

# Habitat Hunt Activity

Find out what's alive in this graveyard hunt



## Resources

Clipboards,  
Habitat Hunter map,  
Compare and Contrast sheets  
Pencils  
magnifying glasses.

Cathedral can provide all  
resources on request



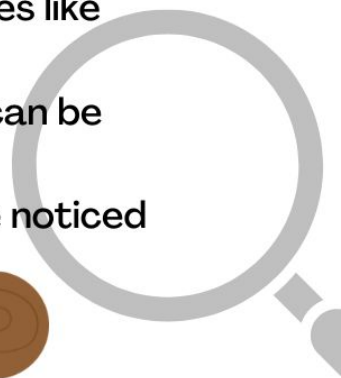
**Pupils work in pairs – one person with the clipboard, sheets and pencil and the other person with the magnifying glass.  
(If wet, just take magnifying glasses and do lots of discussion)**

## Task 1 (15 mins +) Habitat Hunt sheet

1. Take a tour around the cathedral kirkyard – sticking to the paths (no wandering in amongst the gravestones please for safety reasons).
2. Pupils are looking for **different types of habitats** in the kirkyard. Look for: Damp, dry, shady or sunny are the main habitat conditions.
3. Pupils **mark 2-4 contrasting habitats** on their sheets. Could label them as sunny, dry, shady or wet.
4. When they have walked around the kirkyard have a discussion with the children about the features they have seen.
5. Some questions to discuss could include: Is there shelter? Is it exposed to wind? Could insects and animals find any food? Where are the sunny parts? Do some animals like sun? Do some animals like shade? How do creatures find water?

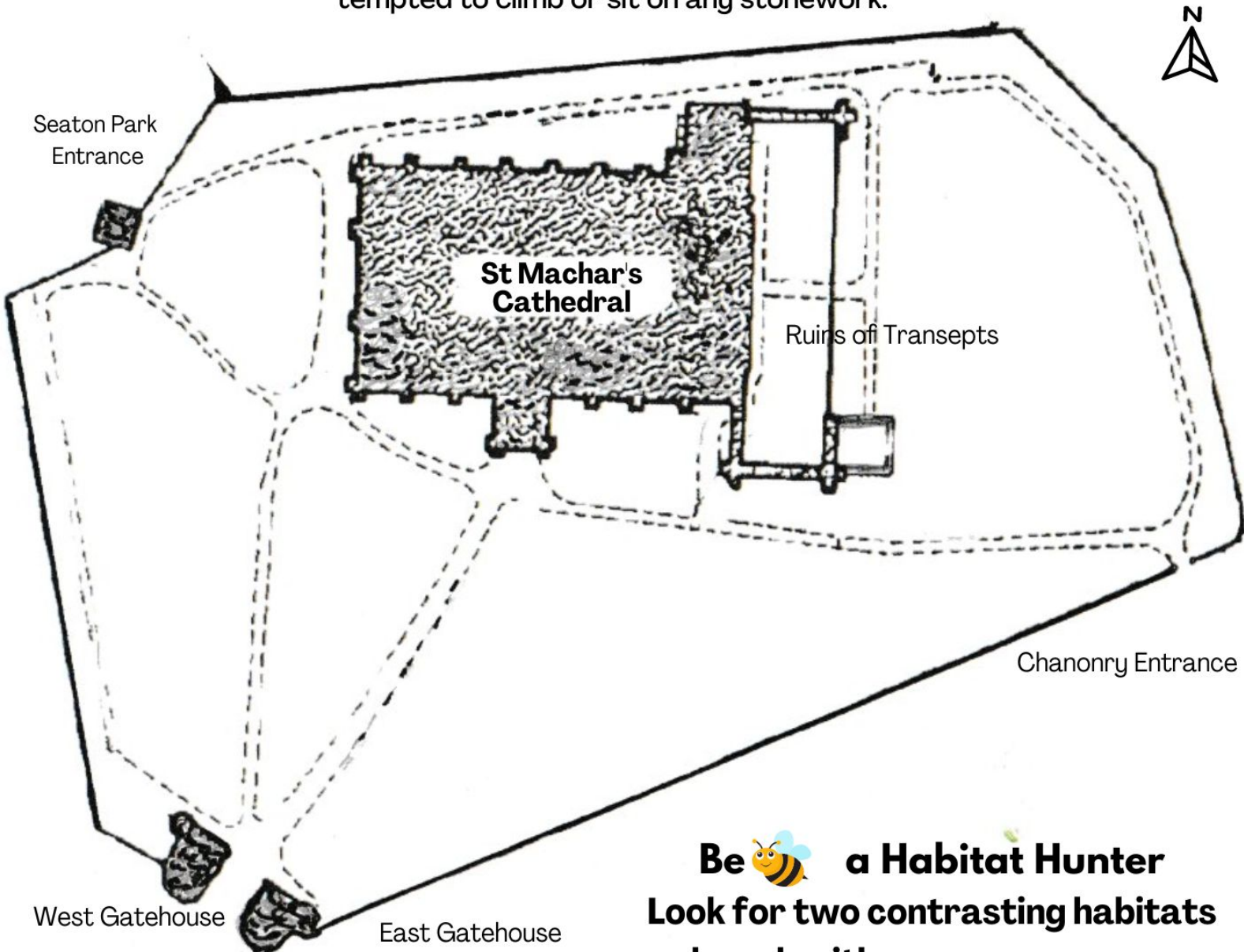
## Task 2 (15 mins +) Compare and Contrast Habitats sheet

- Decide on **2 contrasting areas** in the kirkyard to look at more closely.
- As a group, go to one area and spend about 5 mins or so looking more closely at what they can see in that habitat – use **magnifying glass** and record words/pictures on their second sheet (Compare and Contrast sheet). What plants, animals etc can they see? Any unusual features like roots, broken gravestones to note down.
- Then go to the contrasting area and do the same there. Photos can be taken also.
- Once completed have a discussion to compare what people have noticed in the different situations/habitats.



# St Machar's Cathedral and Kirkyard - Bird's Eye Map

**Safety First** Remember to walk carefully, always staying on the paths and do not be tempted to climb or sit on any stonework.



**Be  a Habitat Hunter**  
**Look for two contrasting habitats**  
**and mark with a cross on your map.**

## Habitat Types

Our homes are all different and it is the same with animals.

Some like shade, some like sun.

Some like damp and some like dry.



## Habitat materials

Think about different materials such as grass, gravel, earth, leaves, rocks.

Do they let water drain easily?

Do they hold on to moisture?



## Glossary



**habitat** - a place where creatures can live and find shelter from weather and predators

**contrasting** - means the opposite of each other like long and short or dry or wet

# Habitat Hunter Compare and Contrast

Find **two habitats** in the graveyard that have **different conditions**.

Compare them. Follow the instructions for both habitats.

1

**Circle the best words to describe your first habitat**

- dry to touch
- wet to touch
- sunny and open
- shady and overgrown

Mark it as **1** on the graveyard map sheet

**Draw what you see. Are there any insects or flowers? Leaves or stones? Holes or twigs?**

2

**Circle the best words to describe your second habitat**

- dry to touch
- wet to touch
- sunny and open
- shady and overgrown

Mark it as **2** on the graveyard map sheet

