Background

• Ms. Kelly's 3rd Class, 26 pupils, 1 teachers, 1 SNA
• We thought it would be a super opportunity for children from an urban setting to experience the beauty and diversity of an Irish Forest
• We chose Bio-diversity because this is our Green School Flag action programme for this year and last.
Learning Objective 1: What we enjoyed about learning in the outdoors

- Learned about Native Irish trees and flowers, we especially enjoyed the game where we had to pick one of each flower, it helped us remember names.
- We loved the story about the lady of the lake, and visiting her spooky house.
- Learned how plants and animals grow and multiply and Wild Irish animals in the forest habitat, we really enjoyed using pooters, trays, nets and jars to find the little insects. We had never done anything like that before.
- Enjoyed the peace, tranquility and sounds of the forest
- History and folklore of Curraghchase, making wooden necklaces
Learning Objective 2: What we experienced & observed in nature

- Climate and climate change
- The Amazon region and its animals
- How they are in danger from global warming
- The Ozone Layer
- Native Irish Trees
- Native Irish creatures
- How the river petrifying river works
- Ecological food webs
Learning Objective 3: What we understand about the ecological web

- We enjoyed a game like rock/paper/scissors but it was otter/mosquito/salmon as examples of this.
- Interdependence of forest trees and plants.
- How trees planted close to a lakeside habitat, will bend and seek the light.
- Lots of facts about the forest canopy.
- How interdependent trees and forest based species are.
- Animals require food, shelter, trees require oxygen, fertilizer and fertilisation plus spreading of seeds by birds, wind or pollinators. We had great fun with the dandelion game.
Learning Objective 4: What we understand about the interplay between man & nature

- Man is dependent on nature to survive.
- We saw all the new trees planted by An Taisce.
- We spoke about wood in all its various forms, from building materials to furniture to food for both humans and animals.
- We discussed cutting down trees for firewood may be short-sighted.
- Due to gentry being interested in botanical species, wide variety of trees from overseas - arbortoriums.
Learning Objective 5:
The decisions we made on environmental issues (forest related)

- Challenging outdoor environment this year as we have moved to an alternative campus temporarily
- The school and environs will become a building site from September 2018
- Planting of trees would be wasteful as they would have been uprooted
- Instead 3rd class planted cress, tomato and acorns
- ALL children planted these seeds and when they began to sprout, brought them home to nourish and care for them
Learning Objective 6: Our practical solutions for a greener future 😊

- Respect forests by not littering
- Be mindful of paper, plastic and using less
- Recycle more
- Plant more trees
- Much more appreciative of the importance of forests
- More aware also of pleasure to be derived from visiting a forest
- Importance to wild life and biodiversity
Frog Friends

- Children were so excited, most had never seen a frog before

Using pooters

- We loved using the equipment, we felt like real scientists

Lake life
We learned about swans

We studied flowers
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pond dipping</th>
<th>Water trays</th>
<th>Tray Beatng</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Such fun!</td>
<td>• Investigating lake life</td>
<td>• Beating branches gently for insects</td>
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Sampling the local cuisine

Making necklaces

Visiting lady of the lakes cottage
Fun in the trees
The End