

Spot those hot spots

Investigate how hot it gets in different parts of your grounds

Great for...

- **Science** making systematic observations and measurements
- **Maths** measuring and handling data
- **ICT** using technology to capture and interpret information

Activity

The aim of the activity is to measure the temperature of different areas around the school grounds throughout a day. Ideally this activity should take place in a number of different locations on the same day, and over different days throughout the year – so that comparisons can be made not only around the grounds but also during different seasons. If it is wet you may not be able to take the equipment outside. Alternatively place the monitor inside waterproof bags with the temperature probe sticking out!

- 1** Discuss with the children where they think the hottest and coldest places in the grounds are. Does this vary throughout the day? Will this change at different times of the year – for example, is there a place that is sunny in the summer and shady in the winter? While it might be one of the hottest places in July it might be one of the coldest in November.
- 2** Take a tour around the grounds to decide where the temperature readings are going to be taken. Consider issues such as shade and sun, exposure to wind and whether places are covered. Do children think these factors will impact on the results?
- 3** Decide where you are going to locate the monitors and mark these on a plan. Taking photographs of where they have been positioned can also be helpful to make sure they are repositioned accurately at different times of the year.
- 4** Place the monitors outside for as long as you can to get the best variation in readings – this could be during the school day or overnight if the site is secure enough. Take in at the end of the day to analyse the results.

What you need

- **Data logging equipment** with a temperature probe
- **A plan of the school grounds**
- **Equipment** enabling you to download temperatures recorded over a day

Preparation

- Take a look around the grounds yourself before taking the children outside so you have a good idea of where you might position the equipment.

Less challenging

- Take individual recordings in one location over the length of a single day or compare different places in the grounds at roughly the same time.

More challenging

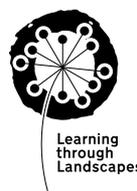
- Depending on the equipment available you could evaluate different aspects of the environment outside.

This could include:

- Light
- Sound
- Humidity
- Infra-red radiation

Your notes

Use this space to evaluate the activity



To find out more about membership call 01962 845811 or visit www.ltl.org.uk

© This activity sheet was created as a membership resource by **Learning through Landscapes** operating in Scotland as **Grounds for Learning** Registered charity no. in England and Wales 803270 and in Scotland SC038890