

Introducing Habitats



Duration: 1 ½ hours approx. – max group size 30
National Curriculum – **Key Stage 2**
Available: April - September

The Visit Aims

- To introduce children to the word 'habitat', their sizes and to identify and explore different habitats within Croxteth Country Park.
- To explore the range of organisms living in several different habitats.
- To explore reasons why animals are found in particular habitats, with reference to feeding relationships (consumer, producer, predator, prey).
- To introduce the concept of organisms showing 'adaptation' to utilise different habitats.
- To construct simple food chain examples.
- To consider the effect of changing conditions in a particular habitat, and to demonstrate some of the difficulties of looking after a particular kind of habitat - eg woodland.

The Visit

The introduction will discuss the questions – “What is a habitat?” – “Where can we find habitats?” – “What do organisms need from their habitat?” A variety of habitats to be seen in the park will be discussed and grouped according to scale. A range of different habitats (pond, woodland, rotten wood etc.) will be investigated.

Children will be asked to ‘predict’ some of the organisms which live in the various habitats, and in some cases we will catch live examples (invertebrates). The care and responsibilities when collecting small animals will be stressed along with ensuring they are returned safely to their ‘home’.

Simple keys and picture cards will help identify the organisms found, and these will be recorded. We will investigate what organisms need from their habitat (food, water, shelter etc) and key words will be introduced – predator, prey, producer, consumer. Simple food chains for different habitats will be demonstrated.

Woodland is a very important habitat within the Country Park so we will look at how woodlands can be helped and improved. The children will play the ‘Survival Game’ which highlights the risks and threats associated with being a young seedling.

The visit will be summarised by discussing the children’s findings.

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Background Information

Croxteth Hall was the former home of the Earls of Sefton. After the death of the last Earl in 1972 the Hall and its estate was bequeathed to the City of Liverpool. The Country Park now consists of 215 hectares in which a huge variety of habitats can be found – gardens, open parkland, pasture, woodland, ponds and a river. They are all within easy walking distance from the Hall.

Visit Resources

- Habitat and organism recording sheets.
- A variety of living organisms (invertebrates).
- Cards, pictures and games to illustrate various points.
- All required equipment (nets, trays, pooters etc).

Visit Notes

Supervision - For every visit it is necessary to have sufficient adults with your group to comply with your LEA outdoor guidelines.

Risk Assessments - are available for all guided visits.

Timing - Most visits last for approx 1.5 hours. Please refer to the notes provided for your visit for times and starting points. We suggest you arrive 15 minutes in advance of your visit to allow for parking, payment, toilet trips, etc

Toilets - are in the courtyard by the Café.

Parking - The main entrance and coach park is off Muirhead Avenue East. The coach park is about 300m from the Hall. You may be advised to park near the Hall only with prior arrangement.

Charge - £3.80 per child, (minimum charge £95.00 per group).

Payment - Please make payment on the day of the visit at the gift shop at the front of the Hall. Please make payment to **Croxteth Hall & Country Park**.

Clothing - Please ensure students wear outdoor clothing and footwear appropriate for the weather and time of year.

Further Information about this and other visits are detailed on our 'Learning Opportunities' website www.croxteth.co.uk/education

Customer Feedback Forms- please fill in and return our feedback survey sheets- we welcome evaluation and constructive comments on your visit.

Liverpool City Council Parks & Greenspaces

**Ranger Interpretation Service, Croxteth Hall & Country Park, Croxteth Hall Lane,
Liverpool L12 OHB**

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