

The background of the entire slide is a dense, repeating pattern of various tropical leaves. The leaves are in shades of green, with some showing yellowish-green highlights, suggesting sunlight filtering through. The leaves have different shapes, including long, feathery fronds and broader, more rounded leaves with distinct veins.

**ECEY6005/C
SUSTAINABILITY IN
THE EARLY YEARS**

Georgia Harris (2000690)

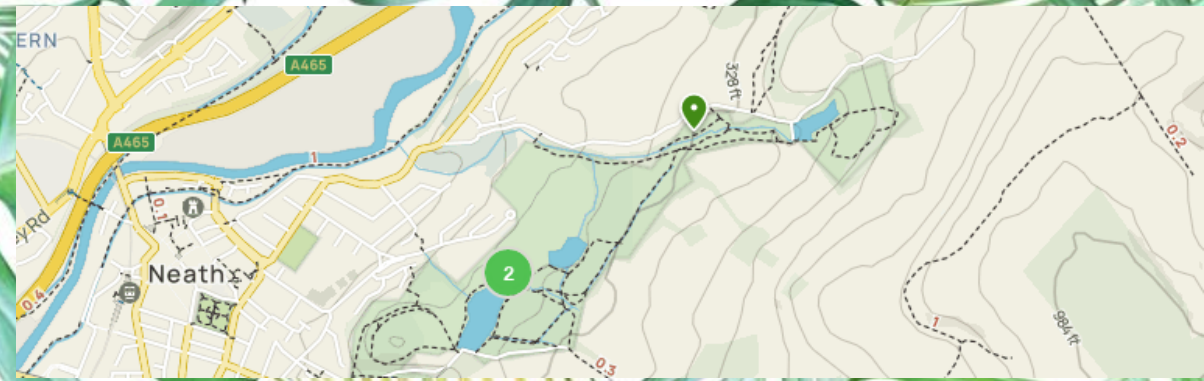
DISCOVER

I have chosen the Gnoll Park in Neath as the area I would like to focus on. The Gnoll Park is a historic estate spanning 240 acres of woodlands, lakes, and beautifully maintained gardens. Established in the 18th century, it offers a mixture of nature and history which are perfect for exploration.

Walking through the park, you'll find a variety of wildlife, from ancient planted trees and wildflowers to birds and small animals. The park also includes historical sites like the ruins of Gnoll House, adding an extra layer of discovery. It is perfect for all ages.

I also walk here regularly and did whilst growing up and embarking on my first outdoor journeys through childhood.

In addition to its natural wonders, the Gnoll Park has significant historical landmarks. The ruins of Gnoll House, which was once a large mansion, offer a glimpse into the past, whilst the carefully landscaped and stunning gardens reflect the park's historical significance.



In the wild where rivers sing, Mountains tall
and forests cling, Nature whispers, soft and
clear, In her arms, we find our cheer.

Trees tell secrets in the breeze, Leaves
shimmer in sunlit seas, Rivers laugh and
meadows bloom, Stars and moon disperse
the gloom.

Nature's grace, a gentle art, heals the soul
and soothes the heart,
In her presence, worries decrease,
In her arms, we find our peace.



EXPLORE

During a class trip to Gnoll Park for the explore part of the John Muir Award, we engaged in several activities to connect with nature and meet the award's requirements. We began with a nature walk, where we identified local wildlife species and learned about their habitats. Additionally, we actively participated in a litter picking activity, sourcing litter from the park to help maintain its cleanliness and promote environmental stewardship. Furthermore, we contributed to the park's biodiversity by planting flowers in designated areas, enhancing the natural beauty and ecological diversity of Gnoll Park. These experiences not only deepened our understanding of environmental conservation but also fostered a sense of responsibility towards protecting and preserving our natural surroundings.





FLOWERS

DID YOU KNOW?
Flowers can hear buzzing bees!



WILDLIFE

Here's some friends we found at the Gnoll Park!

Magpie



Swans



Squirrel



- Squirrels have four front teeth that continuously grow throughout their lives.
- There are six species of swans: whooper swans, trumpeter swans, mute swans, black swans, black-necked swans, and tundra swans.
- Magpies can eat small animals like mice and birds. When they have surplus food, they store it in holes in the ground.

TREES

WOW! LOOK AT THE
ROOTS OF THE TREE!



Did you know?

1. Trees help mitigate the effects of climate change.
2. Trees can communicate and defend themselves against insect attacks.
3. Trees are the longest-living organisms on Earth and do not die of old age



It is so peaceful here at the Groll Park, I always used to visit here with my Grandparents when I was a young child and have many memories of exciting adventures here in the park. If you close your eyes, you can hear the birds singing and the trees blowing in the wind.....

CONSERVE

As part of completing the John Muir award, myself and my school decided to visit the Gnoll as part of a school trip in order to learn about how to make the environment more sustainable. In order to gain permission to visit, we wrote a letter to the Local Authority. I decided that for our conservation activities, a trip to the Gnoll Park was the best to be able to plant flowers in the wider community.

Planting more flowers in the Gnoll Park aligns with the John Muir Award's goals of fostering a connection with nature, promoting conservation and sharing environmental benefits with the wider community.

We also decided to walk around the park and participate in a litter picking activity where we discussed the sort of rubbish we collected and whether or not they are recyclable materials.



