

John Muir Award

Discovery Level



Find out about John Muir!

In every walk
with nature
one receives far more
than he seeks.
John Muir



Find some quotes he uses about nature



Find out about a Chinese Philosopher



Are there any similarities in thoughts/beliefs?



Day One: Section One – **DISCOVER!**

Discover a wild place!



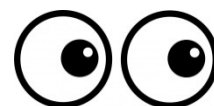
Our selected area is:

It is situated: _____

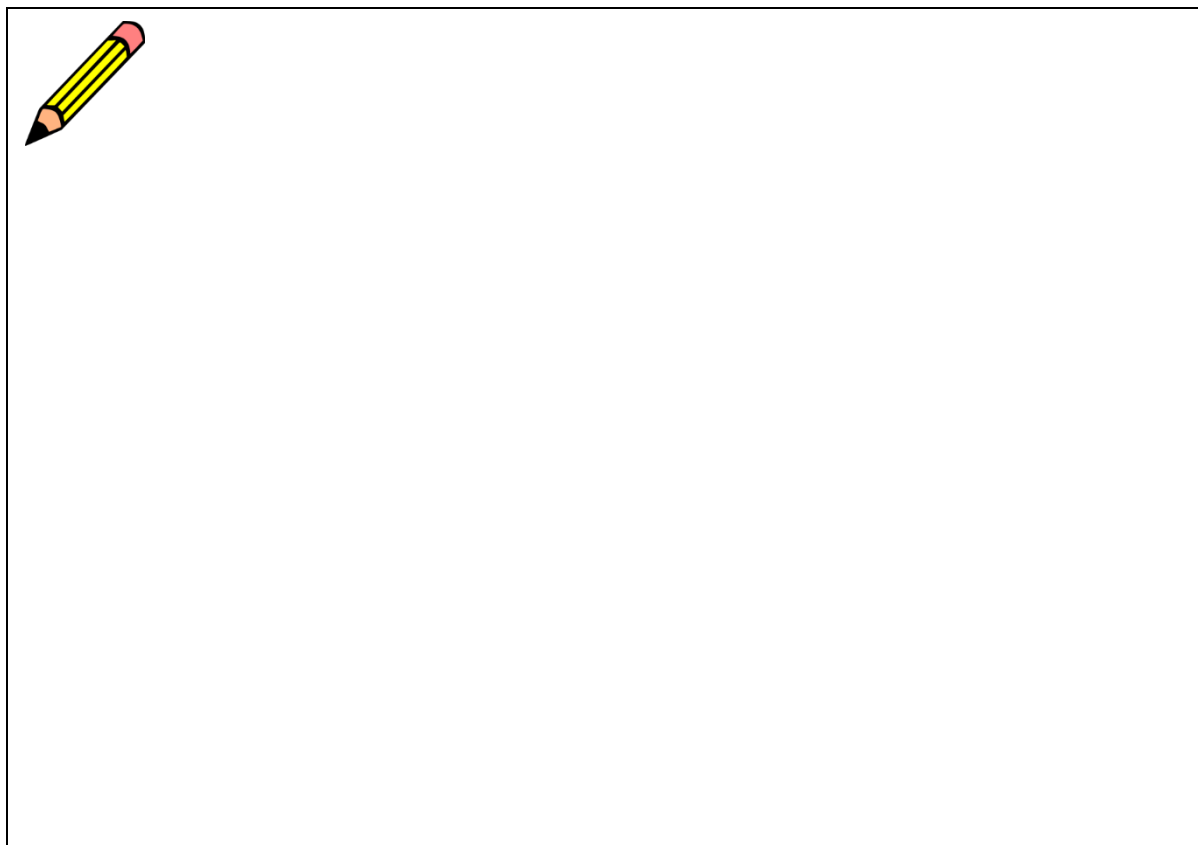
We chose it

because: _____

Describe the area: (you could draw and label it, use some new Chinese characters, describe it in English or Chinese, use Pinyin or characters)



Are there trees? Is there a river/stream? What flowers/wildlife do you see?



Day One: Section Two – DISCOVER!

Time to think

Choose a spot and sit down or amble around.

Think about what is around you.

How do wild places make us feel? Are there health benefits?

Do you notice anything? It can be ANYTHING?



