

Summer, when wonderful things, can happen to quiet people. 9th July 2012

Discovering Our Countryside provides a clear, interesting and informative picture of the important role of agriculture and rural affairs in the lives of pupils from an early age, the films and commentaries have been developed specifically to enhance the work that you are doing in your own classrooms.

These are the scripts and associated teaching links and notes for the program of 9 July 2012.

Teaching links.

Below are this program's specific links to:

- National Curriculum
- The 9 Eco School topics.
- National Government initiatives:
 - Healthy Schools
 - Sustainable Schools
 - Every Child Matters
 - Learning Outside the Classroom
- Thinking Skills.

Note on National Curriculum links

The National Curriculum subjects and the units from the QCA schemes of work. (Rather than list each specific National Curriculum objective we have simply listed the QCA Units as these are already linked to the National Curriculum and are generally what schools reference when planning work.)

These will allow you to easily link each program into your existing work.

The programs can also be used to promote interaction by children in pairs and groups, circle time or class discussion, encouraging learning through discussion and interaction

Discovering Our Countryside is a modular approach to rural affairs - we hope you and your pupils will look forward to each new episode as it paints the picture of the rural environment and it's seasonality.

Specific links for this weeks program sections:

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Details of this program

This program looks at the crops we saw planted earlier in the year, shearing sheep and things to do outside over the summer.

- **How are crops doing?** – Looks at how crops we saw planted in spring are doing in early summer. How bees have harvested the fields of yellow to make honey. Also looks at how Great Yorkshire Show Growing boxes are coming on
- **Shearing Sheep** – We revisit Mr Heywoods sheep to see them being sheared
- **Out and about in summer** – Give Mario a break! Things to look out this summer. Also looks at some outdoor activities for school and summer holidays.

These sections can also be found on the relevant topic page, which over the weeks will build up the seasonality picture for each of the main themes: Crops / Arable; Livestock; Wildlife and the Countryside

NATIONAL CURRICULUM SUBJECTS LINKS.

Citizenship KS 1 + 2

E.g. Shows how farmers look after animals.

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 3 Animals and Us

Design and Technology KS 1 + 2

Looks how farmers use modern technology to grow crops and provide fresh 5-a-day produce

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 1c Eat More Fruit and Vegetables

Science KS 1 + 2

The videos have lots of science links to the units listed below for example:

Shows the start of plants life cycles and what parts of a plant we use and harvest.

Looks at how we can help bees so important to many of the plant food crops we rely on

Some of machinery could be used to discuss pushes and pulls.

Relevant QCA Schemes of Work

Unit 1B. Growing plants.

Unit 1E Pushes and Pulls.

Unit 2A Health and Grow.

Unit 2B Plants and Animals.

Unit 3B. Helping plants grow well.

Unit 4B Habitats.

Unit 5B. Life cycles.

Unit 6A Interdependence and adaptation.

These are just the links we thought of – please let us know if you make any more!

ECO SCHOOL TOPIC LINKS

With apologies if we are ‘teaching grandma to suck eggs’ here are some of our thoughts on how our videos link to the Eco School Topics

Showing pupils just which of their food products are grown in this country will give them important background knowledge when discussing transport, energy and global perspective of food production and the healthy living choices they make when they go to the shops.

- Energy
 - Growing food and the associated energy costs of buying home grown food or imported food
- Water

- Use of water to grow plants
- Biodiversity
 - How growing studying local habitats and where pest are found can help local biodiversity
- School grounds
 - How the simple act of hunting for mini-beasts can help build up a picture of the school grounds in preparation for the design and creation of new features in your school grounds
- Healthy living
 - How growing your own produce can promote healthy living by promoting a healthy diet and also promoting exercise in the act of growing that produce. The improvement of school ground can also aid mental well being.
- Transport
 - Reduce transport costs of food by growing your own local produce.
- Litter
 - When carrying out gardening tasks introduce children to tidy habits – pick up all packaging and dispose of ‘thoughtfully’ – see waste
 - When outside be it school, garden or countryside “Take only photos Leave only footprints!”
- Waste
 - Explain that gardening and farming is and always has been synonymous with recycling. Re-use seed trays, compost is made from last years ‘recycled’ plants. Think twice about where to put litter – bin or recycle?
- Global citizenship
 - Explain how even the little things we do – where how food comes from, how much we recycle, our biodiversity, can affect the whole world be it good or bad!

