

# Bioblitz presentation notes

## Objectives

- To introduce schoolchildren to the idea of a Bioblitz; what is involved and why we would like them to do one.
- To prepare them for working together in groups to conduct a Bioblitz of their own in the school grounds.

**Audience:** 5–11-year-olds

**Running time:** approximately 10 minutes

## Resources

The slides in this presentation are visual representations and prompts to help the delivery of the content in these notes. They tie the narrative together and give the presentation structure, whilst helping to facilitate discussion and interaction with the audience.

## Format

The presentation is saved as a Microsoft Office PowerPoint file.

### Discussion points and extra information

These notes include some extra information to help with further discussion about the subjects covered. The person presenting may choose to draw on some of these during the presentation, if more time is available, or incorporate them into follow-up work in the classroom.



## Slide one

**Action:** click on to slide one.

**Presenter:** *Today we are going to discover how we can find out more about the wildlife that makes its home in our school grounds: around the buildings, in the playground, on the playing field, and in the flower beds.*

**Action:** click on slide again so images of wildlife appear.

**Presenter:** *So, are you ready to take part in a Bioblitz? Do you know what one is?*

[Point to **Bio** part of the word] *Bio, is short for Biodiversity, which means the variety of different types of living things on earth. So all the creatures that there are in the world, including the birds, insects and plants on this slide.*

[Point to **blitz** part of the word] *Blitz means lots of energetic activity in a short amount of time.*

*And together, **Bioblitz** means a really fun activity, where lots of people work together, keeping busy to try and discover as many living creatures as they can in one place, within a time limit.*

### Discussion points and extra information

- At this point you may want to share the objectives of the presentation:
  - to empower children so that they know that they can personally get involved discovering wildlife living in the school grounds;
  - to help them become nature detectives, and to start to really look around and notice nature. They'll find out loads of exciting stuff about wildlife in the process;
  - to show them what improvements can be made to the school grounds, to give even more nature a home!
- You can find out more about the theory behind Bioblitz and about other Bioblitz activities and events happening across the country (and how you can take part) from the Bristol Natural History Consortium. Visit [www.bnhc.org.uk/bioblitz](http://www.bnhc.org.uk/bioblitz)
- You can find out more about the broad range of the RSPB's work at [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)
- Resources and activities for schools can be found at [rspb.org.uk/teaching](http://rspb.org.uk/teaching)

## Slide two

**Action:** click on to slide two.



**Presenter:** *To do a Bioblitz of our school grounds, we need to work together. And if we are to find as much wildlife as possible, we need to become really good nature detectives. Do you think you can do it?*

## Slide three

**Action:** click on to slide three.



**Presenter:** *When you go out searching for wildlife on your Bioblitz, it helps to know what the things you are looking for look like. Let's have a go now. What can you recognise on this slide? Hands up.*

**Action:** Point at different pictures on the slide and ask the children to tell you what they are.

**Answers:** magpie, buttercups, mole hills, oak leaves with acorns, dragonfly and ladybird.

### Discussion points and extra information

You could at this point show the pupils some print outs of the seven RSPB *Spot it* sheets they can use during their Bioblitz, and explain that they will be ticking the creatures off as they find them. **The *Spot it* sheets can all be downloaded from: [rspb.org.uk/schoolsoutreach](https://www.rspb.org.uk/schoolsoutreach)**



## Slide four

**Action:** click on to slide four

**Presenter:** *When looking for wildlife, good nature detectives leave no stone unturned. If it's safe for you to do so, don't be afraid to pick up a stone and see what's living underneath it. Or turn over a leaf on a plant to see if something is hiding on the underside. Look up too. Birds may be flying from a tree to a hedge, or in summer, you might see butterflies or bees moving from one flower to the next. The more you search, the more you will find!*

### Discussion points and extra information

- **Remind pupils that it's important that they don't disturb the wildlife they are looking for.** They should be as quiet as possible if wildlife like birds are nearby (they will have a better chance of seeing more that way too!). And to be very gentle and careful, so as not to harm any wildlife. For example, if lifting up a stone to see the minibeasts below, be sure to put it back exactly where they found it and put it down very gently, to avoid squashing anything underneath.