Take photos, draw, write a poem or collect some natural materials from your spot and record them in the box above.

Time to talk – Mandarin!!!



Find out some of the words to describe the things you see. Your teacher will help you. You could identify:

- Objects (animals/trees/flowers/water)
- Colours
- Textures
- The conditions (weather/temperature)



Day One: Section Three – DISCOVER!

Know your characters! 自然

Your teacher will help you to learn some new characters for the things you see around you. Practise by completing the following tasks:

- Gather some twigs or stones. Copy the characters your teacher makes with the items or in the mud/soil. Take photos!
- Can you guess what they mean?
- Practise with each other.
- Draw the new characters you have learned here:



Now try to put some of the words into spoken sentences.

You could use them in Mandarin with phrases such as:



- I see.....
- I hear.....
- There is/there are...
- I like.....
- I do not like....
-is important
-is green/yellow/soft/wet/cold (adjectives)

End of Day Reflection!



Think about what has surprised you, what you have noticed, and enjoyed. Note your thoughts in the box above.

Lichens and Air Pollution



Final thoughts before the next session:

Did you know that Lichens grow on trees and walls?

Can you see any before you leave?



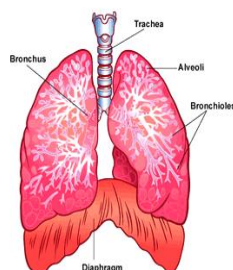
Lichens are made up of two kinds of organism living together – a relationship between a fungus and an alga that help each other to thrive.



Can you see any other beneficial relationships in the landscape around you?

Did you know that the presence or absence of certain species of lichen can indicate the quality of the air we breathe?

Breathing



This is because lichens are affected by different levels and types of air pollution.

Do you think there will be any difference in the lichens found near the road and those found further away from the road?





Day Two: Section One – **EXPLORE!**

Explore more about the wildness of your wild place

Making Places and Making faces!

A quick warm up!

With your teacher, go over some of the new words and phrases you learned in day one.

Can you remember how to write some of the characters?

On paper, paint, ink or crayon, make some signs for some of the things you see around you, using the characters.

Shuffle all of your signs together and go to each object you identify.

Try to say a sentence in Mandarin about each of the objects.

How did you do?



You are going to make a mask from the natural items you find. This could be leaves, sticks, rubbish, moss or anything around you!

As you look for things, try to notice any twigs, sticks or trees which have lichen growing on them.

By doing these things, you are exploring the natural environment.



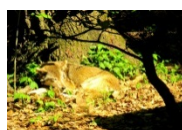
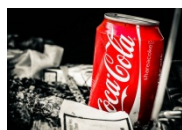
Day Two: Section Two – EXPLORE!

Reflection

The items I collected mostly
were _____

Natural items I found _____

Man-made items I found _____



What do you notice about the overlap between nature and human influences in the environment?

Did you find any Lichen? How much? What type? Keep some examples to take back to China Club and investigate a little closer!

Note down any further reflections in the box above. You could add photos, drawings, notes, new Chinese words, for example, tin, cigarette, packet, paper, rubbish!



Day Two: Section Three – **EXPLORE!**



Use the materials you have gathered to create a nature mask.

Describe it to a friend/the group in Mandarin. Remember, it can be in terms of colour, texture, some items, what you like or do not like about it. You could even give it a name, age, hobbies and tell them in Mandarin!



Take photos of, draw or describe your creation in the box above.

This should now give you more of an idea of what is around you!

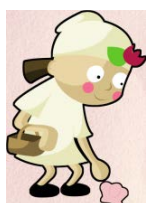
Day Two: Section Four – EXPLORE!

Lichen Safari!

In the last task, you were asked to keep your eye out for Lichen – remember, its presence or absence can indicate the quality of the air around you.

Task:

- Divide into small teams.
- Give yourselves a Chinese name for an item associated with nature, for example, team tree!
- You will have fifteen minutes to see which team can find and collect the most examples of Lichen growth.



Now discuss your findings, take photos:

What type is most commonly found?

How much did you find collectively?

What might this mean about the air around you?

What other types of pollution can you notice?

For example, is there much rubbish? Are there car fumes? Is it noisy or smoky?



