

How can the John Muir Award be used across the Curriculum?

Examples of activities and topics that have contributed to meeting John Muir Award Challenges of Discover, Explore, Conserve and Share.

Activities can:

- Meet Experiences and Outcomes by taking learning outdoors
- Make connections across the curriculum
- Help raise attainment in core areas of Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing
- Support whole school priorities such as Learning for Sustainability (sustainable development education, global citizenship, outdoor learning, children's rights and play) and STEM Learning

“The John Muir Award brings the curriculum to life. Learners make sense of the topics studied across many subjects by experiencing learning outdoors in the ‘real world.’” Karen Fulton, Teacher, Doon Academy



Modern Languages

- translate work into a poster
- write newspaper articles
- produce a leaflet to attract tourists
- create a PowerPoint presentation
- learn environmental and emotional vocabulary

Sciences

- sensory exploration of nature
- work with experts e.g. ranger services
- consider food miles and carbon
- survey wildlife in school grounds – citizen science
- role of wild places/nature in tackling our climate emergency
- soil sampling
- nature walks
- pollution surveys
- conduct energy audits
- consider personal impacts and lifestyle choices
- food chains
- study biodiversity
- litter campaigns

Health and Wellbeing

- connect with nature – solo time, personal reflection
- volunteer - support community wild places
- group work – planning and participation
- participate in risk assessments
- engage and learn from your community
- cross country running
- adventurous activities
- scavenger hunts
- review experiences – awareness of self and others
- practical conservation projects – taking responsibility, physical activity
- orienteering
- green travel
- walking

English and Literacy

- persuasive writing-creating a campaign
- creative writing
- debate environmental issues
- create a poem
- find nature in literature
- produce a guide to local wild place
- write newsletter articles
- reflect in Record Books
- presentations
- lead guided walks

Religious and Moral Education

- volunteer – community and environmental projects
- consider fair trade, organic issues
- explore values and spirituality
- Scottish Outdoor Access Code
- initiate a natural resources debate
- campaign for wild places, nature and climate
- investigate climate change and take action
- consider climate justice
- investigate local, national and international wild places
- advocate for nature - develop youth voices

Mathematics and Numeracy

- mapping skills – references and bearings
- analyse wildlife data
- estimate and measure height and age of trees
- sort and categorise litter – time spans and biodegradability
- presentation of data e.g. wildlife surveys
- plan and measure routes
- estimate and measure area, angles and distances

Technologies

- build planters for school ground
- litter picks – understanding litter sources
- make bird seed cakes
- recycling
- reduce ecological footprints
- consider personal impacts and lifestyle choices
- design and place homes for wildlife – birds, bats and insects
- film making, photography and animations
- investigate alternative energy sources – large or small scale
- choose fairtrade and organic
- create displays and give presentations
- consider food miles – local and seasonal food
- make nature inspired art and crafts – needlework, natural dyes, collages
- share on the internet
- compost at school

Expressive Arts

- map natural sounds
- investigate John Muir's sketches and drawings
- create exhibitions and displays
- paint and draw outdoors
- find art in nature
- photography
- perform outdoor plays
- hold celebration events
- present at school assemblies
- lead guided walks for peers and family
- make environmental films
- consider landscape painting
- create music inspired by nature

Social Studies

- consider the environmental impact of human activities
- investigate weather and climate impacts on living things
- conduct environmental quality surveys
- consider the social impact of pollution
- investigate the life and legacy of John Muir
- map land use – understand competing needs
- learn about conservation values
- experience the seasons
- investigate the history of local green spaces
- map read – investigate scale, distance and direction
- compare and contrast different wild places
- improve school grounds
- investigate features of Scotland's landscape
- consider the environmental impact of transport

John Muir Award