Dear Sir/Madam,

Request for Permission for a School Trip to Gnoll Park

I am writing to request permission for a group of our primary school students to visit the Gnoll Park for a nature activity. As part of the John Muir Award, we plan to litter pick and plant flowers to enhance local wildlife habitats and improve the sustainability for the environment.

Details of the Trip:

- **26th June 2024 at 9:30am**
- **Number of participants:** 15 students aged between 7 and 8 and 5 members of staff.
- **Activity:** General walk around the park exploring and discovering the environment, planting native flowers in small designated areas and a small group litter pick.
- **Goals:** To improve the sustainability of the environment at The Gnoll Park.

We believe that the Gnoll Park is ideal for this educational visit and will help our students fulfill the John Muir Award requirements while contributing to the local environment and learning about sustainability.

We request:

1. **Permission to Plant:** Approval to plant flowers in areas
2. **Guidance:** Assistance from park staff or local conservation experts, if available
3. **Safety Information:** Any necessary safety protocols or restrictions

We are committed to conducting this activity responsibly and adhering to all local guidelines. Thank you for considering our request. Please contact me if you need any further information.

Yours faithfully,
Georgia Harris
Teaching Assistant

THE LETTER



In a garden, little and neat, Stands a
bug hotel, a homely retreat.
Logs with holes, and straw filled nooks,
Shelter bugs in hidden crooks.

Ladybugs and bees find rest, In their
tiny, cozy nest,
Ants, beetles and bugs side by side,
In this place, safe they hide.



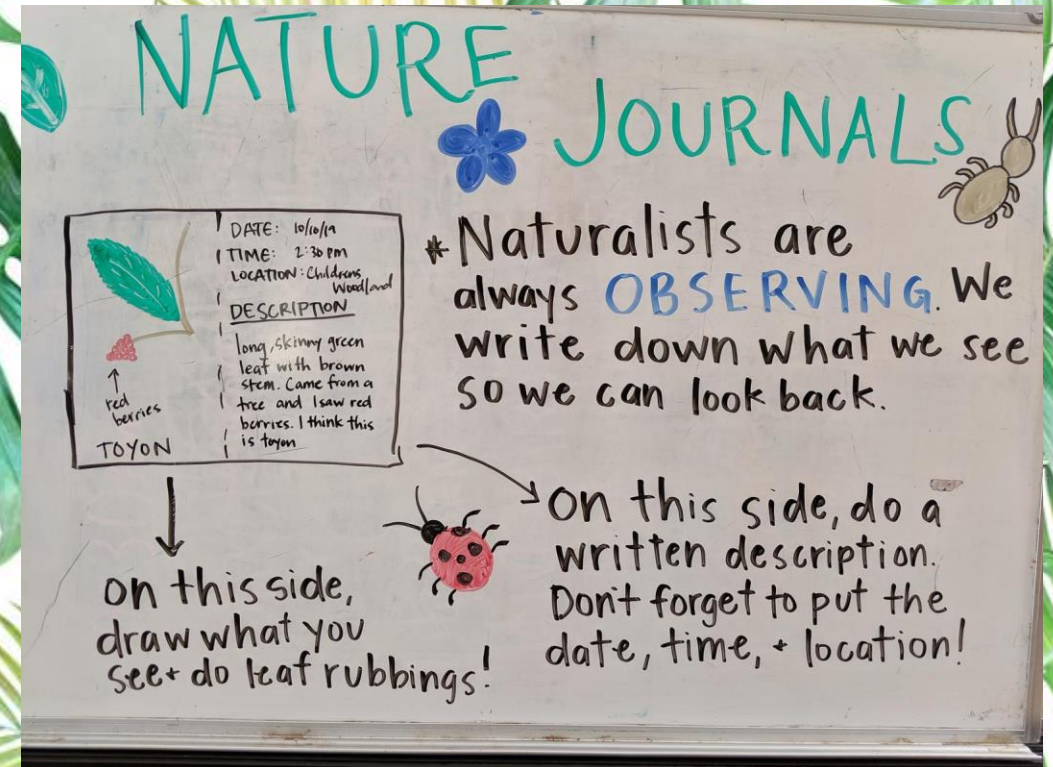
SHARE



Nature Journals: Help children create nature journals where they can draw pictures and write what they've seen and learned during the outdoor activities.

Storytelling: Encourage children to share stories about outdoor adventures. This could be completed through drawings, verbal storytelling or simple presentations.

Environmental Posters: Support children in making posters about the importance of looking after the environment, which can be displayed around the school or local area which will also enhance the wider community with the John Muir Award.



REFLECTION



I discovered an area, this area was the Gnoll Park in Neath. I explored the park, found different forms of wildlife and participated in conservation activities with children from my setting as part of a school trip to be able to broaden our understanding of how to create a more sustainable future for all. Overall, the combination of practical activities at the Gnoll Park with the children and the reflective process of creating a digital scrapbook, increased my understanding of the issues with sustainability. It also emphasised the essentiality of experiential learning and active participation for children and how it can enhance development and wellbeing. This experience has provided me with the knowledge, skills and motivation to continue supporting and contributing to sustainable practices in both my personal and professional life. It has increased my commitment to environmental advocacy and inspired me to pursue further opportunities to promote sustainability in my community and the use of outdoors education and natural resources for early years education for children all across the world.