TAKE A FEW SAMPLES OF LICHEN AWAY WITH YOU.

You will get support to take a closer look at your samples, research what they may indicate and discuss the growth of Lichen in your area.

End of day reflection:



Use this space for any further photos, drawings, thoughts. Write down what you have explored, learned, enjoyed.



A final thought for the next session:

How are you going to contribute to the improvement of your area?
How will you keep it clean, protect the air, protect the natural habitat? How could you contribute?

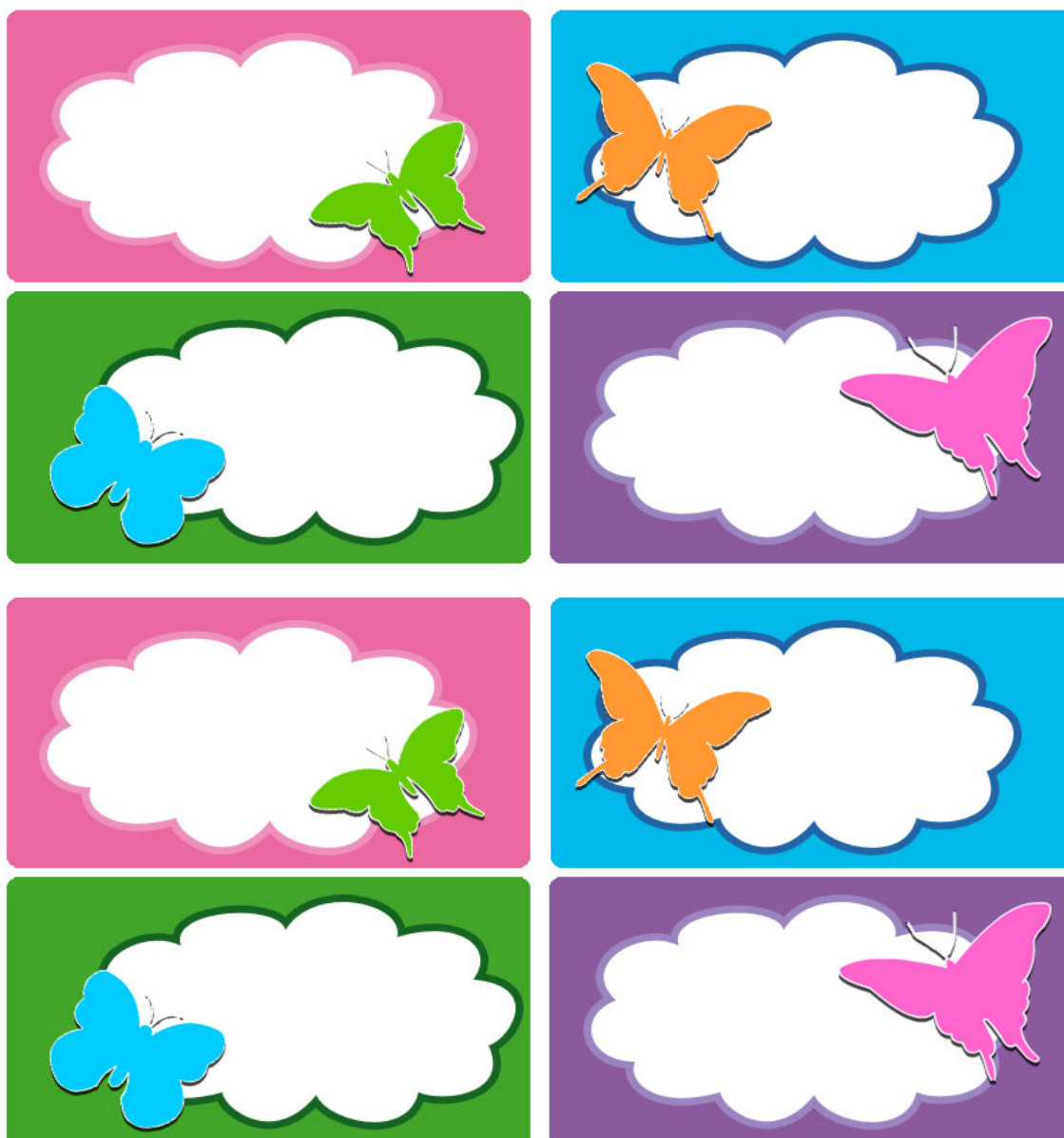
Day Three: Section One – CONSERVE!

