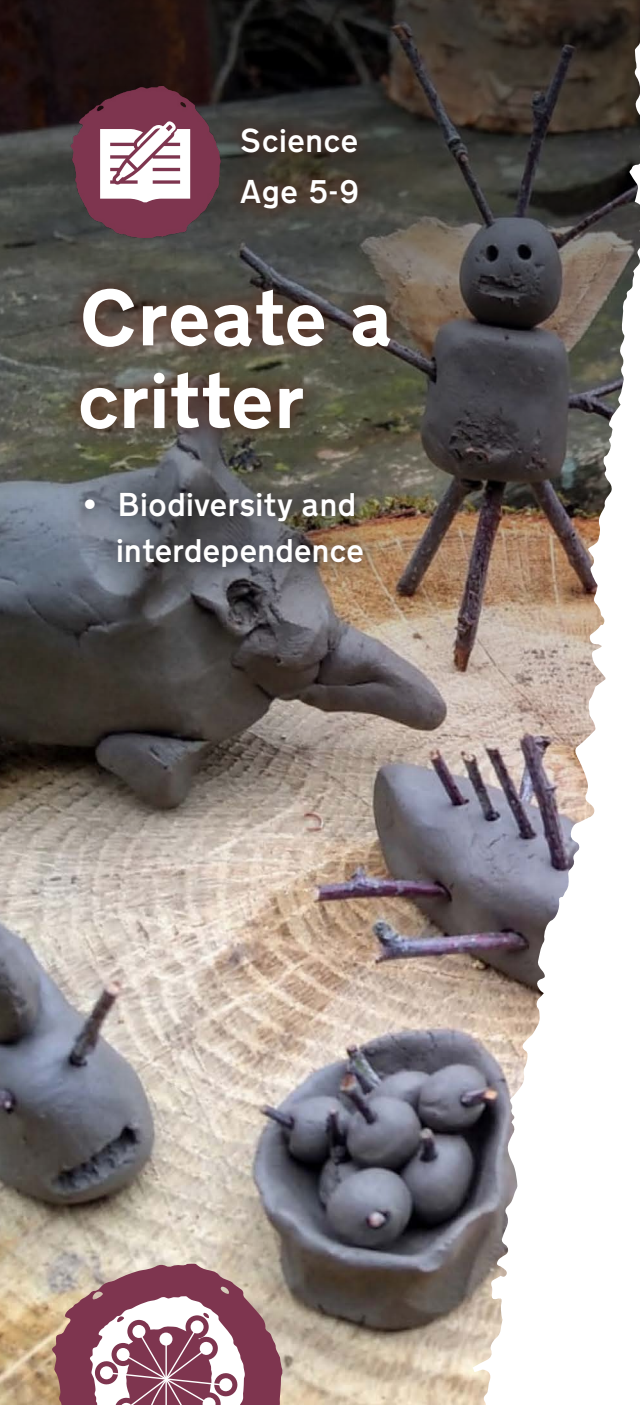




Science  
Age 5-9

# Create a critter

- Biodiversity and interdependence



Learning through Landscapes

## Overview

This creative science activity will explore animal habitats and adaptations by creating a new animal suited to a particular environment.

## Resources

- Home-made natural play dough or clay
- Natural materials
- A varied area with small hidey-holes and corners. It doesn't have to be all natural! For example, what would an animal look like that was adapted to live on a school wall?!

## Activity

1. Choose a suitable habitat in your school grounds.
2. Working in small groups or independently, pupils should make a 'critter' that can use that habitat.
3. Ask the pupils to consider how it is adapted to its habitat. That is:
  - how it feeds;
  - where it shelters;
  - how it defends itself.
4. Don't forget to give the species a name!

## Suggested outcomes for learning and play

We understand you will tailor this activity to the learning needs of your pupils. Here are some of the learning outcomes and extension ideas that other practitioners have used this lesson idea to reach.

- To understand that animals adapt to suit their environment
- To explore basic animal needs such as food and shelter

## Suggested outcomes for learning and play (cont.)

Here are some ideas that other educators have used in conjunction with this activity to bridge the gap between the indoors and the outdoors for their pupils:

Subject area	Topic	Ideas for further exploration
Literacy and language	Talk for writing	Make up questions to interview the critter and find out about
	Non-chronological reports	Write a fact file about your creature
	Fiction writing	Make up a story that features your new critter
Drama	Role play	Ask pupils to imagine they are the critter and take on their characteristics
Maths	Measurement	Calculate the dimensions of different 'habitats' and how many critters could fit in them
Science	Biodiversity	Explore how you could improve your school grounds to provide more animal habitats
Art	Using different artistic methods	Make your critter out of air-dry clay and paint once dried
		Sketch or paint the animal in different techniques

If you would like to develop your outdoor learning knowledge and skills, take a look at our range of training courses: [ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training](http://ltl.org.uk/outdoor-learning-training)