

My microclimate

Key questions

- What is this place like?
- How does the environment affect your decision making?
- How does an environment differ, even at a small scale?

Learning objectives

- To describe an environment.
- To develop a sense of scale.
- To think critically.

Key vocab

- risk
- environment
- scale
- climate
- location
- decision making

What if...

You had to choose somewhere in your home and garden:

- where you'd like a photo taken
- that an alien would find intriguing
- that's perfect for a mini-beast's home
- where you can be a statue
- with an intriguing pattern
- that could be from a movie
- to build a mud kitchen
- to place a bench
- that's the best place to hide?

Why not start by...

Getting the children to explore their house and garden to find the place that is:

Coldest	Quietest	Warmest
Dampest	Windiest	Greenest
Dullest	Most sheltered	Crowded
Brightest	Least sheltered	Colourful

Build on this by...

Directing the children to find the perfect place for Barnaby Bear or one of his friends to camp in their garden. What considerations have to be made?

Watch this [video](#) as an example.



X-Curricular: Design

Instruct the pupils to use the materials they have to hand either in the house or garden to 'build' a home for Barnaby Bear or one of his friends. What do they need to consider?

What if the home is:

- in a very hot or very cold place
- somewhere which has well defined seasons
- somewhere where it is hot in the day and cold at night (has a high diurnal temperature range)
- there is no wood or vegetation
- in a remote location
- in an area where it floods regularly?

Extension opportunity

Ask the children to think about where the perfect place to plant some bulbs would be. They will need light, water, soil and maybe some shelter. They could carry out an investigation by planting bulbs in different locations around the garden or in pots on various window ledges and monitoring their comparative growth.

Watch this [video](#) as an example



How much is a tree in your garden worth?