

Curriculum Outdoors

Curricular Area: Sciences, Biodiversity and Interdependence



E & O:

I can use my knowledge of the interactions and energy flow between plants and animals in ecosystems, food chains and webs. I have contributed to the design or conservation of a wildlife area. SCN 2-02a

Learning Outcome:

Pupils will be able to describe the needs young trees and will be able to plant and care for them.



Resources Needed

Young trees – Note whether pot grown or bare rooted as this will determine the planting and care, see advice below)
Garden spades
Open space – trees can be planted in containers but thrive best when planted in the ground.

Trees Stories book

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/tree-stories-a-learning-resource/>

Year in the Life of a (tree) Woodland Trust video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnP8L4qYLFY&list=PLbKmyYI09ziwg_Gdp2mUdyUeiL9jjTw2U

Woodland Trust links

Tree planting: 3 methods <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/how-to-plant/>

Where to plant <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/where/>

How to care for your tree <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/advice/care/>

Activity Tree Planting and Tree Care

- Indoors, identify the tree/s to be planted from the labelling and learn about the tree (how tall it will grow, leaf shapes, fruit, lifespan) from a text such as *Tree Stories*. (see Resources Needed). Watch a film on the year in the life of the particular tree on Woodland Trust YouTube channel – NB mature trees are shown – asking pupils to identify the seasons and the changes visible through the year.
- After learning about your particular tree and its needs, choose a site – Woodland Trust (see Resources Needed). Instructions can be displayed on interactive whiteboard.
- Outdoors, using your selected planting method, in small groups with each member given a specific task (e.g. make a slit with the spade, insert bare rooted tree, firm back soil ...) Plant trees. ALTERNATIVELY, follow Dig It or other planting schemes given by tree providers.
- The planted trees are then the responsibility of the pupils. Label ensure trees do not dry out, are protected from grass cutting and rough play during breaks and do not become choked by weeds and grasses.
- Pupils share their work (including an explanation of how the trees will develop over time) with rest of school community (including families/carers).

Assessment

This is not a one off exercise but a long term project. Pupils can demonstrate their knowledge and understanding through a variety of methods over an extended period of time.

- Pupils assume continuing responsibility for care of the trees.
- Pupils tell (oral presentation or written) other members of the school community what trees have been planted and what the whole school community can do to care for and protect the trees as they grow. Presentations might be added to school blog pages or delivered as part of an assembly (actual or remote) or in the form of posters or instruction leaflets depending on the needs of the learners.

Possible Further Activities

Trees and Biodiversity - See each lost lesson plan

Plant willow - you may have willow growing in your grounds or have access to some free willow cuttings to plant and care for in your school grounds.

See willow planting lesson plan

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/learningoutdoorsupportteam/uploads/sites/11891/2020/09/15133210/Writing-Lit-2-26a-Willow.pdf>

Monitor and record the growth of your tree over a year (this task might be passed down from one class to the next creating a longitudinal record of the trees progress from planting to maturity).

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