



Children learn about
roosts as part of their
awareness of the
importance of trees.

Trees are Cool

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Keywords **slideshow** • **discussion** • **maps** • **family activity** • **oracy**

- 1 This activity links the classroom with the children's family as it has a task for after-school hours. Show the children the *Roosts!* presentation (Downloadable Material). You may use the presentation on the interactive whiteboard to create a discussion, or set a comprehension task in groups on the children's tablets.
- 2 Show the children *Sparrow Roost Map 1* in the **Resource File**. Since the map has symbols but no placenames, see if the children can locate their school or their home. Next, show *Sparrow Roost Map 2* (**Resource File**), which is labelled with placenames. It should now be easier for the children to work out the sparrow roost nearest their school or their home.
- 3 Make copies of *My Sparrow Roost Count Sheet* (**Resource File**) and set the children to do a sparrow count – accompanied by an adult family member – at a roost site of their choice. Ask them to take a photo of the roost site. Meanwhile you can use *Roosting Birds* (**Resource File**) to brush up on how to tell sparrows from other birds flying to their roost.
- 4 Allow ample time for the task to be carried out. The best period for this is December to February. Most birds fly in to roost around sunset, which at that time of year would be around 4.45–5.45pm.
- 5 Back in class, the children share their information. Based on this, prepare a display or a presentation for school assembly or some other event. Since not all children may have managed to visit a roost site, the creation of this presentation is their chance to become involved.
- 6 Discuss the kind of presentation the children wish to make as a class: a verbal presentation about roosts, with pictures from the **Resource File** and their own observations? A static display for the school foyer, perhaps during an Open Day? The bigger your audience, the more people will learn about the feathered lodgers in their neighbourhood!

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

Send photos of

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|---|---|
| ☐ children discussing roost presentation | ☐ the finished product/event |
| ☐ children creating presentation | |

