

# Lesson Ideas

## What does 'dead' mean?

Ask children what they think the word 'dead' means. You may have a storybook that you could read about a character dying, or you may like to ask if any of the children have ever had a pet that has died. If so, get them to share their stories... maybe write the name of all the pets that have died up on the board.

## Materials Needed:

Leaves, plants, insects, possibly a pet such as a hamster

## Main Activity:

Display an object, for example an old dead leaf from a plant or a tree. Pass it round and ask children to think of some words that they could use to describe it. Repeat this exercise for some dead insects; again asking children to say how they know it is dead, and what it feels like.

Now bring out a live plant. What are the differences between this and the dead leaf? What do the children notice? After doing this, bring out a live animal, this could be a butterfly, or hamster, or dog, something that is obviously alive. Make a list of all the characteristics of something that is alive, and something that is dead.

This may also be a good opportunity to bring into discussion different parts of the body such as the heart and the brain. What do they do? How might someone die if there is a problem with these organs?

## Plenary:

It is important that children begin to hear that once something or someone is dead, it can't come back to life. Also, that when someone has died, they no longer have any feelings. They may worry that a person who has been buried gets cold, or that if a family member is cremated, it will really hurt them.

## National Curriculum Requirements:

Citizenship: 1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 2e, 3d, 3e, 3f, 3g

Science: Sc1 – 1, 2a, 2b, 2h. Sc2 – 1a, 1c, 2a, 2d, 2e, 3a