

Natural Materials

Suitable for Years 1 and 2, all year round.

This programme is aimed at looking at a range of natural materials. Children find where they come from, investigate some of their properties and relate this to how we use them. Children select natural materials to use to make a nest or shelter.

Key Concepts

Materials, parts of a plant, lifecycle of plants, the properties of common natural materials.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students should be able to:

- Name a variety of natural materials and know where they come from.
- Know the properties of some common natural materials.
- Be able to relate the use of natural materials to their properties.
- Have chosen natural materials for a specific purpose.

Before you come

Q What plants do you use every day?

Programme Outline

Learning Objectives	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To look at the properties of different types of plants and relate to their use. 	<p>Uses of natural materials Children learn where some everyday products come from.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find and identify a range of natural materials. • Identify the source of natural materials. 	<p>Materials Hunt Children go on a walk to find as many natural materials as they can. They then identify the materials they have collected and where they come from.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce the parts of a plant. 	<p>Parts of a Plant In groups, children make a plant from natural materials.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn/reinforce the lifecycle of plants. 	<p>Lifecycle of a plant Children act out the lifecycle of a plant.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate which materials are best for building a shelter. • To investigate which materials are best for insulating a home. 	<p>Build Challenge (insulation experiment) In groups, children use natural materials to make a shelter for a badger.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To investigate the properties of clay. • To use natural materials to make a work of art. 	<p><i>Make a Bogart</i> Use clay and natural materials to make a Bogart.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find out which natural materials are the best insulators. 	<p><i>Build Challenge results</i> Children measure the temperature of their badger to find out which shelter was the warmest. Discuss why.</p>

Complementary Programmes

Why not have a led day by adding a second, shorter programme to complement Natural Materials E.g. Woodland Art, Plants as Producers.

Self-guided trails

To complement this half-day programme, we recommend the Forestry Commission's [Woodland Play Booklets – Build, Create](#) and the [Seasonal Explorers backpack](#).

National Curriculum links

Plants

- Year 1 – identify and name a variety of common wild plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees
- Year 1 – identify and describe the basic structure of common flowering plants, including trees.
- Year 2 – describe how seeds grow into mature plants.

Everyday materials

- Year 1 – distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made.
- Year 1 – identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood.
- Year 1 – describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials.
- Year 2 – identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood for particular uses.

Seasonal changes

- Year 1 – observe changes across the four seasons

Living things and their habitats (Year 2)

- 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.
- Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including micro-habitats.