

What do your pupils understand about evolution and how is their understanding enhanced by experiential learning? Work together, with Eden Project and Exeter University to find out!

Eden Project is home to the largest rainforest in captivity and is a unique and awe-inspiring destination. Last year we engaged with 48,600 students through our onsite schools programme.

We have partnered with Exeter University and secured a small amount of funding to conduct some academic research into the impact of our core learning offers on site, in particular how involvement in one of our workshops improves students understanding of key biological ideas.

Evolution and inheritance recently moved from the year 7 science curriculum into the year 5 and 6 curriculum and in response to this we designed a workshop to help primary teachers deliver this new content. The workshop is called Darwin's Doodles.

Evolution and the mechanisms behind it can appear intangible and abstract despite the fact that it is arguably the most important and overarching concept in biology. The Darwin's Doodles workshop aims to help students understand 'why things in nature are the way that they are' through a variety of hands on activities and experiential learning in our rainforest biome and we would like to discover how much impact we have in this 2 hour workshop. This research will help guide the development of our programme and demonstrate the value that our programmes add.

We are looking for 8 classes of year 5/6 pupils to take part in our research. This would involve taking part in the 2 hour workshop and a 15 minute concept mapping activity to be completed both before and after the workshop.

We are able to offer the schools involved a £200 contribution to the cost of transportation to Eden. The workshop itself will cost £5.80 per student. We are looking for each school to bring a class sized group (approximately 30 pupils). At the end of the research a paper will be written and published which your school will be given a copy of.

If you are interested in taking part please contact Robbie Kirkman by phone or email.

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