

Autumn

Exploring Forestry Commission Woodlands throughout the different seasons will give children firsthand experience of the changes that occur in a natural environment throughout the year.

Keystage: 1, 2

National Curriculum Links:

Science 1 Scientific Enquiry
Science 2 Life Processes

Links to other subjects

PSHCE /English /Art /Geography

Learning Objectives:

- To understand how plants and animals adapt to the coming winter.
- To observe autumn colours.

Resources:

- Bug viewers
- Collecting trays
- Magnifying glasses

Activity

Starter /Introduction

Discuss the changes in seasons, especially autumn. How does it relate to their lives – days getting shorter, darker, colder etc. Follow on with animals and plants.

Main Activity

Go on a seed hunt. Collect seeds, leaves, twigs etc. Observe and draw the changing colours of the leaves. Look at the differences between deciduous and coniferous leaves/needles.

Seed Socks – Place socks over shoes and walk through an area of tall grass. Examine socks and see what seeds have appeared. This shows how seeds are distributed by animal fur.

Plenary

What did you find out? Discuss how seeds are dispersed.

Suggestions for follow-up activities

- Use leaves, twigs, seeds etc to make pictures / sculptures. Look at artists who use nature in their work. e.g. Andy Goldsworthy
- Leaf prints
- Autumn paintings
- Take part in the Autumn Colours Campaign (Forestry Commission)
- Research and record findings on:
 1. Seed dispersal.(wind, animal, water)
 2. Animal strategies for coping with winter (migration etc)
 3. Changes in leaves and trees