

Time to act

**A TEACHER'S GUIDE TO
PUTTING 'YOUR LITTLE
LIST' INTO ACTION**

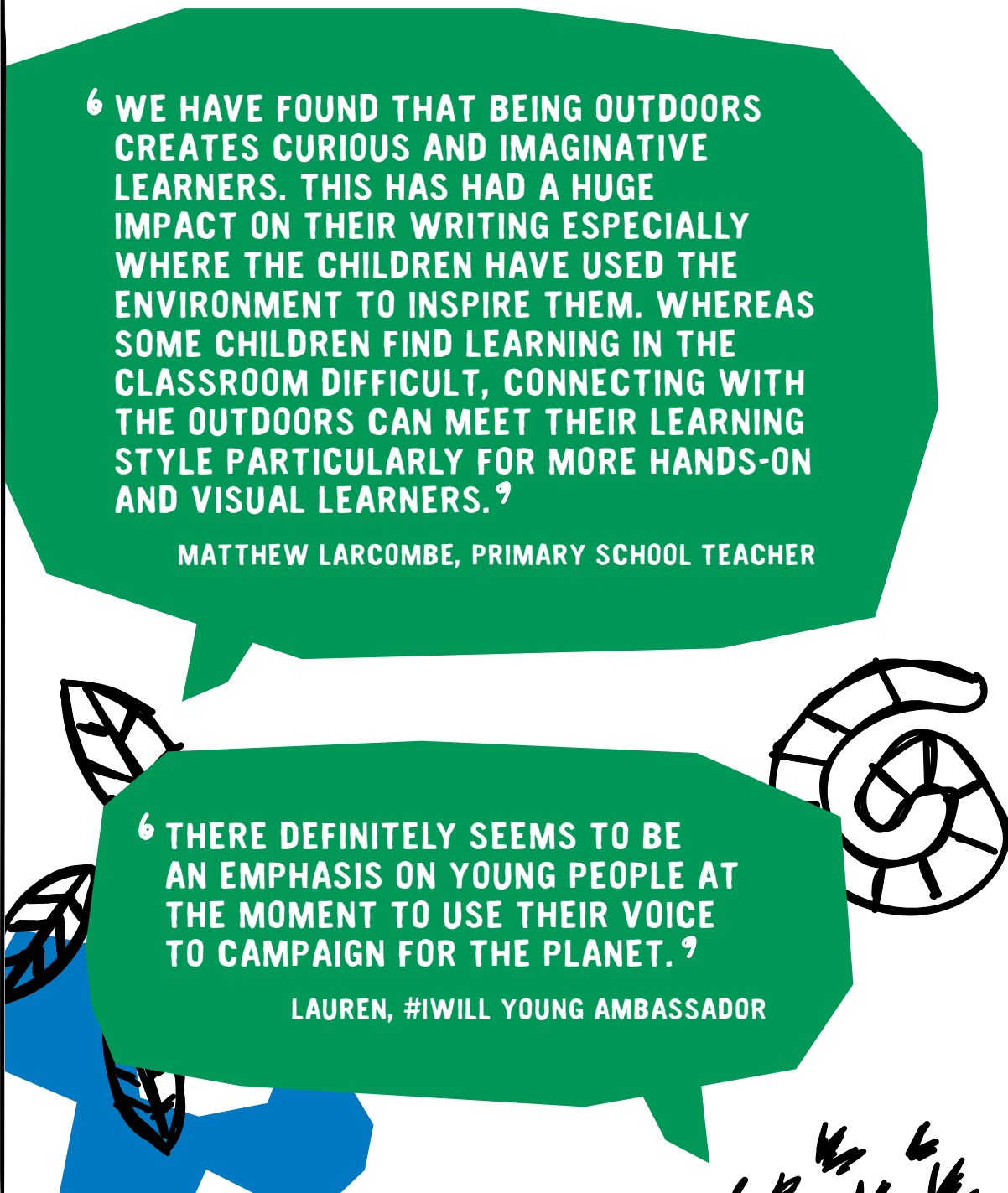
#iwill4nature

 @IWILL_CAMPAIGN

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES VISIT
[EDENPROJECTCOMMUNITIES.COM/IWILL4NATURE](https://edenprojectcommunities.com/iwill4nature)**





6 WE HAVE FOUND THAT BEING OUTDOORS CREATES CURIOUS AND IMAGINATIVE LEARNERS. THIS HAS HAD A HUGE IMPACT ON THEIR WRITING ESPECIALLY WHERE THE CHILDREN HAVE USED THE ENVIRONMENT TO INSPIRE THEM. WHEREAS SOME CHILDREN FIND LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM DIFFICULT, CONNECTING WITH THE OUTDOORS CAN MEET THEIR LEARNING STYLE PARTICULARLY FOR MORE HANDS-ON AND VISUAL LEARNERS. 9

