



Heritage & Culture

Sustainability Audit

This guide helps you connect with your community by exploring the theme of Heritage and Culture. Discover local traditions, learn about other cultures, and work together to start planning your Eco-Schools actions.



EXPLORE HERITAGE & CULTURE WITH ECO-SCHOOLS

In an Eco-School, all cultures represented are respected and valued. They aim to preserve traditions and natural heritage, allowing us to learn from the past and shape a sustainable future. Heritage connects us to our environments, understand our past and helps shape our identities. Tangible heritage encompasses landmarks and artifacts, while intangible heritage reflects customs and stories, linking us to both cultural and natural roots.



Your Eco-Committee can choose to focus on the theme Heritage and Culture, or explore several themes at once. Forming sub-groups within the committee ensures continuity, with each group taking responsibility for a specific theme and developing expertise over time. Use the Eco-Schools Seven Steps to explore and weave the theme throughout every part of your school.

SOME QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED...

Local Practices and Heritage

- What local practices and traditions are supporting and celebrating our cultural heritage. How do these connect to our environment?
- How are local languages used and preserved in our community?

Cultural Practices and Environmental Protection

- How do cultural practices contribute to environmental protection?
- What traditions promote sustainability in our community?

Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainability

- How is indigenous knowledge applied to sustainability efforts?
- What role could indigenous knowledge play in addressing local challenges?



Challenge assumptions, slow down, and really observe your surroundings. Your school has its own unique challenges and solutions that only sharp, curious minds will discover. Record what you see - notes, sketches, photos, or simple counts - at different times and seasons.

Ask critical questions: *What's here? What's missing? Why is it like this? What could change?* Use these insights to understand the current situation and move towards high-impact actions supporting Culture and Heritage at your school.



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History	Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
	Are there any parts of your school building or grounds that seem old or historical? If yes, which ones?		
	Are there any plaques, symbols, or objects that tell something about the school's history?		
	Have you talked to someone elderly about how the school area and the surroundings have changed over time? What is the most surprising thing they shared?		
	Do you know the meaning behind the street names or landmarks around your school? If so, do any hint at local history or natural features?		
	What displays or memories of past school events (e.g., photos, posters, or decorations) are there in and around your school?		
	Who in your community could remember stories about how life used to be?		
	Traditions		
	What school traditions (e.g. songs, uniforms, ceremonies) are there in your school that connect students to the past?		
	How does your school display or celebrate its heritage?		
	What annual events or celebrations take place at your school?		
	How many events have been coordinated by your school which celebrate local culture and heritage?		



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Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Festivities		
How many special days are celebrated each year to value cultural heritage at your school?		
How do you celebrate festivals and traditions? <input type="checkbox"/> Tell stories <input type="checkbox"/> Invite parents and community members <input type="checkbox"/> Talk about it in class <input type="checkbox"/> Food <input type="checkbox"/> Performances <input type="checkbox"/> Dances		
Find someone elderly and ask what songs, games, and stories they remember from when they were young.		
Cultures		
What languages do you hear spoken around the school?		
How many lessons are given in the local language?		
Are there spaces that showcase or celebrate different cultural identities? If yes, how do they look?		
How are different cultural events, festivals, or holidays recognised at school?		
Do you learn about different cultures and/or parts of the world? If yes, how?		
Can you spot influences from around the world in your school or community? If so, which ones and where?		
Are there displays, flags, or signs showing links between your school and other countries?		



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Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Are there any cultural exchanges, partnerships, or international projects at your school?		
Natural Heritage		
What natural landmarks can be found near your school (e.g. ancient trees, gardens, wells, meadows)?		
How does your school help preserve natural spaces as part of its own story?		
Are any cultural traditions linked to local nature in your community (e.g. herbal remedies, local folklore about plants/animals, or symbolic flowers?)		
Community		
Are there any museums, community halls, or gardens that preserve local heritage? If so, does your school organise trips there?		
What local crafts, foods, or shops connected to traditional skills or culture do you notice in your area?		
Are there examples of old ways of farming, fishing, or gardening still being practised?		
Are there names of places, rivers, or hills that come from older languages or meanings?		
Do local community members participate in your school by sharing traditional skills and knowledge? If yes, in which activities and how often?		

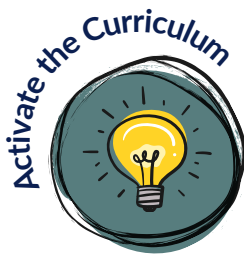


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Questions	Your Answers	Reflections/Observations
Your questions		

Choosing *Heritage & Culture* as a key theme for action?

Follow these next Eco-Schools steps...



What knowledge or skills do you still need to start putting your ideas into action? Take some time to identify what's missing and discuss it within your Eco-Committee. Then, reach out to your teachers and tell them what you'd like to learn more about, whether it's local festivities, cultural heritage, or practical ways to protect traditions around your school. Together, you can build the knowledge and confidence needed to start real change!



Use what you've learned from your lessons, your Eco-Schools activities, and your own observations, and work together to turn your ideas into real change by creating an Action Plan for Heritage & Culture. Mobilise your Eco-Committee, teachers, school staff, parents, and the wider community to help you reach your goals. You could:



celebrate festivals of other cultures



Invite elders to share their stories

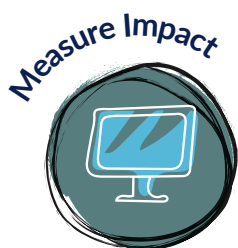


Connect global and local sustainability efforts



Celebrate language diversity

Whatever actions you choose, make sure they are realistic, measurable, and long-lasting, so your Eco-Committee's work continues to grow year after year.



Monitor your actions to see the difference you have made!

Use your Action Plan to check what's changed in your school and community. Have you spotted more languages in your school posters? Are more people aware of local heritage and biodiversity preservation? You could *create a heritage story wall with photos, or note how many people joined your activities*. Measuring your impact helps you celebrate success and plan even better actions for the future!



Make sure the whole school and local community are part of your Heritage & Culture journey. Share your findings and actions through assemblies, newsletters, posters, or social media. Invite teachers, students, parents, and local experts to join activities or share their knowledge. By including different perspectives and experiences, your Eco-Committee will build stronger, more creative solutions that last.