

Invitation to Participate in training workshops about Engineering Challenge inspired by Biomimicry and the Morecambe Bay Curriculum



This project has been designed to meet the objectives of the Morecambe Bay Curriculum (MBC); a place-based, nature-based, research-informed learning for the young people of Morecambe Bay. Over the last 3 years, the MBC has begun to evolve, with activities created around Eden Bear and the epic creation myth Made by the Moon, to deliver the national curriculum using the environment around us, giving learners the opportunity to develop skills for the future green economy. MBC is a longitudinal curriculum, revisited and integrated into education from birth to 25year olds. MBC will be a resource of activities and ideas to share (via websites hosted by Lancaster and Cumbria Universities), created by educators, young learners and researchers. It will influence the development of the education offer of Eden Project Morecambe.

This is an invitation to participate in an engineering project inspired by nature.
The project will involve primary schools around the Bay, pairing schools in contrasting environments.
The project includes 2 teacher training workshops

- One twilight training workshop (1 for Lancashire schools, 1 for Cumbria schools) to introduce the project, the MBC, and some activities to explore engineering thinking skills.
- One longer workshop bringing together all participating teachers. Schools with contrasting localities will be paired. We will explore the habitats of the Bay with a wildlife expert, use activities to encourage observation and curiosity, the meaning of biomimicry, and how engineers are inspired by nature's problem-solving and sustainable solutions.



You will have a number of engineering challenges to try out and choose to use in your school. For example, creating a grabber inspired by bird beaks, creating a shelter, rucksack or playground prototype inspired by natural structures.

The biomimicry engineering challenges are designed to be carried out with KS2 pupils working in teams, using an engineering logbook to record their ideas, observations, plans and reflections. The challenge is expected to be carried out over several sessions or as a whole day immersive experience. During the engineering challenge, paired schools will be invited to share their experiences. STEM ambassadors will offer support and encouragement during the project, offering suggestions and guidance and sharing their own problem-solving projects. At the end of the 4 to 6 week project, children can share their engineering learning journey with their school and community.

The project is planned to start with the **twilight sessions in the week commencing 15th May**

With the second training session in the following week commencing 22nd May.

The whole project is FREE to you, with printed resources available to download and edit to adapt to your pupils.

Please express your interest and any queries to Irene Wise, i.wise@lancaster.ac.uk

