

Outline programme for Yr.7 Geography Fieldwork Day for up to 6 classes

This programme is easily adaptable for fewer classes and up to 3 classes can be led entirely by FC staff if required. In this example the 6 classes divided into 3 main groups for 3 different activity sessions

Objectives

- To experience fieldwork and learn data collection techniques
- To develop map skills - making and reading
- To develop team working skills
- To increase students' knowledge and understanding of trees and forests, particularly management of multi-use forests

Assessment of student learning during the visit will take place through

- Question and answer
- Observation of student behaviour in relation to information given and tasks set
- Quality of data collected
- Quality of sketch maps produced and ability to read maps during the guided walk
- Success in orienteering

Activities

1. Forestry Commission Education Staff lead mapwork and forest management study, involving creation of a sketch map by students and a map reading walk with information about forest management led by FC staff. Students will use their sketch map and OS 1:25000 maps to follow a route and will complete a questionnaire about forest management during the walk. Classroom time at the beginning of each session must be limited to 20 minutes to allow time for the walk.
2. Ecosystem study work led by school staff based on 4 different environments to the south of the café (beechwood, mown grass, scrub woodland and conifer). This will be based on the mown grass area.
3. Orienteering run by school staff using the fixed orienteering course. 10 highlighted controls will be used and 40 minutes max. will be allowed to each group to undertake the challenge. This will be based in the picnic shelter.

Timing

Arrive 9.30 (or a little earlier if possible. If not possible the first session might need to encroach upon the break. Mapwork groups go to the 2 classrooms; other groups go to picnic shelter to deposit bags. If necessary bags from these 2 groups can be left in the classrooms, too.

9.30- 10.50 Session 1

Break

11.05 – 12.25 Session 2

Lunch

12.55 – 2.15 Session 3

Students on bus by 2.25

Map work and Forest management

We provide the following:

2 members of teaching staff

1:25000 OS maps (1 each – to be returned at end of each session for other groups to use)

Outline for sketch map (1 between 2)

Questionnaires (1 between 2)

Forest management information for intro to the session.

You provide

Clipboards

Pens

Ecosystem study

We provide the following:

4 bags of equipment, each with 2 sets of equipment - light meters, soil thermometers, soil moisture meters, pH meters, minibeast ID charts, Tree ID charts. We will also provide 5 quadrats.

You provide

Quadrats

Work books for data collection - as many as you consider necessary

Pens

Orienteering

We provide the following:

40 orienteering packs with map and answer sheet

Spare answer sheets and maps

Team score sheets

You provide

Pens