## Slide five

**Action:** click on to slide five.

**Presenter:** *Nature detectives don't just rely on their eyes and what they see. To find as much wildlife as possible you need to use your other senses too. When you are doing your Bioblitz, remember to take time to stop and listen carefully. If you stay quiet, you might hear birds singing and, in summer, insects buzzing. That lets you know the wildlife is there – try and follow the noise to find out what creature is making it.*

*In summer, sniff flowers too. If they have a sweet scent, you won't be the only ones who can smell it. It means pollinating insects like bumblebees and hoverflies will be around too, so you might spot them as they move from flower to flower, collecting nectar.*

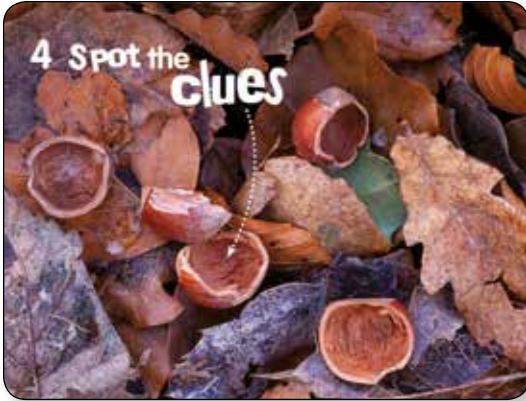
### Discussion points and extra information

- You can find out more about individual birds and hear recordings of their songs on the RSPB website. Type the RSPB's web address into your search bar and then add / and the name of the bird you are interested in. For example, for blackbirds visit [rspb.org.uk/blackbird](https://www.rspb.org.uk/blackbird)

To browse our A–Z of birds, go to:

[rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide](https://www.rspb.org.uk/discoverandenjoynature/discoverandlearn/birdguide)

- Find out more about bumblebees at [bumblebeeconservation.org/get-involved/bumble-kids](https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/get-involved/bumble-kids)



## Slide six

**Action:** click on to slide six.

**Presenter:** *Sometimes you might not see an actual creature during your Bioblitz, but as a nature detective, you might find clues that they have been around. If you see some chewed up nut or acorn shells under a tree, a squirrel might have been having a snack there at some point. If you see big mounds of soil on the playing field, these are mole hills. It means a tiny mole is digging and burrowing under the ground, and where the mole hill appears, they've been burrowing near the surface.*

*If you look really carefully on the muddy parts of the playing field, or in flower beds around the school you might find footprints too. They might have been made by rabbits, birds or even a night-time creature like a fox.*

*And, as gross as this sounds, you might be lucky enough to find some poo of a hedgehog or fox. This means that these nocturnal creatures spend time in our school grounds when we have all gone home and are asleep.*

*Even though you haven't seen the creature that left these clues behind, it is still worth writing down or drawing what you have found – it is good evidence that they might be living in or around our school grounds.*

### Discussion points and extra information

- You might want to take this opportunity to talk a bit more about nocturnal creatures.
- You can find animal track ID sheets at:  
[rspb.org.uk/Images/animaltracks\\_tcm9-133380.pdf](https://rspb.org.uk/Images/animaltracks_tcm9-133380.pdf)



## Slide seven

**Action:** click on to slide seven

**Presenter:** *Detectives need to make notes of what they discover, and nature detectives are no different. During our Bioblitz of the school grounds, you will be ticking off all the nature that you see, hear and smell so we can build a picture of what wildlife makes its home here. You might spot or hear something you don't recognise. If you do, write down or draw what it looks like, including what colour it is and what it is roughly the same size as. When our Bioblitz is over, we can try and work out what it was together.*

### Discussion points and extra information

- At this point you might want to explain more about how you want the children to record what they find.
- Seven RSPB *Spot it* sheets will be used as part of the outreach session. Extra copies can be downloaded from [rspb.org.uk/schoolsoutreach](https://www.rspb.org.uk/schoolsoutreach)

These child-friendly sheets show pictures of the kinds of wildlife you might see during your school Bioblitz. There's space for the pupils to tick them off as they find them during the event and draw anything that they don't recognise or can't see on the *Spot it* sheets.