TEACHERS NOTES:**SUMMER, WHEN WONDERFUL THINGS, CAN HAPPEN TO QUIET PEOPLE. 9TH JULY 2012- SCRIPT****INTRO**

Summer, when wonderful things can happen to quiet people

HOW ARE CROPS DOING?

*As the seasons have progressed this year we have seen
potatoes, barley, peas being planted*

fertiliser being applied

So how are the crops doing now in early summer

Well the fields of yellow have gone - the Oilseed Rape flowers have been pollinated by bees.

The Oilseed rape plants are now producing the seed pods which will fill with seeds for the farmer to harvest later

The bees have collected the pollen and nectar from the OSR flower to provide us with the harvest of honey

Here's Lester showing how the Honey is extracted

Cereal crops like barley and wheat are now coming into ear

This means the ears in which the seeds will develop are appearing - you may have noticed the changes and seen the crops swaying in the wind

Cereals are a member of the grass family and like the tomatoes we saw and the OSR must be pollinated before they produce any seeds to harvest

Grass is one of the few crops we grow which does not need bees for pollination.

Grass and cereals are pollinated by the wind - so they do not produce flowers like plants which rely on insects like bees.

Here is barley, wheat and grass flowering

The pollen is in here and is transferred to another plant by the wind

The potatoes we saw planted are now growing well.

Potatoes need a lot of water so even when it rains you may see farmers giving them water or irrigating them

The plants in the Great Yorkshire Show Gardening competition box have grown too....

*The pupils have also been busy counting and recording the insects
and enjoying the fruits of all their hard work - literally*

Teachers notes:

SHEARING SHEEP

Sheep are sheared to remove the fleece or wool

This is so the wool can be sold but it is also necessary to keep the sheep cool in summer

Electric clippers are used which in expert hands are very safe and the sheep are not hurt

There is a special technique to holding the sheep and also where to start and finish shearing the animal

Sheep are usually shorn on a wooden board to avoid contamination of the fleece which could lower its value

Most shearers wear special soft footwear - some even do it barefoot!

Much of the shearing in this country is done by shearers from Australia and New Zealand

These shearers travel the world shearing all year round on the 'shearing circuit'

The shorn fleece is carefully rolled and tied by its own wool before being placed in a woosack.

How quick do you think an expert can shear a sheep - well time this one and see....

How many is that an hour or day?

They aim to do about 250 sheep in 1 day!

Although this shearer makes it look easy..it is hard back breaking work.....

But this is still probably easier than what it used to be like shearing sheep

With no electric clippers the shearer had to hold the sheep down and work the clippers by hand.

OUT AND ABOUT THIS SUMMER

Give Mario a break...get out and enjoy the countryside this summer

Here's what to look out for

Blackbird feeding large chick

Red Grouse - seen on the moors

Swallow feeding young on wire

Blue Tit feeding young in rain

Long Tail Tit - parent flies off after feeding young

Tree Sparrow - coaxing young out of nest box

Curlew

Lapwing chick hiding

Pied Wagtail - going back to feed chick a worm

Some fun things you could do and help nature conservation in to the bargain.

With an adults help you could join the big pond dip

Some things you might find

Water snails and shrimps

Water beetle

Dragonfly larvae - not sure which species

but we did see this Common Hawker laying eggs last summer

You could also take part in the Big Butterfly count

Here's some butterflies to look out for

Download an identification chart to help

Where to find some other ideas

TEACHERS NOTES:

I once heard Sir Richard Attenborough being interviewed and was asked "When did you get your interest in natural history" to which he replied "When did you lose yours?" Most young children love nature so why not give them lots of things to do with nature over the summer. It is only when they become a bit older that they lose this only to pick it up again in later life!

Big Pond Dip

<http://www.pondconservation.org.uk/bigponddip/bigponddip>

Big Butterfly Count

<http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

Big Summer Challenge

<http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/summer/>