

Last session we learned about Ecosystems. This week we are going to focus on:

Our Place in Nature

Over the past weeks we have learned about, and spent time in nature. This week we are going to review what we have done and what we can keep doing to make sure we have a positive impact on the ecosystems that we play a part in.



Location: Outside if possible

What you need:

- Print the booklet OR use some scrap paper and copy out our activities
- Camera or colouring pencils

Aim:

- Know about our place amongst trees and ways we can improve our relationship with them
- Understand our impact on Wildlife and ways we can improve it
- Know more about our place amongst plants and flowers and what we can do to encourage their growth
- Be able to identify ways we can have a positive effect on ecosystems

Ranger Work:

- Fill in the Blanks
- Manx Beasties
- Mini Plants & Wildflowers Crossword
- Ecosystem Story
- Positive & Negative Impacts
- Spider's web

Our Place Amongst Trees

In session two we learned about the parts of a tree and different types of trees. We also got to know a tree ourselves and to find out a bit about history through our tree's life, and the jobs that trees perform, which help and benefit us and other organisms.

Can you remember how trees help us? See if you can fill in the blanks:

Trees give off _ _ _ _ _ , which we need to breathe.

Trees can help prevent _ _ _ _ _ .

Trees can help keep _ _ _ _ nutrient-rich

Trees provide shade, _ _ _ _ , and shelter.

Tree can help reduce city _ _ _ _ _ .

Trees reduce water, _ _ _ , and noise pollution.



Trees are very important in our lives and it's up to us to make sure that we don't have a negative impact on them. Here are some things you might be able to do, to increase our positive impact in future.

Can you plant a tree each year on your birthday, or maybe one for each member of your family? If you don't have a place to plant your own trees, why not volunteer for tree planting with the Isle of Man Woodland Trust <https://woodlandtrust.im/volunteer/>

Borrow, share and donate books. Join the library or buy second-hand books.

Use paper wisely. Work on-line when you can, print double sided, use reusable gift bags or gift-wrapping at Christmas and Birthdays, and recycle paper and cardboard

Use a reusable cup not paper ones whenever possible, for example if you are getting take out from a café. As well as being environmentally, its often cheaper too!

Our Place Alongside Wildlife

In session three we learned about the Big, Flying and Wee Beasties that we share our Island with. We looked at how we can track them and how we can help them by making a Hedgehog shelter, Bat box or by developing habitats for them.

Can you remember some of the Beasties that live on and around our island? See if you can list or draw some of these, or perhaps you could take pictures and stick them in:

| Big Beasties | Flying Beasties | Wee Beasties |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

Beasties of all shapes and sizes have their place in nature and without them all playing their part, ecosystems will fail. Humans are guilty of having a negative impact on Wildlife, but we are also capable of having a positive impact. Here are some ways you can help:

Shop local and buy local seasonal produce to reduce air miles.

Could you make more animal habitats for your garden or school?



Maybe you could put some bird feeders and / or a bird bath.

What about putting a shallow heavy bottom dish of water out for hedgehogs when the weather is warm and dry.

When out walking stick to the paths?

Help any animal you may find in distress?

Could you sponsor an animal or project?

Maybe you could volunteer for the Manx Wildlife Trust

<http://www.manxwt.org.uk/how-you-can-help> or Beach Buddies

<http://beachbuddies.net/get-involved/>

Or perhaps you could log your bird sightings on

<http://manxbirdlife.im/>



Our Place Amongst Plants & Flowers

In session four we explored the role of the plants and flowers around us and experimented with some different uses for them. We identified their importance for us and for other organisms in our ecosystems and had a go at encouraging some wild flowers in our own garden.

