



Biodiversity & Inheritance: The Hidden Link

Programme Description

Length: Full day programme (Half day version possible on request)

Age Group: P4-7 (S1-2)

Availability: All year round

Price: £3.50 per pupil

Biodiversity is one of the most complex features of our planet and *the* most important, and it is now in crisis. Using the rich plant collections of our glasshouses and the Garden, this programme introduces children to many aspects of biodiversity and encourages them to observe it in their own immediate environment. Through practical and fun modelling activities children then consider the 'hidden link' between biodiversity and inheritance, learning the basics of how genes are passed through generations and the importance of inheritance mechanisms, adaptation and natural selection on producing biodiversity and sustaining life and a future for humanity.

Learning Intentions

Children will:

- Learn what biodiversity is and how they encounter it in everyday life
- Learn about the different types of biodiversity
- Experience the biodiversity of the plant world in our glasshouses and Garden
- Use modelling techniques to explore the mechanics of inheritance, adaptation and natural selection

Curriculum Links

I can identify and classify examples of living things, past and present, to help me appreciate their diversity. I can relate physical and behavioural characteristics to their survival or extinction.

SCN 2-01a

By investigating the lifecycles of plants and animals. I can recognise the different stages of their development. **SCN 2-14a**

By exploring the characteristics offspring inherit when living things reproduce, I can distinguish between inherited and non-inherited characteristics. **SCN 2-14b**

What to expect

- A tour of the glasshouses and/or the Garden: come prepared with suitable clothing and footwear as part of the programme may be outside
- Activities to encourage discovery and recognition of biodiversity, both at the RBGE but also at home in children's own environment
- Activities modelling inheritance: how genes are passed on creating variety; how adaptation is promoted by natural selection acting on variety in a population
- Links well with Life of Plants and Green Kingdom topics

How to book

Bookings for all schools programmes are by telephone only.

Please call the Education Office on 0131 248 2937 (option 2 for Schools).

The office is open 9.00am - 4.30pm, Monday to Thursday and 9.00am - 4.00pm on a Friday.

Enquiries about this programme can be made by emailing education@rbge.org.uk

