

Suggested focus questions for this activity



Task 1

Observing the source square

- What shape is that?
- What colour is it?
- What else can you see?
- How could you describe what you can see?



Task 2

Inferring

- What does that look like? How do you know?
- Have you seen anything like this before? Where was that? How was it similar? How was it different?
- Where do you think this image was taken? Why do you think that?



Task 3

Formulating questions

- What exactly do you want to know?
- What 'starter' words can you use for formulating questions? Which are the best? Why?
- Is that a clear question for someone else to understand? Why?
- Is that an easy question to answer? Does that make it a good question? Why?
- How could you phrase that question to make it more open? Why might that be a good idea?





Task 4

Preparing to research

- Which search engine will you use? Why have you chosen this one?
- What search terms could you use? Which are the best? Why?
- What type of sites will be the best to look at, why?

If the learners choose books or libraries, ask questions such as:

- What type of books will you look for? Why?
- In what section would these books be in a library? How do you know?
- How should you use a library system? How do you know this?
- How should you use an index? How do you know?



Task 5

Researching

- Which web sites are you going to use? Why use those ones?
- How do you know that information is reliable?
- Could that information be biased? Why do you think that?





Task 7

Lichens as indicators of air pollution

- What type of lichen did you find the most of? Why do you think there were more of these? What does this tell you about the air quality?
- Is just counting the number of each type of lichen enough to give you firm conclusions about the air quality? Why? What could you do to ensure you made firm conclusions?
- Where did you find most leafy lichens? How were leafy lichens distributed in terms of compass directions? How were leafy lichens distributed in terms of the prevailing wind? What does this tell you?
- Where did you find most bushy lichens? How were bushy lichens distributed in terms of compass directions? How were bushy lichens distributed in terms of the prevailing wind? What does this tell you?
- Where did you find most crusty lichens? How were crusty lichens distributed in terms of compass directions? How were crusty lichens distributed in terms of the prevailing wind? What does this tell you?



Task 8

Letter to a local newspaper

- What have you found out from your lichen survey?
- How are your findings linked to local or more distant industries? How do you know?
- How can you express your findings in a letter?
- What are the main points you wish to include? Why are these your main points?
- What emotive words are you going to use? Why?
- What scientific terms are you going to use? Why?
- How might using science specific terms help you to get your points across?
- What do you know about letter structure and format? How do you know these things?
- How will you format your letter?
- Will your letter be handwritten or typed? Why?

