

THE WORLD AROUND US — SCIENCE (NI CURRICULUM) · P3–P6

Eolaíocht agus an Domhan Mórthimpeall Orainn

Science Activities — World Around Us — P3–P6

Science activities using the NI environment

- **HABITAT SURVEY:** map habitats in the school grounds (lawn, hedge, wall, tree, flowerbed). Which animals live in each?
- **MINIBEAST HUNT:** identify insects, worms, slugs, spiders in the school garden. Use a key to identify species.
- **WEATHER STATION:** set up a simple school weather station. Record temperature, rainfall, wind direction. Compare with Met Office NI forecasts.
- **SEASONAL CHANGE DIARY:** photograph the same tree weekly for a year. Map how it changes through seasons.
- **LOUGH NEAGH STUDY:** research NI's largest lake. What fish live there? What plants? What is an eel's life cycle?
- **GIANT'S CAUSEWAY ROCKS:** bring in basalt samples. What properties does it have? Compare with limestone and sandstone.
- **STRANGFORD LOUGH:** research the NI coastline and tidal flow. Why is Strangford Lough one of NI's most important marine habitats?
- **FARMING AND LAND USE:** map how land is used around the school — farmland, urban, forest, bogland. What has changed over 50 years? (Old OS maps at libraries)

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World Around Us Science strand (N

- **LIVING THINGS:** animals, plants, habitats, food chains, life cycles, growth, human body, keeping healthy
- **MATERIALS AND THEIR PROPERTIES:** natural/manufactured, physical properties, dissolving, mixing, rocks and soils



- ENERGY AND CHANGE: light, sound, heat, electricity, magnets and forces
- FORCES AND MOTION: pushes and pulls, friction, gravity, air and water resistance
- NI CONTEXT: use local examples wherever possible — Lough Neagh eels, basalt geology, the Irish hare, native tree species (oak, ash, hazel, hawthorn)
- ASSESSMENT: assessed through teacher observation, investigation reports, and portfolios. No standardised tests for science in NI primary.

