

Pond dipping - half day option (April –September)

Pupils will use appropriate equipment to carefully collect animals from a pond within the Suntrap grounds. The animals can then be examined using magnifiers. Through observation and questioning children can find out about some adaptations of these animals to their habitat, their life cycles and use picture cards to identify some of the animals. Pupils can draw and label the animals they have collected. If requested the children may undertake life cycles and food chains games.

Learning objectives

- to treat animals and the environment with care and sensitivity
- to identify, name and describe a variety of animals in their habitats
- to understand that animals reproduce and change as they grow older
- to identify that living things live in habitats to which they are suited
- to begin to understand that animals are part of a food chain

Some suggestions for visit preparation

1. Ask children what they understand by the word 'animal', they may well not think of small animals e.g. snails, as animals.
2. Introduce important vocabulary; *habitat, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, insect, camouflage.*

Follow on suggestions

1. Visit a micro habitat within the school grounds to identify where there are animals *eg turn over stones and lift plant pots to find woodlice, look under damp bushes or by damp walls for snails, dig up soil to find earthworms.*

National curriculum links

Y2 Science

Living things and their habitats

- identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other
- identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including micro-habitats
- describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.

Animals, including humans

- find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)



Visit details: Pond dipping

Carried out by: Suntrap

Date: Dec 2016

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.
Water borne disease	Children instructed not to put fingers in mouth during/after activities which involve putting hands into water. Open cuts should be kept dry and/or covered. Hands should be washed with warm soapy water before eating lunch/snack.
Injury through falling & throwing	Climbing of trees and throwing sticks/stones prohibited.
Getting wet/cold	Clothing should be appropriate for weather conditions. i.e hat, coat and gloves.
Deep Water	Children instructed to: Take care at the edge of the pond, not over-reach with the net, only one student per group at a time to be at pond edge. Suntrap staff will carry a throw rope as a precaution.