

Comparing Settings

Links to:

- [Comparing Settings Worksheet](#)
- [Trailer](#)

Over The Hedge introduces us to two very different settings, the woodland setting where Verne and his friends live and the suburban setting where the humans live.

Whole Class Activities

- Show the children the Over The Hedge trailer and ask them to watch carefully to see if they can identify any of the settings which appear in the film. Ask the children which they think are the two main settings, encouraging them to think of the two settings where the characters, animals and humans live, before writing the titles 'woodland' and 'suburbia' on the board.
- Ask the children to think about each of the settings and their features. As a whole class, compare the settings by making a list of the features in each setting.

Individual Activity

- Provide the children with the Comparing Settings Worksheet and ask them to compare the two settings by identifying any interesting features in each environment. Ask the children to circle the features and annotate them to describe why they are unique to that environment and would be out of place in the other environment.

Extension

- Filmmakers often use contrasting settings to add a twist to the film's events. For example, in Madagascar the animals leave their very safe home in Central Park Zoo and find themselves in the scary and wild lands of Madagascar. In Over The Hedge, the animals leave their natural woodland habitat to venture into the unknown world of 'suburbia'. Think about other films that have contrasting settings and make a list of them and their two main settings. Add some imaginary film titles of your own and include two contrasting settings for each title.

Learning Objective:

To compare and contrast two settings (Literacy)



Geographical and Environmental Issues

Links to:

- Animal Reactions Worksheet
- Trailer

Over The Hedge brings up the issue of humans destroying the environment for their own needs when a housing estate is built where a forest used to be.

Whole Class Activities

- Explain to the children that the characters from Over The Hedge wake from their five month hibernation to find that most of the forest has been cut down to make way for the building of a housing estate. Show the children the Over The Hedge trailer to see the characters' reaction to the new hedge that divides their woodland home and the new housing estate.
- Ask the children how they think the characters feel about part of their home being destroyed to make way for new homes for humans. Write a few of the words which describe the characters' feelings on the board. This can be used as a 'word bank' when the children complete their individual activities.
- Ask the children whether or not they think it is a good idea to build new houses on woodland. Divide the class into two sides, 'for' and 'against', and discuss the reasons for their choices.
- After the discussion, ask the children to help create a list of alternative locations that would be more suitable for building houses on. Encourage the children to explain their reasons for choosing the new location.

Individual Activities

- Ask the children to make a list of the reasons for and against using woodland for building houses.
- Provide the children with the Animal Reactions Worksheet and ask them to write an account of one of the animal's reactions and feelings, imagining that they are that character.

Extension

- Think about the geographical and environmental issues of destroying a woodland environment. What will happen to the animals if their homes and source of food are destroyed? How will this affect the local environment? Use the internet to find out more about habitats and how people affect the environment.

Learning Objective:

To understand human effects on the environment (Geography)

