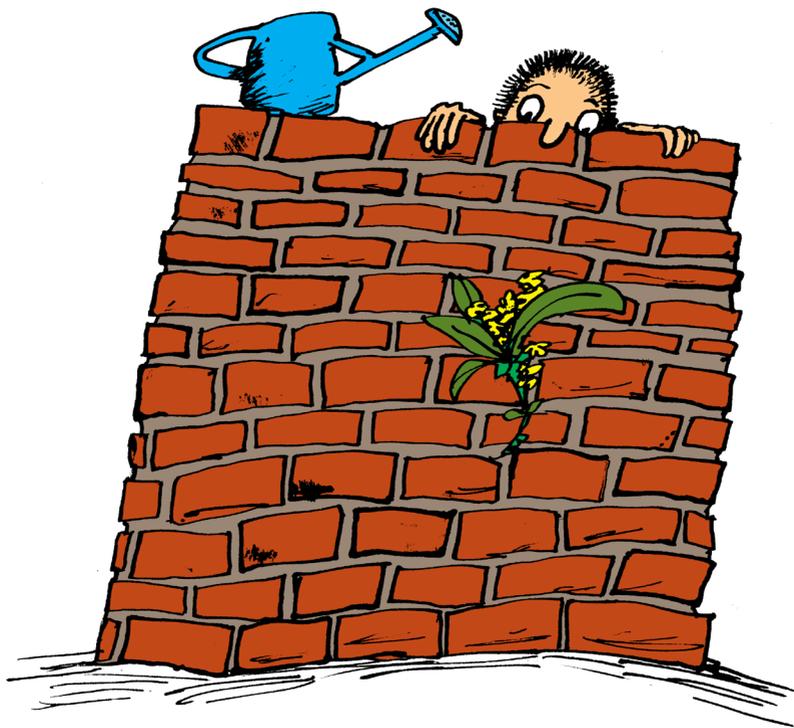


Mission:Explore

Outside the classroom

Topic and lesson inspiration for all ages



Welcome to

Mission:Explore

Outside the classroom

Dear Educator,

This book will change the way your class sees the world forever. Do not go any further if you are afraid of going on adventures or of trying new things.

Inside this book you will find ten missions to do outside of your classroom. Challenge your class to complete and record each of them as best they can. You can do the missions anywhere that you can find some dirt, life and space to run around. All your class needs is this booklet, a pencil and some imagination.

By the time you have completed your unique copy of this book your class will be outside explorers, guerrilla geographers and creative adventurers.

Ready?

It's time to Mission:Explore.

WARNING!

This book can be dangerous.

Do not:

1. not do anything
2. do anything that you don't want to do
3. do anything that may harm people, wildlife or places.



WARNING!

Attempting to complete the missions in this book will result in exciting explorations, brushes with danger and making good and bad memories. We take no responsibility for your safety when doing missions - that's your job. Before accepting any mission in this book make sure you have permission to carry out your plans. If there is a risk of something or someone getting unacceptably damaged try and remove the danger. Only attempt the mission if you can do it reasonably safely.





Mission 01

Dig a finger-deep hole

Draw a diagram of what you find in the excavated space below.



Listen

Sit still back to back with someone and listen quietly. List all the things you can hear over three minutes. Do you both hear all the same things?

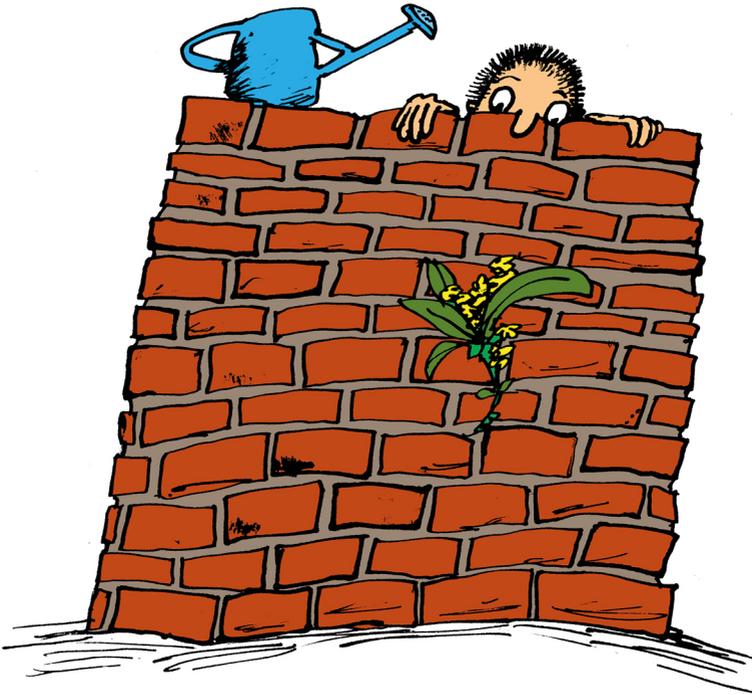
☐ Mission 02



□ Care for a weed

Mission 03

Write a nine word poem about why it should be protected.