Conserve a Wild Place:

Quick warm up:

Draw 4 characters you remember from the last lessons. Keep your 4 characters covered up. Read each one to a partner in Chinese and see if they fill their board correctly. Your partner will do the same:

YOUR CHARACTERS



Day Three: Section 2 – CONSERVE!

Look around the area.

Which external influences could pose a threat to it or spoil it?

Illustrate them in the box above. You could use pinyin, characters, drawings, photos.



Day Three: Section Three – CONSERVE!

What could you do to improve your area?

Think about the following:

- A litter pick
- Write a letter about the air/traffic pollution or another issue to a local newspaper/the council
- Create a large banner in Mandarin in support of your area
- Make posters in Mandarin: anti-smoking, no barbecues, put rubbish in bins, recycle
- Make a short video clip/advert campaign in Mandarin
- Log the issues and discuss and log your solution ideas



Use the next two pages as evidence of your actions. Again, you could use photos, Chinese characters, draw, write or stick posters/letters to the pages:

My Contribution to Conservation of my Area:



My Contribution to Conservation of my Area:



Reflections on day three: Group discussion about impact

Think about your contribution to the conservation of your area.

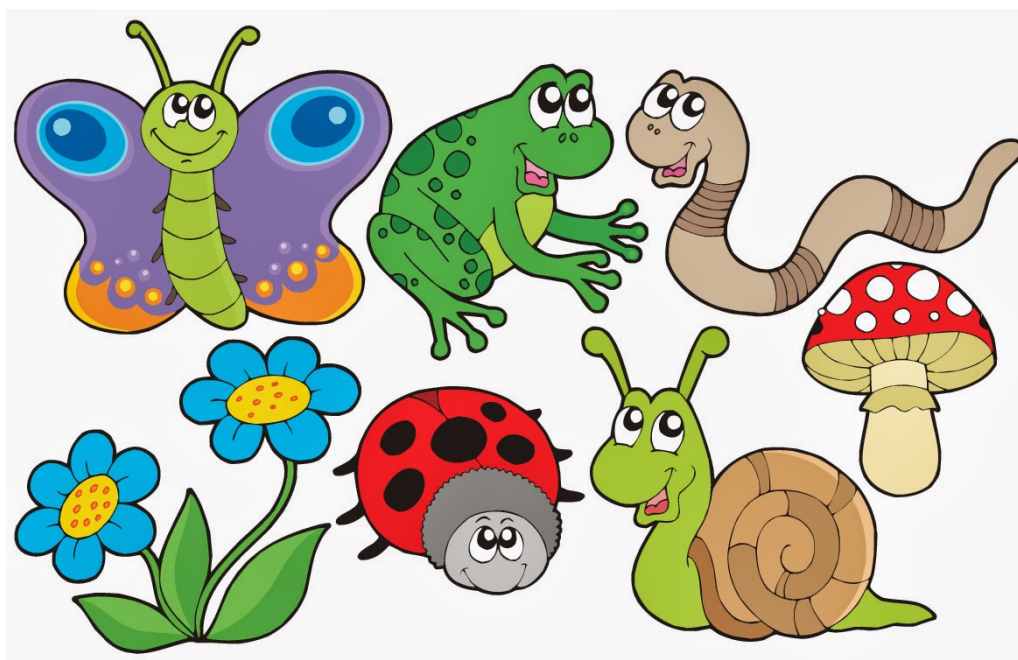


Can you see a link between the issues and the actions you took to make contribute to improvement?

What have you learned about the importance of your contribution?



Discuss the questions in your group.



Day four: Section One – **SHARE!**

Share your experiences



You are going to share your work. You are going to make a short film about your area to send to your fellow students in China. You can include:

- Film clips of the work you created – your logs, masks
- An introduction to yourselves in Mandarin
- Information about the area you have discovered, explored and conserved – in Mandarin
- Information about Glasgow – what there is in terms of parks and for tourists – in Mandarin



Sharing is an important part of the award because John Muir regularly shared his experiences, his feelings and his visions about nature and wild places.



NOTES