Living and Non-Living Trail

⭐ Objective

Classify things that are living; things that are dead, but were once alive; and things that have never been alive

🔧 Equipment

- Enrich School Orienteering Map
- Living / Non-Living Record Activity Sheet
- Clipboard, pens

💡 Preparation

- Discuss with the children how we distinguish between things that are alive; things that are dead but were once alive; and things that have never been alive. Discuss how knowledge of the 'seven life processes' (movement, respiration, reproduction, sensitivity to the environment, nutrition, growth and excretion) will help us to place objects within these three categories.
- Split the children into small groups and provide each of the groups with a clip board containing a Living & Non-Living Record Activity Sheet, a marker pen and an Enrich School Orienteering Map.
- Provide the groups with an explanation of the map's main feature e.g. out-of-bounds, start and finish point. Have the children work together to plot a safe route that they will follow around the school grounds.

📄 Instructions

- Each group will use their map to navigate around the school's grounds, finding and classifying different objects into one of the three categories (Alive/Dead/Never Alive) and recording their findings on their Activity Sheet.
- Different children in the group should take it in turns to record the group's observations and findings.
- The activity should be timed and once the groups have had an appropriate amount of time to complete the activity, they should be called back to the start / finish position. The children should then work in their groups to tally how many items they have found in each category on their record chart.
- Encourage the different groups to talk about their findings, prompting the conversations with these sample questions;
- *Can you name three living things?*
- *What do these living things have in common?*
- *Can you name three non-living things?*
- *What do these non-living things have in common?*
- *Were the non-living thing ever alive?*

ℹ️ Other information

- As a progression, different groups could be given different grid references which they have to use their maps to locate. They then look for things in each of the three categories at the location indicated by the grid reference.

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