



What's the link between a dog, a tree and you?

Apart from the obvious, trees tell us a huge amount about our relationship with the environment. A dog, a tree and you can help your students to:

- ✓ Engage in real science.
- ✓ Promote out of the classroom learning.
- ✓ Connect local investigations to global issues.
- ✓ Explore topical issues such as climate change.
- ✓ Share your experiences with schools in six countries across Europe.

The dog is a ship called BEAGLE that took Charles Darwin on one of the greatest trips of discovery ever. The trees are six common species found across Europe. The 'you' is your school taking part in an exciting pan-European science project called Biodiversity Education and Awareness to Grow a Living Environment – the BEAGLE project.

We are inviting you, together with over 300 schools across Europe, to take part in our big investigation on the Phenology of six common tree species. The results will help us to learn about how trees differ across Europe and to learn how we are living with our environment.

Project BEAGLE can support **science, geography, biology, ICT and citizenship** as well as national schemes such as **Eco Schools**. It will help students to:

- ✓ Explore ecosystems first hand.
- ✓ Understand human impacts on the environment.
- ✓ Take action to improve the natural environment.
- ✓ Learn from real scientists.
- ✓ Find out about similar experiments all over Europe.

What will happen?

Schools from six countries are being invited to participate: Germany, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Slovakia and the United Kingdom. Each school will carry out simple biodiversity observations based around trees and enter this information onto the BEAGLE project website. This information will be gathered and results produced to see how different stages of tree life cycles take place across Europe throughout the year. Data can be compared to historical results and factors such as climate change to see the influence humans are having on the natural environment. This can be linked to the school curriculum and used for project work. It will also be used by scientists in the six participating countries to analyse what patterns are taking place across Europe.

What support is available?

Throughout the project you will receive support and guidance from the Field Studies Council. You will receive a:

- ✓ One day training course at selected FSC centres (ask for details).
- ✓ Colour FSC Guide to Tree Phenology for you and your students.
- ✓ Teacher Guide containing background information, suggested activities & guidance on working outdoors.
- ✓ Access to the BEAGLE website to record your results and view results from all the schools around Europe.



- ✓ Twilight sessions to share your results and get extra training at selected FSC centres (ask for details).

Opportunities for Real World Learning

Using the techniques inspired by Charles Darwin and used by scientists today, we would like to invite you and your school to take part in this new pan-European BEAGLE project. The BEAGLE investigations will focus on the Phenology of six common tree species across Europe. Trees are good plants to work with as they have a long lifespan and are easy to identify. Most trees repeat important events such as budding, flowering and fruiting every year. Trees are also important as there are hundreds of species of animals, plants and fungi that rely on trees for survival. By exploring the changes to their lifecycle seasonally and geographically trees can tell us vital information about subjects such as climate change.

Are you interested and would like to know more?

If you would like your school to be a part of BEAGLE, please complete the form below and return it to us. Alternatively contact Janet Jones or Richard Dawson using the details below.

Name:

Position:

School:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Please return to:

Janet Jones, Field Studies Council, Preston Montford, Montford Bridge, Shrewsbury, SY4 1HW

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