

The Outdoor Classroom

Environmental Games & Activities: A Guide For Teachers and Group Leaders

1 Investigations

- Hunting for Minibeasts
- Sorting and Classifying Species
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- Pond-dipping
- Observing Creature Movement
- Habitat Experience
- Focus on Trees
- Leaves and Bark
- Investigating the Age of Trees
- Maths in Nature



2 Games

- Spelling Bee
- Seed Survival Game
- Creature Feature! – Adaptations Game
- Mixed Up Minibeasts
- The Bee Game
- Plant Knowledge Game
- Tree Knowledge Game
- Seed Dispersal Game
- Woodland Food Web Game
- Team-Building Games
- Other Activities



3 Creative Projects

- Art and Craft Activities
- English Inspiration



4 Worksheets

- Sorting and Identifying Pond Creatures
- Sorting and Identifying Minibeasts
- Minibeast Identification Key
- Comparing and Contrasting Plants
- Investigating Wildflower Variation
- Investigating Fungi
- Tree Leaf and Fruit Worksheet
- Weather Survey



5 Walks and Trails

- Sensory Trails
- Scavenger Hunts
- Real History
- Geography All Around
- Map Reading
- Orienteering Sessions



6 Identification Guides

- Minibeast Identification Wheel
- Trees in Summer
- Identifying Woodland Species
- Woodland Species Guide
- Wetland Species Guide
- Moorland Species Guide
- Meadow Species Guide



7 Extras

- Links with the National Curriculum
- Arranging a Visit
- Health and Safety

Introduction

Welcome to 'The Outdoor Classroom'! This education resource pack has been developed by the Countryside Rangers at Leeds City Council, and makes use of their years of experience working with schools and community groups. The pack is designed to help you and your group to make the most of your local environment, and directly supports the 2006 Learning Outside the Classroom DfES (Department for Education and Skills) Manifesto.



Some of these activities are already widely used in environmental education; some are new versions of old activities, and others are brand new activities that you probably have not come across before! Feel free to photocopy anything from this pack, or adapt an activity for your group. Please let us know how successful you have found the activities within this pack, or if you can think of any additions you would like to share with others.

Any park or greenspace can be used as an outdoor classroom, and you probably have one of these within a few minutes walk of your school. You can also use school grounds for some of these activities. If you would like some help finding a suitable site near your school or centre, please get in touch with the Countryside Rangers.

To help you link the Outdoor Classroom with your lesson plans, we have linked as many of our activities as possible with the National Curriculum. The pack ties in most closely with Science, but there are also links to Geography, Maths, English and History. Many activities also encourage team working, creativity and physical exercise. You will find a detailed breakdown of the curriculum links for each activity in the 'Extras' section, and we have suggested a Key Stage level for each activity, which you will find next to the activity title on the contents page. Suggested links and levels are just a basic guide – you may find that you can adapt activities to suit your group's needs or your learning objectives.



The 'Extras' section also contains information on how to book a visit with the Rangers (including a booking form) and a generic risk assessment covering all the activities within this pack. In addition to these you will need a site assessment particular to your chosen location.

Introduction

This is not the only resource Leeds City Council produces to help schools make the best of learning experiences outside the classroom. For other opportunities provided by the Parks and Countryside Service, why not try an organised trip to Temple Newsam, Lotherton Hall, or Tropical World at Roundhay Park?



Many thanks are given to those who helped contribute to this pack, particularly to the schools and teachers who have provided useful feedback during its development.

Parks & Countryside education opportunities

Countryside Rangers

City-wide coverage (0113) 237 5268
Email: countrysiderangers@leeds.gov.uk

Temple Newsam

House visits (0113) 264 7321
Farm or Estate visits (0113) 264 5535
Email: temple.newsam@leeds.gov.uk

Lotherton Hall

Estate and Bird Garden (0113) 264 5535
Lotherton Hall (0113) 281 3259
Email: lotherton@leeds.gov.uk

Roundhay Park/Tropical World

Visitor Services Team (0113) 266 1850



Many other locations around the city are fully or partially funded by Leeds City Council, and make provisions for school visits focusing on many areas of the National Curriculum. Visit www.leeds.gov.uk for details. For other enquiries to the parks and countryside service telephone 0113 395 7400 or email parks@leeds.gov.uk.