

OUTDOOR LEARNING

BARK

RISK DISCUSSION
MATERIALS: BLINDFOLDS
/PENCIL/PAPER



15 min - 1 hour

WARM UP



Go towards a trees or hedges

Look up high, can you spot any nests? Are they on the end of a branch or more towards the middle? Why?

BARK

Work in groups and choose someone to be blindfolded/ close eyes. That person is guided to a tree, encourage the blindfolded person to feel the texture of the bark, see if they can put their arms around the tree, feel any roots or branches, leaves or seeds. Lead the person back to where you began, take off the blindfold and ask them to try to find their tree. Did they manage to find it? Swap over so you different people have a turn.

Can you spot any holes, insects in the bark?
What might have made it? Is it a good thing or a bad thing?

What is the purpose of bark?

GET CREATIVE

Create a story where you come back as a tree, think of its age, if it has a nest, any leaves, its bark as a skin, what would you see, hear, feel. What is found below it?

Friends?



East Ayrshire Council
Cumbraie Stranraer Air an Eas



NATURE DEBATE



Do we need trees? Why?

Clues: climate change / scenery
/conservation / humans

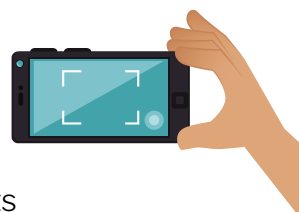
SCAVENGE

Look below the tree for 3 different things,
Think of how they relate to the tree, how did they get there?

Does it tell us what season it is, what animals might live in or around the tree?

ASSESSMENT

Questions
Photograph activity
Record findings
Comments of students



BARK INFORMATION SHEET



The environment requires trees of varying ages, so there is always a continuous supply of varying generations to support biodiversity. Bark is very like our own skin and is essential for a tree's survival. The visible part keeps moisture in and keeps infection out.

Bark as protection

The outer cork protects the tree from the sun or drying by wind. It also helps to protect it from things like fungus, insects, birds or mammals nibbling it. off fungal infection, insect attack, and the attention of hungry birds and mammals.

Bark as a habitat

Cracks in bark provide great habitat for many species of insects and spiders. These invertebrates attract birds to feed upon them.

Food for wildlife

Many mammals eat bark, and by looking at the height and details of the damage, we can find out what animals live in an area. Although bark feeding can be destructive to individual trees, it is worth recognising how bark can support a wide range of different species.

