



## What is the Look around activity?

The **Look around** activity worksheet is a simple tool for improving children's observational skills. It will get children out of the classroom, learning about wildlife and habitats, while having fun.

### Page 1: What can you see?

The first activity gets the children looking at the school grounds and taking notice of their surroundings.

Please note that the word 'minibeast' is used to cover the broad range of insects, spiders, slugs, snails and the like.

Please make sure that if children are lifting stones to look for minibeasts that they put them back gently, exactly where they found them – after all, it's where the minibeasts live!

### Page 2: How many?

The second activity takes the initial observations a step further by looking at groups of plants and animals and recognising the differences between species. Children should now be able to start looking in the right places for the things listed – and count the different kinds of plants and animals that they find.

### Page 3: Make a map

The final activity links up the first two by getting the children to sit down and think about where things are placed and where wildlife thrives.

By completing the **Look around** activity, children will have begun thinking about who shares their school grounds, and will prepare them for the first 'Do One Thing' (DOT) activity.

### What should I do once the Look around activity is completed?

There are many ways that the data from the activity worksheets can be used.

- Ask the children to compile different charts of their findings.
- Ask the children to talk to the class about the things they saw – what was the best and the worst thing?
- Research into the different types of minibeasts the children found.
- Use the activity as the starting point of your Breathing Places logbook (see activity ideas sheet).

### How and when to use the Look around activity

The **Look around** activity should be completed at the beginning of your Breathing Places journey, but can be done at any time of the year. This will give the children a chance to explore the school grounds, and to establish a starting point for making improvements for nature.

We suggest that you use the **Look around** activity throughout your school's Breathing Places journey, as it will give children the chance to see how the school grounds are changing with the seasons and if new wildlife has arrived.