



Children take action to
address our disregard
of soil



Vanishing Homes 3



Keywords video • outdoors action for nature

- 1 Plot your findings from the soil survey on a bar chart, or any related mathematical representation that matches your LOs.
- 2 Discuss your results and their implications. Get children to realise the amount of soil sealing (soil covered by tarmac, artificial turf, concrete, etc.) in our urban places and how this is a consequence of people's decisions. Link with what you learnt in the video *Soil*.
- 3 Take action to improve soil in your school. Whatever you do, celebrate your achievements on your notice board. Here are some suggestions. If you found:
 - NO SOIL AT ALL. If you don't have soil, you will need to use planters, but make sure to include mini habitats on your soil – see *A Home for Nature* in the **Resource File**.
 - SMALL AREAS OF TRAMPLED, COMPACTED SOIL. Buy a set of children's gardening tools. The soil will be hard to work, but little by little on a daily basis, a class can loosen soil enough for air to get into it. Start caring for it and planting it up with native plants. (email BirdLife for advice). Put labels to show the area is being cared for.
 - LITTERED SOIL, ALREADY PLANTED. Clean it up, make an event of it and tell the school you're caring for soil. Put labels explaining the importance of soil. Check on your soil patch regularly.
 - SOIL COVERED IN ARTIFICIAL TURF. Students present argument to school administration to have the turf removed so soil can breathe and have life. Try to convince that turf is a green desert, and while easy to maintain, it is lifeless and unhealthy for both humans and wildlife. If you manage to have the turf removed, make a planting and care plan. Implement it.
 - PLANTERS WITHOUT LIFE. Break up the soil and let the rain give life to wild flower seeds. Let the plants flower and seed and keep records of visiting wildlife.

Note

Not all plants are equal. The best thing you can do for wildlife is to till and rake up the soil twice a year and let the wild plants grow in autumn. If you want to do planting, go for Maltese species that require little maintenance and can stand the heat (see Resources).

Use the Dinja Waħda Notice Board and tell the school about what you're doing.

Send photos of

- ☐ children watching the SOIL video
- ☐ your soil area before, during, and after your action

