Children take action to protect soil and address the way it is often disregarded.

Vanishing Homes 3



Keywords

video • outdoors action for nature • Science • Maths

1. Show your Soil Findings
Plot the results of your soil survey on a bar chart or any other math representation that fits your learning goals.

2. Talk about what you found
Discuss your results and what they mean. Help children notice how much soil in urban areas is covered by tarmac, concrete, or artificial turf. Link this with what they learned in the *The Living* Soil video and how people's choices affect the land.

3. Take Action for Soil!
Celebrate your achievements on the class notice board and improve the soil around your school. Here are some ideas based on what you find:

- No Soil at all: Use planters and include mini habitats (see "A Home for Nature" in the Downloadable Materials).
- Small, trampled soil patches: Use children's gardening tools to loosen and care for the soil. Plant native plants little by little. Label the area to show it's being cared for.
- Littered or already planted soil: Clean it, make an event out of it, and label why the soil is important. Check it regularly.
- Soil under artificial turf: Students can try to convince the school to remove the turf so soil can breathe and support life. If removed, make a planting and care plan.
- Planters without life: Break up the soil and let rain and wildflower seeds bring it to life. Observe the plants and visiting wildlife.

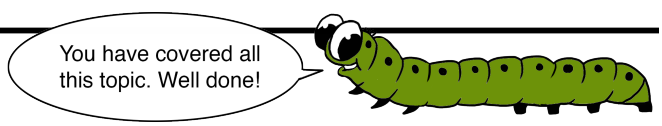
Tip: Not all plants are the same. The best thing for wildlife is to rake and till soil twice a year and let wild plants grow in autumn. If planting, choose Maltese species that need little maintenance and can handle heat (see "Maltese flowering plants" in Downloadable Materials).

Send photos of

☐ Children watching the Living Soil video

☐ Your soil area before, during, and after your action

Resources & Equipment Needed



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- Clipboard;
- Pens/pencils;
- Native flowering plants – optional (may be available from BirdLife Malta – contact dinjawahda@birdlifemalta.org);

