Green slope

Lego Retreat

Key words:

Green Strand, Legos, Construction, Sustainability, Environment, Collaboration

Target group:

primary school pupils (ages 6-11)

Objectives:

This hands-on LEGO activity teaches children about environmentally beneficial green slopes while developing fine motor skills through construction. As participants design their slopes, they'll exercise creativity while learning how these structures support ecosystems. The project fosters teamwork as children collaborate, integrating science and geography concepts with artistic design principles for a multidisciplinary learning experience.

General Guideline on Time Allocation:

The duration needed to carry out this activity may vary depending on the specific group of children. Teachers are encouraged to adapt the implementation according to the needs, interests, and dynamics of the group.

In the preparatory phase, teachers may use a variety of activities to introduce and contextualize the chosen topic. These can include discussions, videos, drawings, storytelling, or even a field trip, depending on the age and background knowledge of the children.

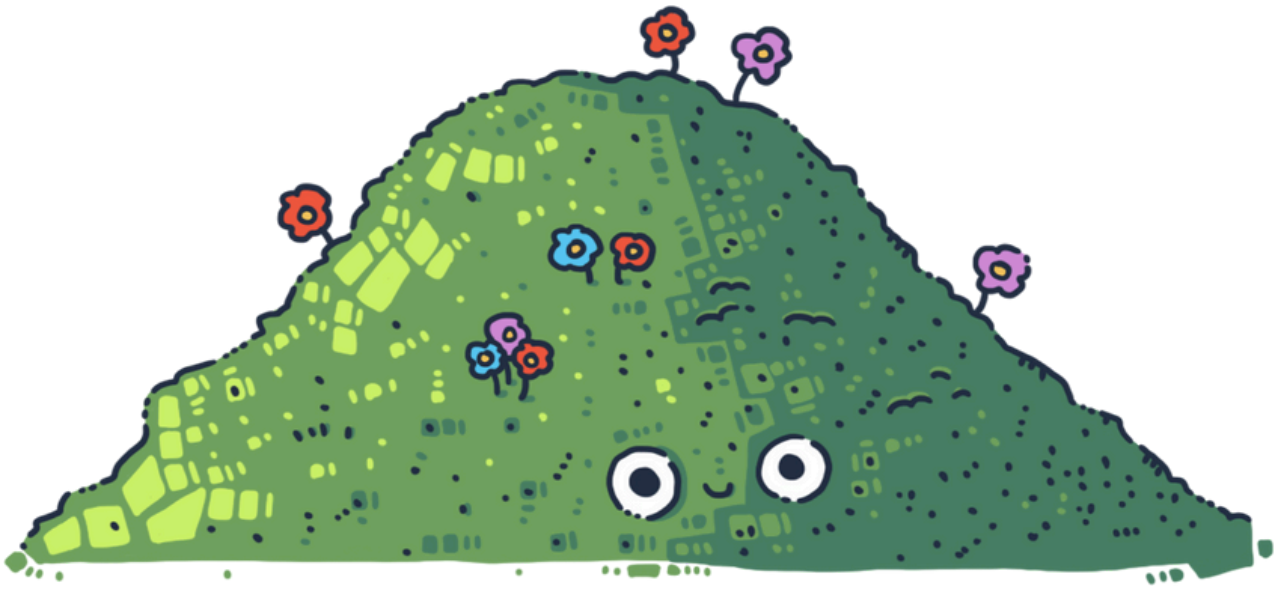
The main construction phase, during which children plan and build their urban element using LEGO bricks, should typically not exceed 45 to 60 minutes. However, this phase often stimulates further curiosity and questions among the children, potentially leading to extended engagement or follow-up activities. For more detailed instructions and pedagogical support on how to implement activities of INNO–kids project, please download the Teacher's Methodological Guide.

Materials and Resources Needed:

- Legos of different shapes and sizes (including green pieces to represent vegetation).
- Decorative Lego elements (flowers, trees, animals, etc.).
- Images of green slopes and vertical gardens.
- Paper sheets and colored pencils.
- Small dolls or Lego figures.
- Factsheets on sustainability and green slopes.

Introduction:

Make a presentation on the topic, explaining that a green slope is a sloping area covered with vegetation, which can be natural or man-made, such as vertical gardens. Talk about the benefits of green slopes, including preventing soil erosion, improving air quality and providing habitats for wildlife. Show images of green slopes in urban and natural environments.



Procedure:

Preparation

Divide the children into small groups of 3 to 4 participants.
Each group should discuss and plan what their green slope will look like. They can draw a sketch on paper to guide them in construction. .

Construction
Using Legos, groups begin to build their green slope, including elements such as trees, shrubs, flowers, paths and recreation areas.

