

Liz Major, Forres Academy

The ways in which the unit on sustainability and biodiversity could contribute to the four capacities:

Successful Learners:	Pupils planned and carried out a range of experimental work and environmental monitoring techniques. They carried out research activities using range of resources, both as individuals and as part of a group. They successfully carried out new techniques such as distillation and were able to apply their learning from several parts of the course to design an Eco cafe. The course created opportunities for pupils to discuss their ideas together and to understand that human activities affect the environment and that this can have effects not only on climate but also on the food supply and habitats. Pupils had many opportunities to be involved in peer and self assessment.
Confident Individuals:	A range of activities allowed for different styles of learning. Pupils were able to present their findings, work confidently with a range of equipment and to contribute towards group tasks. They had to make decisions about which actions to take when balancing the different factors e.g. when deciding on a choice of material for the takeaway containers.
Responsible Citizens:	Pupils evaluated the information about various issues in the news and ask the question 'What do you think?' and 'What would you/could you do? Discussion of complex issues enabled teachers to promote respect for the views of others as pupils need to learn how to debate.
Effective Contributors:	This was an enquiry based learning topic with many opportunities for problem solving and collaborative working. Pupils were encouraged to ask questions, carry out extended tasks and set targets, and to communicate in a variety of formats.