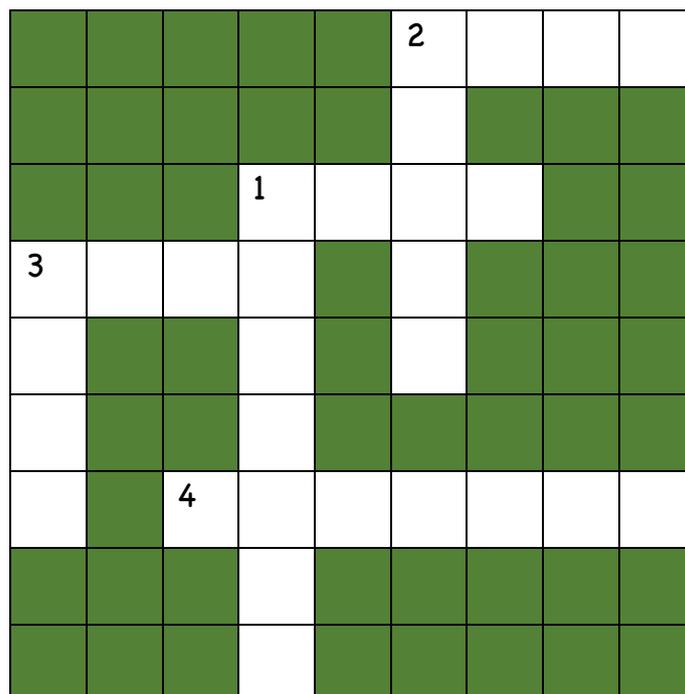
Try our crossword to see what can you remember about flowers and plants?

Down:

- 1 These have a long-term positive effect on moods.
- 2 Plants and Flowers spread these, which helps keep soil healthy.
- 3 These Wee Beasties need flowers to survive and help flowers to survive too by pollinating them.

Across:

- 1 Wild Plants and Flowers (Producers) form the foundations of what type of chains?
- 2 This prickly flower is often given as gifts and features in many gardens, as well as growing in the wild. It produces a sweet-smelling flower.



3 These blue flowers blanket the floors of our Manx glens in spring and are shaped like a

4 Flowers are important for this type of research.

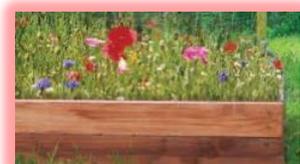
Plants and flowers are the foundation of many ecosystems. You can do your bit to

help encourage them to grow by:

Planting in your garden, window box or community garden

Stick to paths when out walking

Maybe you could volunteer for the Manx Wildlife Trust and help out in the Wildflowers of Mann nursery, at Ramsey Forest or a similar project <http://www.manxwt.org.uk/how-you-can-help>



Our Place in Ecosystems

In session five we learned about how living and non-living things fit together to make ecosystems. We (humans) have our part to play in many ecosystems. Often, we can end up having a negative impact on ecosystems, but we also have the capacity to have a greatly positive impact.

What can you remember about Ecosystems?

Can you write a short story about a human journey through one of the following – Mountains, River, Forest, Lake, Under the Sea