Details
After construction, children can decorate their green slope with additional pieces and small Lego figures representing animals and people.

Discussion on Sustainability
After construction, discuss with children about the importance of green slopes for the environment and how we can implement sustainable practices in our day-to-day lives.

Presentation
Each group introduces their green slope to the rest of the class, explaining what they have built and what they have learned about the importance of green areas and sustainable practices.

Tips:

- Provide images of real slopes and natural landscapes to serve as inspiration and visual reference.
- Encourage students to add essential elements to their construction: plants, animals, paths, etc.
- Distribute reusable materials, such as fabrics, paper and plastic, which can be used so that children can create additional elements to decorate their buildings, making them more appealing.

Additional Considerations:

Differentiation:
Provide additional support or simplified instructions for pupils who may require extra assistance. For advanced pupils, offer extension tasks such as researching further sustainable practices or designing more complex models.

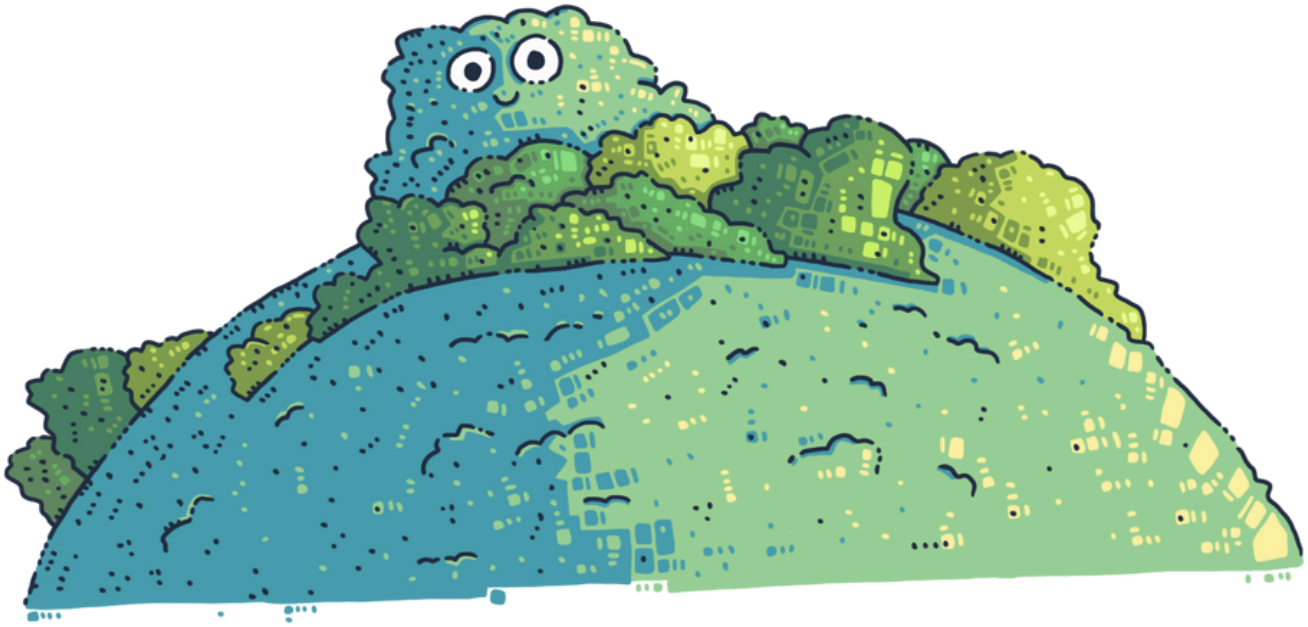
Assessment:
Assess pupils based on their participation and engagement during discussions and hands-on activities. Evaluate the creativity, effort, collaboration, depth of understanding demonstrated in their models, critical thinking, ability to provide constructive feedback and presentation skills.

Curriculum Connections:

This activity integrates:
Environmental Studies (green spaces, environmental preservation, slopes and their ecological importance)
Art (creativity, visual expression, LEGO construction)
Language (oral communication, idea sharing, project presentation)
Social Skills (teamwork, communication, collaboration)

SDG Connections:

- **SDG 11:** Sustainable Cities and Communities – Promote the creation of green and sustainable spaces in urban areas.
- **SDG 13:** Action Against Global Climate Change – Encourage sustainable practices that help mitigate the effects of climate change.
- **SDG 15:** Earth Life – Protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.
- **SDG 4:** Quality Education – Promote inclusive and equitable learning by encouraging creativity and critical thinking.
- **SDG 17:** Partnerships and Means of Implementation – Encourage collaboration and teamwork by developing communication and cooperation skills among children.



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