



## CSPE Lesson 5: Protected Soil and Biodiversity

### Curriculum link

Concepts – Stewardship, Rights and Responsibilities/Interdependence

Unit 2 Community

### Eco Eye film clips and comprehensions – Protected soil and biodiversity

- Protecting the Burren
- Biodiversity in our bogs
- Biodiversity in our seas
- Biodiversity in our forests

You can view all clips with the class or choose the ones that are of most relevance to your local area or of most interest to the group. **(NB Comprehension exercises are provided for each clip in separate PDFs. You should choose the ones you will use with this lesson and print them in advance)**

### Aim

- Students will understand how important biodiversity and areas of natural beauty are for the local community, for amenity, tourism, conservation.
- Students will understand that sometimes different uses can conflict (e.g. visitors to an area can damage delicate habitats, animals or plants).
- Students will become aware of the various stakeholders (visitors, local business, local community and the state) that have a role in protecting and managing biodiversity and areas of natural beauty.





## Introducing the topic

'Biodiversity' is a term used to describe the variety of life. It includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. The state of Ireland's biodiversity can tell us a lot about the state of the environment, as whatever takes place in the land, air and water environments affects biodiversity. Biodiversity protects and nurtures us, for example, through providing food, fuel, fibre and medicines, through the pleasure and inspiration it provides (a basis for much of our tourism and recreation industries) and through a wide variety of essential ecosystem services (such as carbon cycling and storage, nutrient cycling and maintenance of soil fertility).

## Materials

- Gather any information/brochures advertising the local area/amenities in the area. These should be available from the local tourist office or library. If none are available ask students to brainstorm all of the local natural amenities (hint: beaches, cliffs, national parks, nature reserves) or consider the nearest amenity sites for which brochures are available.

## Method

- Tell students to look through the materials and ask them to discuss in pairs why they are important to the local area.
- Write down the main points of the discussion.

## Exploring the topic

- Watch some or all of the clips and complete the comprehensions.
- Draw a poster or develop a slogan on the theme of protecting biodiversity.





## Follow on activities

### Suggested homework or in class

- Look for information on protected sites in your area and find out why they are protected. At [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie) you can look for Nature Reserves, National Parks and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

## Other classroom activities

### Research/discovery activities

- Find out the facts about a vulnerable or rare species of native Irish animal or plant that is endangered and why - report to the class. What are the most common threats to our biodiversity? What are the most common threats to our biodiversity? For more information go to [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie) The Environment in Focus section, [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie) or [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)
- What is being done in your local area to protect biodiversity?
- Visit a Nature Reserve or a National Park.
- The National Biodiversity Data Centre in Waterford website [www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie) has interactive maps of protected sites and species and a lot of current information on biodiversity, look up your local area.
- Invite a speaker from a local conservation group like Birdwatch Ireland or the Biodiversity or Heritage Officer from your Local Authority to talk to you on biodiversity. For a list of officers see <http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/county-heritage-services/contacts/biodiversity-officers/>

### Group-work/discussion activities

- Hold a classroom debate on the topic 'Biodiversity in Ireland is not my concern'





### Simulation activities

- Think of an issue of importance in relation to biodiversity/protecting natural resources/amenities in your area.
- Organise a campaign to protect this area – you will need to appoint a chairman, secretary, PRO. Who will you target and how?

### Possible Action Projects

- Biodiversity in your school - You can support wildlife by planting native trees and plants, to attract more birds, insects and animals into your school grounds. For more information visit:
  - [www.birdwatchireland.ie](http://www.birdwatchireland.ie)
  - [www.crann.ie](http://www.crann.ie)
  - [www.batconservationireland.org](http://www.batconservationireland.org)
  - [www.cvi.ie](http://www.cvi.ie)
  - [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie)

