



Pre-visit

Outdoors

Post-visit

DIAMOND CHALLENGE – FINDING A VIEW

Schools completing this challenge will gain 2 points towards the award.

INTRODUCTION

The *Finding a View Diamond Challenge* is one of many resources that schools can use as part of the Woodland Trust's Green Tree Schools Award scheme. It provides a great opportunity to use the outdoor classroom and introduce children to the wonderful woodland environment. It also enables pupils to share their woodland experiences and the materials they create on the VisitWoods website, which showcases UK woods which welcome visitors. The activity can be used within any accessible wood, but is also suitable for use in parks and other green spaces where groups of trees are available.

How to get your 2 award points:

- 1 Take your pupils out to a local woodland or green space with trees. You could choose a wood from www.visitwoods.org.uk
- 2 Carry out the activity using the teacher and activity sheets for guidance
- 3 Back in school – upload your photos to the VisitWoods website
- 4 Tell us that you have completed the activity through the award screen and email learning@woodlandtrust.org.uk to tell us the name of the wood you have uploaded so that we can verify your entry.

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

The *Finding a View* activity is designed to be carried out during a visit to a nearby wood or park with trees and suggest things that the children could take photographs of.

Children will learn:

How to explore ideas for different purposes.

(NC Art and Design, Exploring and Developing)

How to collect visual and other information to help them develop their ideas about the environment.

(NC Art and Design, Exploring and Developing)

How to select and record from first hand observations of the environment.

(NC Art and Design, Exploring and Developing)

That different plants and animals are found in different habitats. **(NC Science Life Processes and Living Things, Living Things in their environment)**

The knowledge, skills and understanding through using a range of materials and processes, including ICT.

(NC Art and Design Breadth of Study)

How to use appropriate fieldwork techniques.

(NC Geography, Geographical Enquiry and Skills)

The activity introduces the children to perspective and the idea that we often look at things in only one way. It aims to allow children to see things from a different point of view and show these through photography. Before the visit you may want to talk to the children about how people or animals might see the woodlands differently. For example a bird's eye view of the woodlands would be very different to a hedgehog's.

The activity sheet *Finding a View* allows the children to record information about the photographs they have taken. On return to school the photographs can be uploaded directly on to the VisitWoods website for the children and other visitors to see.

www.naturedetectives.org.uk/award



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DIAMOND CHALLENGE – FINDING A VIEW

EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCES REQUIRED

- Risk Assessment
- Pens/pencils
- Cameras
- Cardboard viewfinders
- Spotter sheets from Nature Detectives
- View Points sheet (suggestions)
- Pupil worksheet – *Finding a view*
- Clipboards
- Bin bags to lie on
- How to take better photos guidelines
www.naturedetectives.org.uk/download/photography_pack.htm

Suggested time – 45 minutes

EXPLORING AND DEVELOPING IDEAS

Some suggestions could be made to the children about where they might start;

If the cameras have a macro function this could be used to take photographs of the detail on a flower as a bee or butterfly might see it. They could look at;

- Leaves from underneath as they might be seen by an insect.
- Places to hide or find food as they might be viewed by an animal.
- A stile, wall or fence from above as they might be viewed by a bird or squirrel looking down from a tree.

- Plants or parts of the tree that we see at eye level.
- If there is space, the children could lie on the ground, on bin bags and take photographs of the canopy from below.
- Any patterns or textures that are interesting. Could be the symmetry of a butterfly or the texture of lichen on a tree.

ACTIVITIES

Use the *View Points* suggestions sheet to introduce the children to different viewpoints, such as bird's eye view and insect view.

Ask the children to use cardboard viewfinders to select the views that they think would make interesting photographs.

You may also want to print off some of the spotter sheets from www.naturedetectives.org.uk/download This will give the children a focus of things to look for that might make interesting photographs, and also occupy them whilst the cameras are in use by others.

Before using the camera use the *Finding a View* handout to record the ideas for photographs that the children want to take and the viewpoints that they are aiming to show.

Each child can then select one view that they would like to photograph.

Once back at school the photographs can be uploaded straight on to the VisitWoods website. Instructions are available at www.visitwoods.org.uk/en/visit-woods/things-to-do/Documents/find-wood-and-upload.pdf If your wood is not on the VisitWoods website you can email your photos and comments to learning@woodlandtrust.org.uk with the subject title "Diamond Challenge".

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While on your visit you are going to take some photos which you can upload to the VisitWoods website. This will showcase your photos and encourage other people to visit your local wood.

Before you take your photograph

Use the cardboard viewfinder to select four views that you think would make interesting photographs. How would you see things if you were a fox, insect, farmer, woodland ranger, bird, hedgehog or other woodland visitor or inhabitant? Look at the cards your teacher has shown you to get some ideas.

- Look all around, above, below and to the side of where you are.
- Lie on your front or on your back and see how this changes your view.
- Frame your view using branches or leaves.

Choose 4 views and record them below so that you know which viewpoint they are.

	Idea for a great photograph	Viewpoint	The photo that I took
Example	Bluebell in the sunshine	Hedgehog	
1			
2			
3			
4			

Now take your photograph

Choose one view to photograph. Remember to think carefully about the viewpoint that you are taking them from and how to take a good photograph. Don't forget to try the macro button on your camera to get the really close up shots. Tick the box so that you can remember which photo you took.



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VIEW POINTS (suggestions)



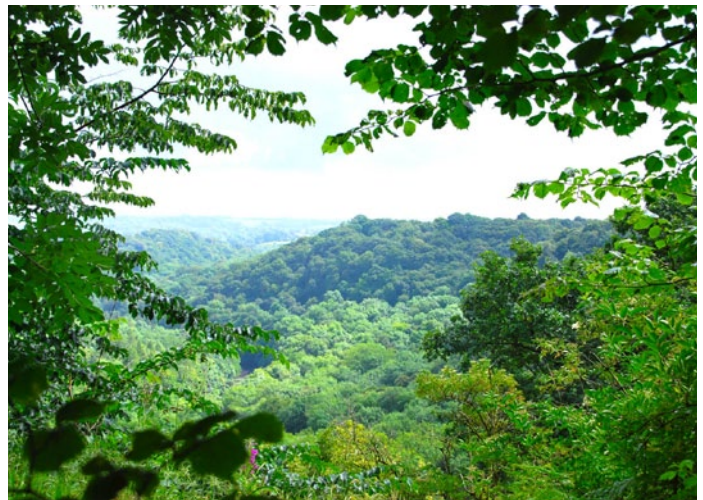
A bird's eye view – remember you need to look at things from above.



An insect view – you might want to use the macro button for this to get a close up of a flower, leaf, lichens or moss.



A view from below – looking at trees, leaves, flowers from below gives you a completely different view.



Framing your picture – use the woodland to frame a view.

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VIEWFINDER TEMPLATE

Cut out a template in card to make your viewfinder