

## Outdoor & Woodland Learning Activity Sheet

<b>Activity:</b>	The Lost Words activities									
<b>Habitat:</b>	Any	<b>Season:</b>	S	✓	S	✓	A	✓	W	✓

Level	
Early	
First	✓
Second	✓
Third and Fourth	
Senior Phase	

Curriculum topics			
Expressive Arts	✓	Health and Wellbeing	✓
Languages	✓	Mathematics	
Religious & Moral Ed		Sciences	✓
Social Studies	✓	Technology	

Time
2-3 hours

Equipment*
<b>The Lost Words book</b>
<b>Picture-word match activity</b>
<b>British Bird ID book</b>
<b>Other nature ID books</b>
<b>Clipboards</b>
Paper
Art materials

Key outcomes
Become aware that nature words have been removed from the Oxford Junior Dictionary and understand the reasons.
Explore words and identify nature.
Creatively explore words in relation to the natural world

\*Items depicted in bold are available from CALLP

Activity description
See activity prompt sheet on next page for in depth guidance.
Can be tied into a bigger session around language using the linked activities in box below, as suggested (both available in the Learning Zone):
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nature's Opposites</b> – look for objects in nature by descriptive words and characteristics (see specific activity for in depth guidance)</li> <li><b>Explore Like a Victorian.</b> Discover something from the natural world and name it as if for the first time based on what it looks like etc. Write a description of its characteristics and observed qualities.</li> </ol>
Lost Words activity – Leads onto activity prompt on next page – link into previous activities. All these things have been named at some point in human history. Explore what naming does for us, and what does it mean if we lose nature-words during early learning and formative years? Should we care?

Notes
Linked activities: <a href="#">Nature's Opposites</a> <a href="#">Mission:Explore (Explore like a Victorian activity)</a>
Other Lost Words Resources: <a href="https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/initiatives/the-lost-words">https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/initiatives/the-lost-words</a>

## John Muir Award Lost Words activity

### **Picture activity**

Resources: pictures and separate words of the 20 Lost Words, ID guides for birds – encourage to use index to identify the birds if any confusion.

(Note: there is also an online quiz to match up pictures to names [here](#)):

- Can you name or match up names to pictures
- How many did you already know
- How many did you learn?
- How do you feel learning new words from things from nature?

All of these words have one thing in common. Can you guess what it is? (in fact, they may have more than one thing in common, but there is something specific we are looking for).

Clue: Do you think you would have difficulty spelling any of these words? If you did where would you go to find out?

*These words have been removed from the Oxford Children's Dictionary and replaced with technology related words. Examples include attachment, block graph and chatroom.*

- What do you think about this?
- How does this make you feel?
- Do you ever use any of these words? Which ones? Or why not?
- Are you surprised at the removal of any of them?

### **Introduce The Lost Words**

This book has been created in response. It includes twenty of the fifty nature-related words that have been removed from the dictionary and gives a spell for each.

- Read intro
- Would anyone like to read a spell?

### **We're going to create our own spell book**

- Explore the area around. You might already know what nature word you are going to choose, but have a little look anyway. Find something that stands out. It might be something you can see right now or it might be an animal, a plant or something else... a rock or a type of weather. Anything to do with nature. Take photos if you wish.
- Name it. It could be its actual name, for example a hazelnut or a mouse. Or it could be a word that describes it. For example "tasty nut" or "furball".
- Draw it. We've got a variety of art materials: sharpies, pencils, crayons and watercolour pencils. You could draw black and white or multicoloured, it's up to you.
- Write an Acrostic poem

Additional activity ideas:

- Read the spell out to the plant or animal it is written about (if it's not present in your garden or green space, why not ask someone else to pretend they are the organism, or the picture you have drawn... or even a cuddly toy?!). Imagine the spell has enabled this organism to speak the human language. Now you can interview it and ask whatever questions you like. What would you ask it? What do you think its answers might be?
- Write a story about the organism. It could be a day in the life of, or a meeting it has with another creature.
- Write some more spells and create your own spell book.
- If you are sad to hear that nature words have been removed from the Oxford children's dictionary, write a letter to the Oxford dictionary asking them if they would consider putting the words back in. Explain why this is important to you.