MATTHEW LARCOMBE, PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER

6 THERE DEFINITELY SEEMS TO BE AN EMPHASIS ON YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE MOMENT TO USE THEIR VOICE TO CAMPAIGN FOR THE PLANET. 9

LAUREN, #IWILL YOUNG AMBASSADOR

Young people are passionate about the environment, but it's sometimes hard for them to find the agency and time to respond to the challenges we face. This guide offers easy, accessible and adaptable ways for you to support pupils to get involved in environmental social action. Perfect for starting at school, they can also be take-away actions for at home or in the community.

Each taster activity is inspired by the huge range of social action opportunities that are supported by other organisations and #iwill partners – which means they each have plenty of further resources, practical advice, and top tips to help you along the way. Some ideas are best suited to particular seasons, others can be done any time of year, certain ones you might return to or repeat over a period of time. Most can be as big or as small as you have space and time for.

Seasonal school projects, or done in a day – it's totally up to you.

USE THE LITTLE LIST TO:

- Give your pupils the agency and opportunity to be active citizens as recommended in the 2019 Ofsted Framework. Any activity from the list will give pupils experience of making real choices and decisions, setting simple goals, taking responsibility and participating, all of which are recommended for a programme in Citizenship. Pupils might meet and talk with people in their wider community and learn more about the role of different organisations and groups.

- Develop knowledge and understanding of science. Offer opportunities to name and learn about plants and animals and what living things need to grow, habitats, life cycles, seasonal changes, materials and the environment. There are opportunities to develop scientific enquiry skills through experience and close observation of the natural world, especially if these are repeated over time. Activities could be extended to enable children to identify, classify and group.

- Give your pupils opportunities to apply their mathematical knowledge, particularly in a scientific context, through collecting, presenting and analysing data.

6 CHILDREN ENJOY WORKING OUTSIDE AND EMBRACE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLORE THEIR ENVIRONMENT... WHATEVER THE WEATHER, THEY LEARN TO DEVELOP THEIR CREATIVITY, SOCIAL SKILLS AND INDEPENDENCE WHEN EXPLORING THE GREAT OUTDOORS! 9

GAYNOR GRAYSON, PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHER

- Provide contexts for literacy through discussion; retrieving, recording and presenting information from non-fiction sources; writing for different audiences and purposes; and developing vocabulary.



FEED YOUR FRIENDS

Keeping wildlife fed will help them stay healthy and flourish. Putting out food and water can be a real help to wildlife, particularly over winter, and it'll encourage more wildlife to visit too which means there's more to watch in wonder. This is an easy activity no matter what space is available.

WHET YOUR APPETITE:

- ✿ Create a compost heap corner. Gather dead leaves and flowers, vegetable waste and grass cuttings – woodlice and worms will have a feast.
- ✿ Push sunflower seeds into apples, layer fruit to make kebabs or make your own recycled bottle bird feeder – there are lots of ways to feed our feathery friends.
- ✿ Make sure there's a source of water for wildlife – you don't need to dig out a giant ditch, it can be as simple as leaving out a supply of fresh water in a shallow dish for thirsty creatures.

→ FEAST YOUR EYES ON [RSPB.ORG.UK](https://www.rspb.org.uk) FOR LOTS OF PRACTICAL IDEAS ABOUT FEEDING WILDLIFE.



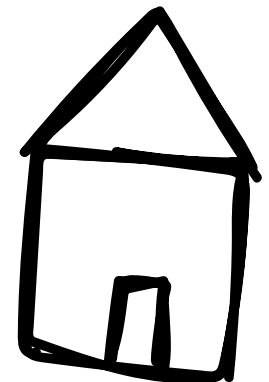
BUILD A BEDROOM

Creating safe spaces for wildlife to live and shelter can help encourage biodiversity. Make cosy homes for creatures big, small and tiny too! They can be hung up high and airy, or dug into the ground and damp – it simply depends on what you want to encourage to live nearby.

IDEAS FOR SETTING UP A SLEEPOVER:

- ✿ Make a minibeast mansion or a bug hotel by using recycled and reclaimed resources, such as old pallets and corrugated cardboard; add scavenged natural materials to make the interior décor.
- ✿ How about making a home for hedgehogs, bats or other creatures that you may not see during the daytime? Set up a night camera to watch who visits and what they do.
- ✿ Any outdoor planting will provide shelter, shade and snacks for insects so if you're short on space create a container garden or a pond in a pot.