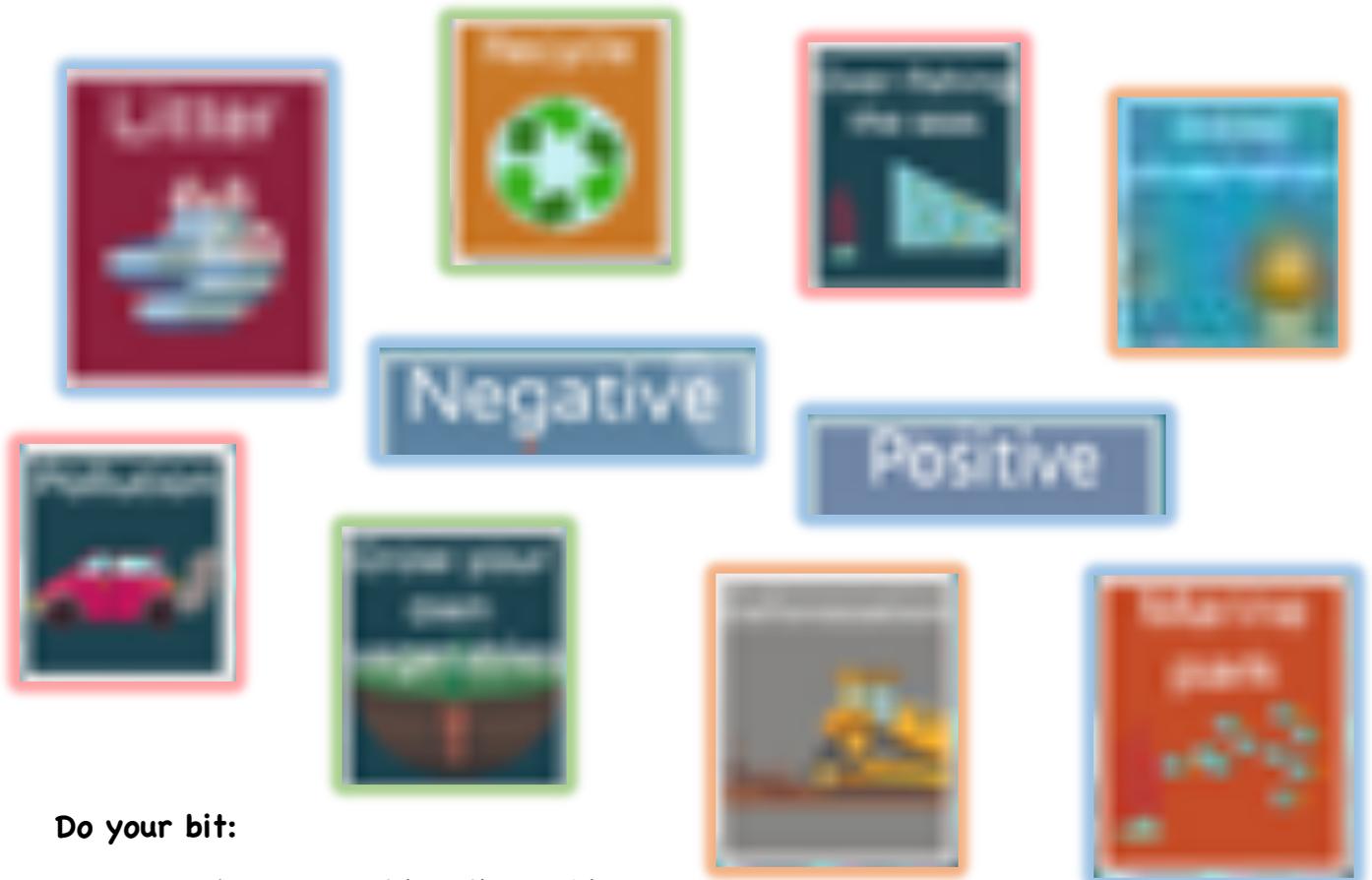


Think about the living and non-living things you might come across and how they link together to make the ecosystem work well. Try to include some of the following words: micro or macro ecosystem, food chain or food web, healthy system, delicate balance

My ecosystem story:

We can help to conserve and protect the environment and the ecosystems we live in. Through activities, such as recycling, litter picking and careful disposal of waste, and through reduced use of vehicles and electricity we can reduce our carbon footprint. Other activities which can have a positive impact are planting trees and protecting green spaces locally, and travelling less, or just not as far.

Draw a line to the box, negative or positive, that you think best fits each action



