

Plant life-cycles in Epping Forest - half day option

This half day activity goes well with **Parts of a flower**.

A short classroom introduction into plants including their parts and functions. In the forest through a variety of activities children will explore the life cycle of plants including photosynthesis and using a key to identify common tree species in Epping Forest. Depending on the season, there will be lots of examples of seeds, germination or flowers to investigate.

Learning objectives

- to name and understand the different stages of plant life-cycles including germination, pollination, seed formation and dispersal
- to understand that flowering plants reproduce



Some suggestions for visit preparation

- Recap what children learnt in Y3 about the parts and functions of roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers
- Introduce important vocabulary, *germination, seedling, pollination, dispersal*

Follow on suggestions

- Compare the life cycles of plants from around the world including those in rainforests and in deserts. Ask pertinent questions and suggesting reasons for similarities and differences.
- Try to grow new plants from different parts of the parent plant, for example, seeds, stem and root cuttings, tubers, bulbs.

National curriculum links

Y5 Science

Living things and their habitats

- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals



EVENT SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT

Visit details: Plant life cycles in Epping forest

Carried out by: Suntrap Centre

Date: Dec 2017

Issue	How to manage it
Understanding/behaviour	Class teacher to advise Suntrap staff of any children who may need extra support out in the forest to help them to follow instructions. School to ensure that there is appropriate adult: children ratios as required.
Medical conditions	Suntrap staff to check that school staff brings medication out into the forest. All adults to be made aware of any medical conditions. Suntrap staff will carry a first aid kit.
Getting lost	Keep within sight of teacher/adult & observe boundaries as directed by the staff.
Choking/Poisoning	No eating outside unless directly instructed by Suntrap staff.
Falling branches	During extreme weather conditions Suntrap staff will make an assessment to ensure it is safe to enter the forest.
Injury from horses/dogs or bikes	Group to be instructed to stand to the side, be quiet and still when horses, dogs or bikes are near.
Accident when crossing the road	Group to be instructed on follow safe procedures for crossing roads (Suntrap Line). No one to walk across the cattle grid.
Injury through falling & throwing	Climbing of trees and throwing sticks/stones prohibited.
Soil borne disease	Children instructed not to put fingers in mouth during/after activities which include handling plants, soil and sticks. Hands should be washed with warm soapy water before eating lunch/snack.