

A day in the life

Use evidence to discover what happened in your school today

Great for...

- **History** understanding timelines

Activity

The task is to find out about what happened in your school grounds today, using on-the-ground evidence.

1 Organise the children to go outdoors at regular intervals during the day – for example, after registration, after break, after lunch, before going home – and record what they see on a chart. You may want to allocate different areas to different groups – for example, one group investigates the playground, another the school field, another the courtyard etc. They should look for:

- footprints from users – human and wildlife
- litter – whether from children or other human users of the site. What can you tell about the users from the litter they leave behind?
- play or sports equipment being used or left outside.
- signs of the day's weather – puddles, things blown around by the wind, hot asphalt...

2 When the children have gathered their information they can create a 'time line', recording in writing or with images the changes that took place during the day.

What you need

- **Clip boards, paper and pencils**
- **Cameras** (optional)

Preparation

- Introduce the idea that we find out about the past through evidence. You can link this to police finding evidence about a crime that has just happened or how archaeologists find out about the past.
- Talk about how both man-made objects as well as plants and animals can supply evidence of changes.

Less challenging

- You could leave out some evidence for children to find at different times during the day – for example, netball or football bibs, a clipboard with some notes on it.

More challenging

- The information gathered from all the different groups could be recorded as a whole, using overlays on a plan of your school site. These are sheets of tracing paper that fit over the base plan of the school site. Each layer of overlay has a different layer of information so that the base plan stays the same but you can see the changes that occurred during the day in each layer of overlay, and even how they combine together.

Your notes

Use this space to evaluate the activity



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