

# Eat the Streets!

Eat the Streets! is taking a closer look at the local environment around us in the city. Making an observation frame to examine local areas of nature is a fun activity and lets you really *SEE* what's right there under your feet – in your garden, or park, or beach!

## Supplies:

- Twigs / Sticks / Cardboard / Paper
- Tape measure or ruler
- String or thread
- Pencil
- Colouring pencils or pens
- Optional: a camera/camera phone



You can make a simple 30cm square frame from sticks or twigs, tied at the corner. Or you can use anything you have handy that works in the same way, like strips of cardboard, or ask your family what might work.

**#EatTheStreets**

# Framing Nature Up-Close

- Make your frame – you can use twigs or sticks from the garden (they should be around 30cm long). Place whatever material you are using on the table and if it's twigs, tie them together at each corner. Or, you can use whatever you have to hand to make a square frame.
- Pick a place to do your work – it could be your own garden or a local park or even on the beach with your parents. The frame might be delicate, so take care transporting it around.
- Place the frame on the ground in the area you choose – a quiet spot is best where you can be still for a while as you observe, draw and make notes.
- Take a close look at everything that is inside the area of your frame. There might be lots of tiny bugs, different kinds of grass or flowers, bits of leaves or parts of larger plants. Or there might be some snails, shells or stones. You might be surprised at just how many things you find inside your 30cm square frame!
- Make a record of all that you can see inside your frame. You can make a detailed drawing, or a map or a list of everything that you see. See if you can count how many of each different kind of thing there is, and make a note of this.
- If you have a camera, you can use it to take photographs of all the different things you find.
- You can make separate detailed drawings or images of each particular kind of object – like leaves, shells, stones, snails or insects. Imagine what it would be like to be their size, living amongst skyscrapers of grass and flowers!
- As well as recording what the different kinds of plants, insects or stones that you see, how many different colours or textures or patterns do you see? What are they like? What are the different kinds of shapes? Are there similar shapes for different kinds of things?
- You might find things that you do not know what they are or have never seen before! Perhaps a particular kind of beetle or a flower – find out more about them and how they live and grow.
- Try doing this with your friends or family, each picking a different area for their frame, and then compare your recordings, drawings and discoveries – like scientists!
- When you are done, try a different area – perhaps nearby or even somewhere else altogether at a different time or a different day – and repeat the process. What is different? What is the same?
- Share your discoveries with us  
*You can upload images on our website: [www.eatthestreets.ie](http://www.eatthestreets.ie)  
or share them with everyone: #eatthestreets*