The World Around Us

List of ideas

The theme for this year’s National Non-Fiction November gives you the opportunity to discover and celebrate books about local, national and world-wide environments - their plants, animals, landscapes and climates. Here are a few ideas for related activities to get you started:

- Find out about some famous naturalists, environmentalists and conservationists from the past and present.
- Make a book about the flora and fauna in your school playground or your local park.
- Ask Group members to keep a diary of the birds and other wildlife they see in their gardens.
- Create a table top display based on items collected on a woodland walk.
- Go beach combing and collect interesting things to identify and find out about.
- Design a poster to encourage people to look after the countryside.
- Find out about the impact of different sources of energy on our environment.
- Visit your local public library to find out what books they have on animals from around the world.
- Have a debate about a global issue of your choice.
- Investigate an endangered species and develop a conservation campaign.
- Research and design a garden for a particular person or group of people.
- Invite a representative from a local wildlife centre to come and talk to your group about their work.
- Create a wall display about the books in your library that relate to ‘The World Around Us’ theme.
- Draw a map of your local area to include natural habitats – trees, gardens, parks, woods, rivers, ponds etc. – and other man-made places where wild life might also be found – lofts, sheds/barns, nest boxes, under bridges etc.
- Research the flora and fauna of a particular country or environment (desert or polar region, for example) and create a mural.
- Invite the children in your Group to read and vote for the books shortlisted for the School Library Association Information Book Award.