

LESSON PLAN

Native Scottish Trees

AIM:

Through learning a little about Native Scottish Trees, we can:

- Improve our observation skills and develop our ability to describe what we see
- Deepen our awareness and appreciation of the environment around us and how special it is
- Become better informed about the uses we have for these trees
- Better appreciate the importance of the trees
- Be able to identify some native trees

ACTIVITIES:

Observation

The teacher provides each group with perhaps 6 different leaves. Each group writes a short description of each leaf. They then arrange their leaves for display on a sheet of white paper, so other children can easily see each leaf. The test now is that one representative of the group reads a description out to the rest of the class. Can the class match the description to the leaf?

Alternatively, groups could swap over and simply lay the description beside the leaf.

Once complete, consider the importance of having a proper name for parts of a leaf.

Learning and recording some tree facts

Split the class into groups of 2 or 3. Each group is going to read from Woodland Trust information about one or more trees as directed. They are going to collect information to be collated in a big table to be presented on the wall for reference and general interest. Each group will collect the information which will be checked over then re-written on pre-cut bits of paper designed to fit the boxes in the table. (Worksheet provided)

Once complete, children should take time to read and absorb as much information as they can in preparation for a wee quiz (provided).

Identifying trees

To compliment the creation of the information table, the class can go out, together, or in groups with support, to take photographs of as many native trees as they can find. These photo's can then become part of the info table. For this job, you may find it useful to get hold of some Woodland Trust tree identification brochures, and/or download the free Woodland Trust Tree Identification app (available for both android and apple devices). Create a record of the trees you find and can identify.

Learning words associated with trees.

Children can complete worksheets labelling the main parts of a tree and of a leaf and learning about their Gaelic names too.

Tree Stories

Forestry Commission Scotland also has a resource on tree stories created by the story teller Claire Hewitt. The Tree Stories were created over a year and inspired by Highland Perthshire's beautiful fauna and flora. Each story was created during the month with which its tree is linked in folklore. You can access it here:

[https://www.forestry.gov.uk/PDF/fcms128.pdf/\\$FILE/fcms128.pdf](https://www.forestry.gov.uk/PDF/fcms128.pdf/$FILE/fcms128.pdf)