Negative

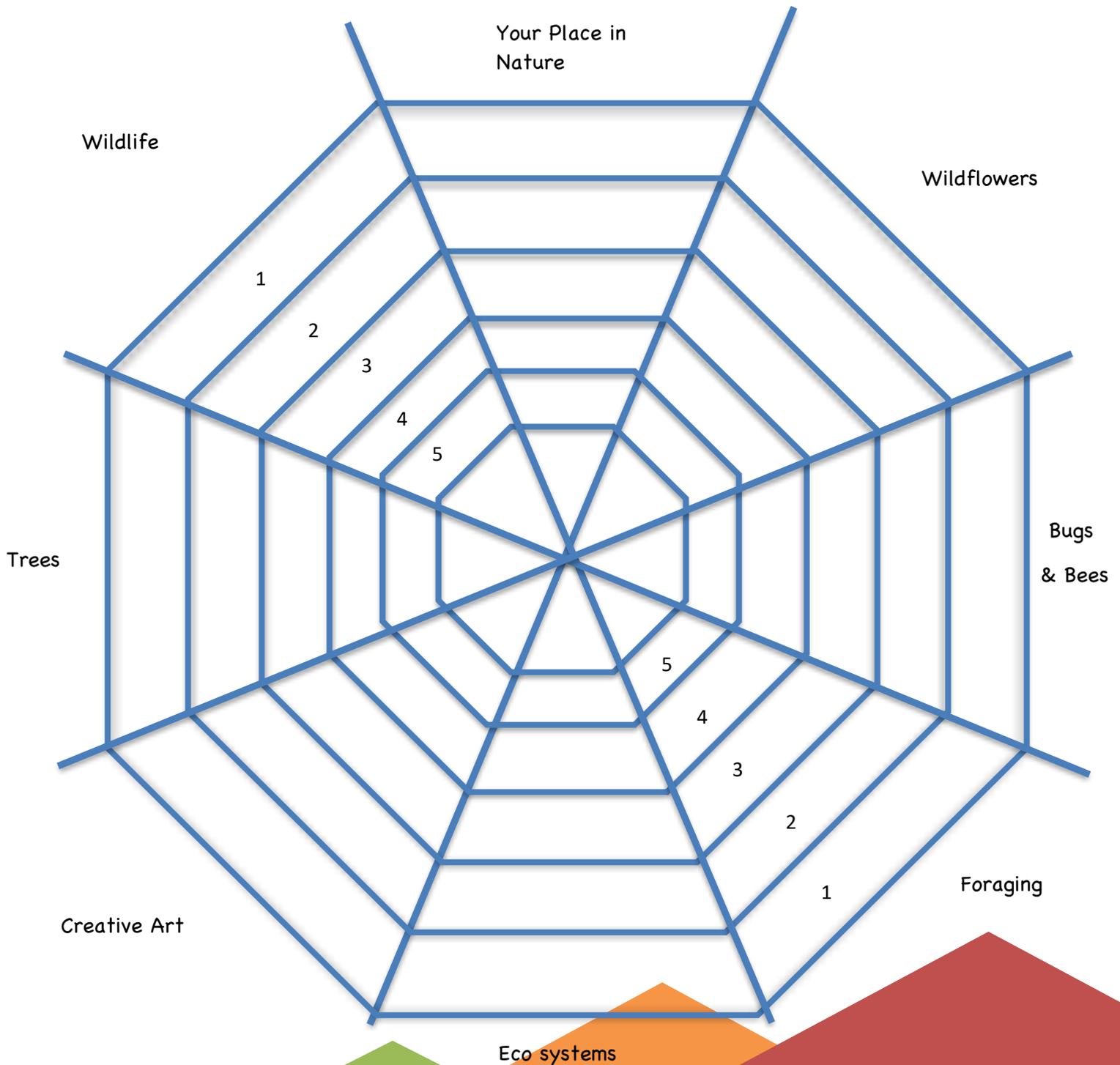
Positive

Do your bit:

- Maybe you could walk or ride your bike to school or the shop's, instead of going in a car or on a bus.
- If you have to take a car journey, could you share with other people?
- Can you carry your own cup / water bottle?
- Can you remember to turn off the water after washing your hands?
- Have you holidays closer to home.
- Volunteer for local clean up project like Beach Buddies
<http://beachbuddies.net/get-involved/>

Spider's Web

Colour in the web to show how much you know about each topic. Colour closer to the middle the more you know. Compare this with the one you did on week one of this course. Hopefully you have coloured further this time!



You are now a Wilderness Ranger!

You have completed our Lockdown Wilderness Ranger Course and are ready to continue to be a Ranger in your own Ecosystem. It is our job as Rangers to be mindful of our surroundings and to look after the systems we live in, having a positive impact on them whenever we can. We hope that you will continue to be an active Ranger in the Ecosystems that you play a part in.



To claim your Lockdown Ranger Certificate, contact us by email ardwhallanoutdoor@gmail.com or on Facebook with your full name, address, and some evidence that you have completed all six sessions – some photos of you doing the activities is great! We'll send you your certificate by post or email, whichever you prefer.



If you are a teacher and have been completing the Programme with your students then send us a class list of the students who took part and we will send the certificates to your school.

Looking for what to do next? Why not try out our Bushcraft Course?