www.ispynature.com

Biodiversity Awareness for young people

Your own **nature notes** & **wildlife map** online

Biodiversity: the number and variety of species of plant and animal life within an area.

What is iSPYnature?

iSPYnature is a biodiversity awareness web site for young people and is particularly suitable for use in Primary schools.

How does it increase a user's biodiversity awareness?

The web site takes a different approach to other online biodiversity resources by involving the user in actively keeping an online record of plants and animals in their own area (perhaps of the school grounds or their garden/farm at home).

How does iSPYnature.com work?

The web site encourages pupils to place sightings of plants or animals on a map and write in some nature notes with the sighting. Using an email address they can return to look at the map and nature notes as their sightings increase. Below is a typical online Map and Nature notes page of a pupil (or class).

Is it too complicated for primary schools?

The interface is a simplified version of www.biology.ie tailored specifically for young people. It is intuitive and the steps to input a sighting are clear and easy to understand.

It can be used by the teacher to represent the class sightings after a day or a week of nature studies.

Why not tie this project in with your nature work at school? Check it out at www.ispynature.com

Take this Field Sheet with you when you are looking for plants and animals and fill out the steps.

www.iSPYnature.com Field Sheet

1. Was it a plant or an animal or a lichen?

2. If you know its name, write the name here clearly:

3. Where did you see it? County: _____ Near _____

4. What date did you see it?

5. Write your Nature Notes:

Number of individuals you saw: _____

Describe the weather:

Other observations:

6. Name of your school:

7. Have you put this plant or animal or lichen up...

Sighting of a Fox made on 17/11/2010

Fox

number of: 1

weather: Fine weather

Other observations: Saw the fox during the evening, on the way home from work.

Click here to see all your sightings

My sightings & nature notes

select species from the list below

Map with sightings marked by the pupil or teacher

List of plants or animals placed on the map

Use to zoom in or out on the map

A note on iSPY Lichens @ School

A special preset list on the website is the **iSPY Lichens @ School**. This was developed to promote an interest in Ireland's lichen flora. Ireland has a richer biodiversity of lichen than green plants, yet it is a group that has been largely ignored.

In an effort to foster an interest in the group some lichens have been selected for **iSPYnature.com**. A separate guide to these lichens is available on the website.