

Garden Earth Naturalist Site Inventory

Essential Question(s):

Where are good places on my site for plants and animals?

What do I like and dislike about my site?

How can I improve my school site for plants and animals and for the entire school community?

At a Glance: While surveying their school site for areas that contribute to a good habitat, learners discover good places for organisms, areas in need of improvement and ideas for making their school site a better place for everyone.

Getting Ready:

Taking into account the area and layout of your school grounds, determine ahead of time if you will explore your school site as a large group, in several small groups, or as individuals. Plan to conduct the activity so that learners will remain within your field of view..

Background:

In Part A, learners inventory their site for places in their school site ecosystem



that are good providers of eco-services, such as good places for pollinators or areas with lots of biodiversity. By doing so, they get ideas for locations that can be improved and ways in which to go about making improvements. In Part B, students conduct a survey of their site to decide what they like and don't like based on personal experience, such as visual preference or comfort level. They then come up with a variety of plans for improving their site. From this list, a group service learning project can be chosen.

Procedure: Part A

1. Discuss the definitions of “habitat”, “biodiversity”, “ecosystem”, and “eco-services”.
2. Give each learner a ‘Site Inventory’ worksheet.
3. Allow learners to explore various areas of the school site for 20 to 25 minutes.

Part B

1. Gather learners together and ask them to choose a place to reflect on their observations.
2. Learners will use the completed chart from Part A to complete Part B.
3. Discuss learner observations, preferences, and ideas for school site improvement.

Discussion/Assessment:

What school site areas are good places for plants and animals? Why?

What areas do you like? What areas do you dislike? Why?

What can we do to improve our school site for us and for other organisms?

How will these improvements affect the eco-services offered?

Location: Outdoors

Objectives: Learners will:

- 1) hone observation skills.
- 2) get to know their school site better.
- 3) brainstorm ways to improve their school site.

Skills: comprehension, empathy

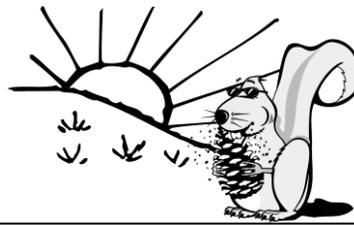
Supplies:

- GEN Site Inventory worksheet

Subjects: science

Time: 35 to 40 minutes

GEN Site Inventory: PART A



School Site 'Places'	School Site Locations Where is this place? Why did you choose this place?
A good place for flowers to live	
A not-so-good place for flowers	
A very hot place	
A cool place	
A place with lots of biodiversity	
A place that worms would like to live	
A place that needs more biodiversity	
A place where water sits after a rain	
A place where there is food for a rabbit or other animals	
A place where there is food for birds	
<i>Add additional features here and below!</i>	

GEN Site Inventory: PART B



WHAT I LIKE ABOUT MY SITE ☺	WHAT I DON'T LIKE ABOUT MY SITE ☹

WHAT MY CLUB CAN DO TO IMPROVE OUR SITE! <i>(write or draw)</i>