












KEY STAGE 1 TREE AND WOODLAND CURRICULUM GUIDE



A list of tree and woodland activities which are age and Key Stage appropriate, linking to the National Curriculum. If your school follows your own curriculum then please use these activities as an indicator, and feel free to use and adapt the ideas to suit the needs of your pupils.  = Extra resources/ideas available on our website courtesy of Nature Nurture CIC

	AUTUMN 1	AUTUMN 2	SPRING 1	SPRING 2	SUMMER 1	SUMMER 2
Reading texts	Stanley's Stick by John Hegley		The Ground Beneath My Feet by Charlotte Guillain/Yuval Zommer		The Things that I LOVE about Trees by Chris Butterworth	
Literacy	Reading/Speaking & Listening Read Stanley's stick. Take it in turns to act out different uses of your own stick (e.g. a magic wand, a walking stick).	Writing Fill a bag of woodland objects. Take it in turns to describe your object. Write a descriptive sentence about the object. Can others guess what it is by reading the sentence given?	Poetry Collect natural and synthetic objects and try to create a rainbow of colours. Can you create a poem describing your natural and synthetic rainbow collection? 	Handwriting Go on an urban tree hunt and write the names of the trees on the ground using chalk or mud paint. 	Writing Make some bark rubbings, and then label your bark rubbings with powerful adjectives describing what your bark looks, smells and feels like. 	Speaking and Listening Be eyes in the sky. Look into the mirror/CD to see up into the canopy. What can you see? Describe to others what you notice. 
Numeracy	Patterns Look around your playground or woodland space for any natural objects. Describe the characteristics e.g. lines, shapes, symmetry.	Estimate Collect a range of natural woodland materials, place them in a hoop of four large sticks made into a square. How many objects are inside the hoop or stick frame? Count them to check.	Number - Place Value Create different tens, using a leaf as a 10 and stones as a one. e.g. 2 leaves + one stone = 21. Can you create sums? 6 stones + 4 stones = 10 2 leaves + 4 stones = 24	Number - Fractions Take a selection of leaves and cut into halves and quarters to show what a fraction is. Can you create fractions with all leaves?	Number - Division Share out leaves/seeds/stones into equal groups to find halves and quarters. Find 20 bits of squirrel food and then share it between two squirrels or a family of 4. What about collecting worms for the birds and sharing them out equally?	Measurement Estimate and measure the time it takes for a leaf or seed to fall from a tree, bees to visit a flower or an insect to cross from one point to another. Estimate the height of a chosen tree and its width. 
Science	Animals Go for a wild safari with magnifying glasses and see what plants and beasts you spot (playground or nearby woodland space). 	Everyday Materials Go for a walk and collect different woodland objects – sort them into alive, dead, never alive.	Plants Leaf and tree gazing – looking at the shape of the leaves, describing their patterns, and structures and matching leaves to the trees 	Living things and their habitats Using information on different animals create your own mini den for your woodland creature to live in. Can you sell your mini den? What properties make your den worth buying? 	Materials and their properties Sort a collection of objects into natural and human-made materials. Discuss the properties of wood, and what we make with wood. 	Plants Study the life cycle of a dandelion. How does the wind help seeds to be dispersed (spread)? Use sycamore (helicopters) to look at fruits (protective casing) and seeds (from which new plants grow). 

KEY STAGE 1 TREE AND WOODLAND CURRICULUM GUIDE



	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
History	Fire of London Study what makes the fire triangle. Create real fires or learn how to build a fire using the waffle (criss-crossing sticks) or the tepee method (sticks stacked vertically) and then use Autumn leaves to make it look like the flames.	Historical Perspective Give children a page from The Ground Beneath my Feet. Children go on an archaeology dig and recreate a piece of art using materials found in the playground or woodland space, to create something you might find if digging at that depth.	Historical Figures Imagine you are an explorer (e.g. Shackleton, Christopher Columbus). Go on a wild adventure in your playground as if you are an explorer arriving for the first time. Describe the plants, trees, insects as if you are seeing them for the first time. What would an explorer arriving in the UK expect to find?
Geography	Place Knowledge Make a 3D map of your woodland space or outdoor playground using natural materials to plot the key landmarks. Can you give directions looking at your map from A to B?	Physical/Human Geography Go into the woodland space or playground and record the weather. Is the weather impacting on the noise in the trees, any wildlife you can see? Why might this be?	Compass Directions Meet a tree or plant by directing your partner to your chosen tree using compass directions. You can use chalk or sticks to show which is N, S, E or W. Can your partner describe their tree or plant, and identify any similar trees or plants nearby?
Art and Design	Sculpture Create a woodland creature out of clay and sticks. Where would your creature live? What would it eat? Who are its friends/foes?	Painting Go to your woodland space and use mud mixtures to paint a picture of the trees or a natural landscape which is accessible to you. Look at what is natural (trees, plants, grass etc.) and what is from humans (buildings, cars etc.)	Craft/Design Collect small cuttings from trees, plants in your playground or woodland space. In groups build your own mini garden in a classroom tray using soil, and the cuttings you have found.
Design and Technology	Design, Make and Evaluate Design your own mini shelter for your own woodland creature using a collection of sticks and woodland materials.	Design, Make and Evaluate Study different types of birds' nests and make your own. Why are nests not flat? What type of bird might live in your nest? What materials can birds use to make their nests strong, soft, warm, dry? 	Designing and Making Products Make a flower potion using sticks (to mix) and recycled bottles. Which flowers smell nice? How can you change the colours of your flower potion? Design a label for your potion. Using the key ingredients, smells and colours can you convince your friends why they should buy it? 
Computing	Painting Using a photo of the trees in your playground or nearby green space, use a computer programme to recreate it/paint it	Presentation Skills Take a photo of your favourite tree and then write some facts or anything you notice about that tree and present it to the class.	Computer Skills Record natural sounds using an iPad or recording equipment – using a voiceover can you make a story using the sounds you have collected?
PSHE	Mindfulness Tree bathing, hug a tree, what would your tree say if it could talk? 	Health and Wellbeing Talking sticks – circle time outside passing around the stick to share and discuss our feelings.	Living In the Wider World Use Oliver Jeffers book 'Here we Are'. Why should we respect the natural world and celebrate difference? Make stick people to celebrate difference. What if all the trees were the same? What can we learn from trees
PE/MUSIC	Tree Yoga Do some yoga amongst the trees. What yoga postures take their inspiration from nature?	Rhythm Create natural instruments using sticks/seeds/cones and woodland materials. Can your group create a song to accompany your instruments? Maybe about something in your playground? Your favourite bird, fox, plant?	Dance Observe the trees and how they move – create a tree dance. What kind of music would trees make if they were musicians? Would different trees make different sounds?



Thegardenclassroom.org.uk