→ VISIT [WILDLIFETRUSTS.ORG](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org) TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW TO ENCOURAGE WILDLIFE TO COME AND STAY.



BE A LITTER HERO

Keep animals safe and outdoor spaces beautiful by encouraging everyone to act responsibly with rubbish. It isn't just single-use plastic that is problematic for the environment, there's a whole host of troubles with the amount that we purchase, use and throw away. The first step is the most important and we can get started by taking accountability for our own rubbish first.

GET REDUCING, REUSING AND RECYCLING:

- ✿ Get pupils involved with the school's recycling system. Invite them to help set up, review and run the recycling scheme.
- ✿ Give rubbish a new lease of life – turn old plastic water or milk bottles into plant pots or bird feeders.
- ✿ Join in with the Great Big School Clean, the Great British Spring Clean, or Love Parks Week and show a little love to spaces that need a tidy-up.
- ✿ Carry out a litter pick in your school grounds.

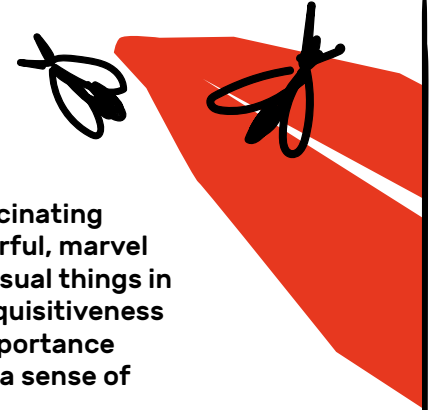
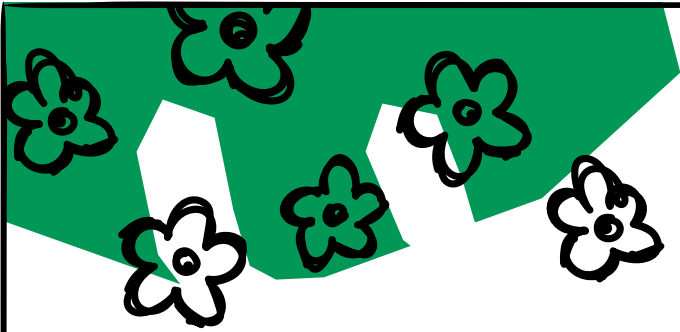
→ FOR MORE ON INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE VISIT [KEEPBRITAINTIDY.ORG](https://www.KeepBritainTidy.org) – DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THEIR SCHOOLS PROGRAMME TOO [ECO-SCHOOLS.ORG.UK](https://www.eco-schools.org.uk).

‘I ENJOY SPENDING TIME IN NATURE AND CARE ABOUT PROTECTING IT. I REALLY ENJOY DOING SCIENCE TOO, AND THAT DEFINITELY HAD A ROLE IN WHAT MADE ME VOLUNTEER.’

MHAIRI, #IWILL YOUNG AMBASSADOR

‘I WAS VOLUNTEERING BEFORE I KNEW THAT THAT WAS WHAT I WAS DOING... IF YOU DO THINGS LIKE THE BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH OR THE BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT THEN YOU ARE VOLUNTEERING. CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS LIKE THESE I THINK ARE BRILLIANT AS EVERYONE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO HELPING NATURE.’

ZACH, #IWILL YOUNG AMBASSADOR



PLANT A POLLINATOR PALACE

Life on this planet depends on plants and plants depend on pollinators – without pollinators we'd be in serious trouble. Growing nectar-rich plants in a pot or in a garden attracts butterflies, bees and other pollinating insects, and provides much-needed pit stops for them to move across our communities. In this case action can also be achieved by inaction, so people with no time at all can still do their bit for pollinators.

GET GROWING FOR NATURE:

- ✿ Leave a patch of ground to grow wild, or cut the grass less often! Use the space to investigate what happens when you let nature take its course.
- ✿ Plant a pot for pollinators, or if you've got a little more space why not plant a plot or sow a mini-meadow?

→ POP ALONG TO [SCHOOLGARDENING.RHS.ORG.UK](https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk) FOR INFORMATION ON WHAT PLANTS ARE BEST FOR POLLINATORS.

BE CURIOUS...

Get excited about nature and discover fascinating facts. Find out about the weird and wonderful, marvel at the peculiar, and share the rare and unusual things in nature. Encourage questions, curiosity, inquisitiveness and intrigue. Understanding nature, its importance and interconnectedness all helps to instill a sense of responsibly and accountability.