Follow an insect

What do you think it's thinking? Keep a record here.

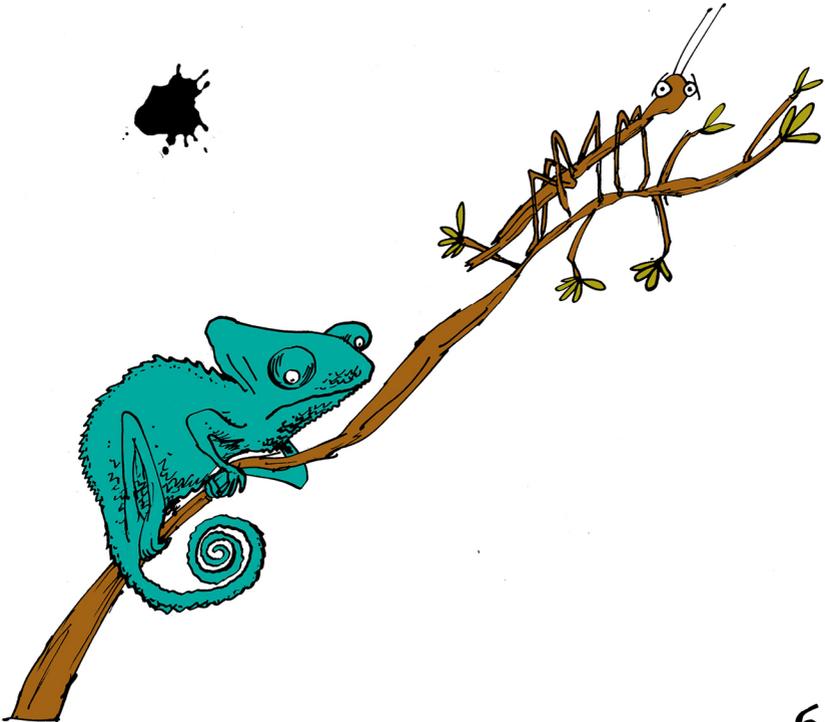
Thought 1:

Thought 2:

Thought 3:

Thought 4:

Thought 5:



Mission 05

Watcher bird

Get from A to B without being seen by a single bird.

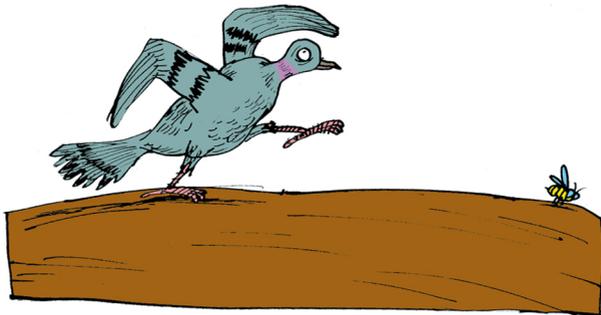
Place A:

Place B:

Rough distance:

Win

Fail



Construct a mini cairn...

... out of tiny little pebbles. How high can you make it go?

☐ Mission 06



□ Mission 07

Bioblitz

How many different species can you find in just five minutes?

Keep a record here.



Make a moustache...

... out of twigs, grass or other things you can find around the place.

When your moustache is in place, give an exactly one minute talk on something unimportant without saying these “w” words:

what where when
why who was we



Mud works well, but don't get any in your mouth or you might end up puking all over the place or worse.



Mission 09

Make your face look weird

Press it against different surfaces to leave different imprints on your skin.



Don't push your face up against sharp, stinky or sick things.

Craft a landscape

Make a mini landscape out of dirt. Include mountains, valleys and other landforms.

Sketch a satellite view of your terrain in the space below.

☐ Mission 10



Being a good geographer

Geography is about curiosity, exploration and discovery. It gives you the power to see places in new ways, even imaginary ones. Geography also helps you to understand, make sense of the world and solve problems.

To be a geographer you should:

- Think of your own questions.
- Search for your own answers.
- Talk, watch and listen to people, animals, plants and places.
- Think about who you are and the effects of your actions.