## Slide eight

**Action:** click on to slide eight.

**Presenter:** *Where in our school do you think we will find the most wildlife during our Bioblitz? Remember that birds and other wildlife tend to make their homes in safe places that have the food, water and shelter that they need. This is what they need from their habitat in order to survive.*

### Questions to encourage more discussion:

*Do you think we will find much on the playground? What lives there do you think?*

*How about the grass and trees on the playing field?*

*What about at the front of the school?*

*Is there anywhere else in the school where you think we should look for nature during our Bioblitz?*

*Are there places in the school grounds where you think you will find more wildlife than in other places? Where, and why do you think there will be more wildlife there?*





## Slide nine

**Action:** click on to slide nine.

**Presenter:** *When we head outside to do our Bioblitz of the school grounds, we are going to have to work really well together as a team. We will only have a limited amount of time to explore our school grounds and find as much wildlife as we possibly can!*

*Let's get some practice in now, and see how good we all are at being nature detectives.*

*On the next few slides there are some birds and other wildlife hiding. These are the kinds of things that we might be lucky enough to see during our Bioblitz. See if you can work out what wildlife is in the picture before all of it is revealed. If you know what it is, put your hand up.*

### Information about slides 10–13

The following four slides (10–13) each show an image of a creature that could be seen during your school's Bioblitz. Each image is partially obscured by coloured blocks. With each click of the mouse, one of the squares covering a part of the image will be removed to reveal more of the picture, to help your pupils guess what they are.

Hopefully this quiz element will encourage participation from the pupils, to have a go at guessing what they can see – or showing that they know what they are.

Snail



## Slide 10

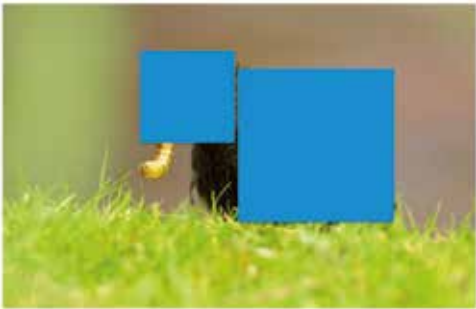
**Action:** click on to slide 10. Then click again to reveal the image in stages (with each click, one of the coloured blocks obscuring the image will disappear). The final click reveals the creature's name.

**Presenter:** *Do you know what this creature is?*

**Answer:** *Snail*

**Presenter:** *Where do you think we might see one of these on our school Bioblitz?*

Starling



## Slide 11

**Action:** click on to slide 11. Then click again to reveal the image in stages (with each click, one of the coloured blocks obscuring the image will disappear). The final click reveals the bird's name.

**Presenter:** *Do you know what this creature is?*

**Answer:** *Starling*

**Presenter:** *Where do you think we might see one of these during our school Bioblitz?*

Mole hill



## Slide 12

**Action:** click on to slide 12. Then click again to reveal the image in stages (with each click, one of the coloured blocks obscuring the image will disappear). The final click reveals the name.

**Presenter:** *Do you know what this is?*

**Answer:** *A mole hill.*

**Presenter:** *Do you know what creature might have made it? Where do you think we might see one of these during our school Bioblitz?*

### Garden spider



## Slide 13

**Action:** click on to slide 13. Then click again to reveal the image in stages (with each click, one of the coloured blocks obscuring the image will disappear). The final click reveals the creature's name.

**Presenter:** *Do you know what this creature is?*

**Answer:** *A garden spider.*

**Presenter:** *Do you know what its home is called? Where do you think we might see one of these on our school's Bioblitz?*



## Slide 14

**Action:** click on to slide 14 to end.

**Presenter:** *Good work everyone. I think you are all brilliant nature detectives, which will be really handy for our Bioblitz.*

*As we explore the school grounds, looking for wildlife, we might be able to see places where we can make the grounds even better for wildlife too – where we can put up nestboxes and birdfeeders, or build a minibeast hotel. If we do, we will help give even more nature a home.*

*So, are you ready to get started?*

# Presentation ends

### Extra information for teachers, resources and follow-on activities:

- Please take some photos of your Bioblitz, write about what happened, and either e-mail us at [education@rspb.org.uk](mailto:education@rspb.org.uk) or tweet about it: [@RSPB\\_Learning](https://twitter.com/RSPB_Learning)
- You may also want to follow up your Bioblitz and do some practical work with your pupils to give nature a home in your school grounds. Visit [rspb.org.uk/teaching](https://rspb.org.uk/teaching) for lots of ideas for activities.
- Taking part in the **RSPB's Wild Challenge** means you can do lots of other exciting activities, learning about wildlife and helping it too. As you tick different activities off your list, you can work towards receiving a bronze, silver and gold award certificate and some cool stickers. You can find out more about the **RSPB's Wild Challenge** at [rspb.org.uk/schoolswildchallenge](https://rspb.org.uk/schoolswildchallenge)