silhouettes, outlines, shapes etc. • Longer drawing of one example. Focus on texture, details etc. • Several drawings on one page. • Pupils write names on back of their sheets and collect these in.
	Show / discuss some of the collage inspiration examples (see workshop notes for more detail)	Collage artist example slides (select the ones you think would be most appropriate and interesting for your pupils)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collage can be detailed and beautiful • Collage can be a way of communicating observations and discoveries (eg Mary Delany's botanical collages) • Professional artists use collage.
	Making collage	Collage step-by-step	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coloured 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a collage of something you

	(see workshop notes for more detail)	slides if useful (no need to share if it doesn't feel helpful)	<p>paper selection (as wide a range of colours as possible)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scissors • Glue 	<p>have seen today - a bird, feather, plant, leaf, insect etc. Use layers of colours to highlight important details and textures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't draw your shapes first. Be bold and confident when you cut the shapes you need. • Teacher to demonstrate cutting out shapes and layering without drawing first. • Invite pupils to make thoughtful choice of colours based on their observations • Ensure collage pieces are <u>not</u> stuck onto any background. The project organisers need free-floating plants, birds and insects so they can arrange them into the final artwork! • Name, class and school written in pencil on back of each collage
End of workshop	<p>Collecting artworks and materials</p> <p>Explaining what happens next</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected artworks and drawings • In envelope with class, teacher and school written on it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather up artworks and materials • Make sure collages are dry before putting in envelope so they don't stick together in transit. • Tell class their work will be photographed and turned into banners that will be displayed in Wandsworth shopping centres. They'll get to see their work on display next year. Their work will be returned to them and the school will also get to keep their banner.