Geographers use many different 'ings' to research, share and act on discoveries. Practice your ings to improve your ability to do missions including smelling, swimming, mapping, drawing, comparing, imagining, sharing, asking, feeling, searching, finding, observing, exploring, collecting, smelling, repeating, tasting and experimenting.

Be a Guerrilla Geographer

You can do the missions in this book just for fun. You can also do them to become a Guerrilla (not gorilla) Geographer.

Guerrilla Geographers ask questions about places and encourage other people to ask questions too. Guerrilla Geographers believe in the importance of justice and things being fair and friendly for people, wildlife and place.

Some of the missions you do challenge people to think about things that are important to you. Other missions get you or other people thinking geographically at what may seem unusual or unexpected times and places. Of course, it's also about having loads of fun, having adventures and discovering new things.



About Mission:Explore

Mission:Explore is a special kind of training for guerrilla geographers and experimental explorers.

Our missions are not aimed at people of any particular age, but those with a particularly curious, critical and creative frame of mind. But be warned. By doing our missions you will never see the world in the same way again.

Other books in our series include:

Mission:Explore Camping, Food, On the Road, National Parks, Water and John Muir.

Visit MissionExplore.Net for loads more missions, to win points and to earn badges.



About the authors

This book has been written, designed, explored and published by a team of people from Explorer HQ. We are Helen, Daniel, Alan, Mark and Tom.

We do hope that you like it, get it really dirty and fill it with your mission reports.

About the illustrator

Tom draws with a dip pen, often making an inky mess, which is why he called his website www.inkymess.com.



GET INVOLVED IN OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY!

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO HELP YOU PLAN A FANTASTIC OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY!

BEFOREHAND

- Sign up** to say you are taking part!
- Plan ahead** – knowing what you are going to do and how you are going to do it will make sure things go smoothly – but do leave some room to be inspired on the day!
- If the whole school is going to get outside, **agree a timetable** in advance so that everyone has a fair share of the outdoor space.
- Make sure you have permissions for photos** from parents and let your photographer know if there is anyone who can't be photographed. Scan the forms so you can send them with your photography competition entries! (**Forms can be downloaded** from the resources section of the website).
- Involve parents and carers.** Getting their support and input will make the day even better – and if children are going to come home a little bit grubby it's good that they know why!
- Think about **involving other people** from your community, including celebrities, local faith leaders, the police and businesses owners.
- Your own school grounds are best**, but if you don't have any, then think about using the **street** outside your school (can it be closed?) Or you could go to **your local park** or **open green space** for the day.
- Be prepared for the weather.** Make sure everyone – children and adults – has the right clothes and protection so they can concentrate on having fun!

ON THE DAY

- Get everyone involved** - What about having an outdoor assembly for the whole school?
- Consider making the day a **non school uniform day**, or an old school uniform day, so it doesn't matter if they get messy.
- Think about theming the day and linking into other lessons before and after - there are loads of ideas in the suggested lesson plans, which can be downloaded from the **resources section of the website!**
- Record your experiences - **take photographs and videos** of the fun that you have had and share them to inspire others!

AFTERWARDS

- Share your experiences.** Outdoor Classroom Day is all about building a movement, so inspire everyone! Send a press release, put up photos on noticeboards, include information in your newsletters, publish a report on your websites, give a presentation to governors.
- Check out what everyone else has shared - are there **great ideas for next year?**
- Send your photos and stories to **info@outdoorclassroomday.com** and share with the world! Post on Twitter or Facebook.
- Can the resources in the **Outdoor Library** help you make outdoor learning and play part of the every school day?
- Can you also **inspire parents** to get their children outdoors more too outside of school?

THE LEGAL STUFF:

Going outside on your own school ground is straightforward and shouldn't require any special permissions. If you are going off site then make sure you abide by your school's off site rules and procedures.

Make sure that you carry out a risk/benefit assessment of the activities you are going to do – whether off site or on site (see “Taking a Balanced Approach to Risk and Benefit” by Tim Gill in the Outdoor Library) – and have the right first aid/incident reporting procedures in place.

If you are going off site you need to make sure that your insurance policy covers you for any liabilities in accordance with any usual off site activities that you undertake. This also applies to any transportation that you may be using.

There is a whole community of teachers from around the world who are waiting to welcome you outdoors and share practice, ideas and successes. Connect with them by sharing your experiences on the Outdoor Classroom Day [Facebook page](#), on [Twitter](#) and on [Instagram](#) with the hashtag #outdoorclassroom. You can also share with parents on #dirtisgood!

Find out how you can get involved and access all the resources at:
www.outdoorclassroomday.com