WOW PEOPLE WITH WHAT YOU KNOW:

- ✿ Talk about how nature is precious and marvellous, but also discuss the wider issues. Nature is under threat and this is our cue to act. Research and design a fact sheet together – spend time learning more about a topic, plant or creature and decide on an action you can all take that will help look after it.
- ✿ Encourage your pupils to read nature-themed books, magazines and blogs and submit their stories of social action to local newspapers to help inspire others.

→ KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WIDER ISSUES SURROUNDING CLIMATE CHANGE AND FIND OUT ABOUT CURRENTLY ENDANGERED SPECIES AT [WWF.ORG.UK](https://www.worldwildlife.org)



LOOK REALLY CLOSELY

By understanding which animals and plants are found in particular areas we can take action to ensure that those habitats are protected, the animals and plants have what they need, and we understand the importance of those spaces and places. We're also better able to notice change and be better informed about what is needed to create havens for local wildlife. Make time outside to stop and notice nature all around us. There are always things to look for, watch and count.

EYE SPY:

- ✿ Do a BioBlitz in your school grounds – track and record everything you have and monitor it over time.
- ✿ Join in with a national count event – spot birds, minibeasts or plants and trees. There are loads to choose from and get involved in throughout the year (such as the Big Schools Birdwatch, the Big Butterfly Count, the Great Bug Hunt, the Great British Wildflower Hunt and even International Bat Night).
- ✿ Monitor and record the weather and seasons over a period of time. Watch how nature changes through the seasons and discuss how we can help protect the natural world throughout the year.
- ✿ Look for wild animal clues – search for tracks, feathers, fur and poo too! Discover what wildlife is nearby and learn about how you can better help look after it.

→ TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT WOODLANDTRUST.ORG.UK AND THEIR NATURE DETECTIVES SPOTTER SHEETS FOR ALL KINDS OF NATURE TO SEE AND SEARCH FOR.

STAND UP FOR NATURE

Making sure young people understand that their voice matters is important. Taking care of nature and encouraging others to look after it too can be as simple as sharing ideas and easy actions at home and in the community. There's also a broad variety of campaigns you can join in with to feel part of something bigger.

GET INVOLVED:

- ✿ Use an assembly to showcase what your pupils know about wildlife, the problems it faces and what you've been doing to help it. Invite friends and family to come along.
- ✿ Create a set of top tips for looking after nature together. Design signs and posters to display at school and in your community.
- ✿ Join in with a national campaign; #iwill week, Youth Social Action Day, Volunteers' Week – there are events and activities all year round that you can be a part of.
- ✿ Celebrate a year of environmental youth social action, achievements, ideas and easy actions for looking after nature by hosting a Big Lunch.

MAKE A PLEDGE ABOUT WHAT YOU, YOUR PUPILS AND SCHOOL WILL DO AT #IWILL.ORG.UK

TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

If you need some inspiration to help your students take environmental action and lead their own projects, or just feel like you could do with some CPD or training on environmental action yourself, check out Transform Our World.

Transform Our World is a new hub full of free, practical resources for teachers to help young people tackle the root causes of the climate breakdown and biodiversity loss.

Picked and rated by teachers, the resources will provide opportunities for students to lead impactful projects that benefit their friends, family and local area, as well as the wider world. The resources are from a range of partner organisations that are experts at inspiring young people to protect the natural world through schools programmes.

Environmental charity Global Action Plan has created Transform Our World as part of its pledge to the #iwill campaign. It is a chance for teachers to connect with one another, and to encourage their whole school to get involved in youth green social action, embedding it in school life and culture and helping achieve the #iwill campaign aims.

→ HAVE A WHIRL WITH TRANSFORM OUR
WORLD AT: [TRANSFORM-OUR-WORLD.ORG](https://transform-our-world.org)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER ORGANISATIONS, CAMPAIGNS AND SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION CHECK OUT THESE SITES:

- Learn about the creatures that flutter-by and how to help look after them at butterfly-conservation.org
- Find out about helping young people to make their community more sustainable at greenschoolsproject.org.uk
- Get to grips with growing wild at growwilduk.com
- For tips on outdoor learning and a selection of lesson plans take a look at edenproject.com
- Join a global campaign to celebrate and inspire learning outside with outdoorclassroomday.org.uk
- Keep up to date with how we can save our countryside with flowers at plantlife.org.uk
- Bring people together to host conversations, make connections and celebrate nature – visit thebiglunch.com
- Make sure that trees matter to everyone with ideas and inspiration from treecouncil.org.uk
- Tick off '50 things to do before you're 11 ¾s' with nationaltrust.org.uk
- For all things to help look after the wildlife that comes to life after dark see bats.org.uk, mothnight.info, badgertrust.org.uk, britishhedgehogs.org.uk
- Find out all there is to know about invertebrates and why the whole world depends on them at buglife.org.uk

