

## The Tin Forest

Suitable for Years 1 and 2, all year round.

Based on the book 'The Tin Forest' by Helen Ward, children find out about where all our rubbish goes before going on a leaf hunt, learning about the different parts of a tree and their function and the lifecycle of a plant. They play games to help them understand the importance of plants before planting a seed to take home.

### Key Concepts

Looking after our environment, rubbish and recycling, seasonal change, tree identification, plant structure, the importance of trees.

### Learning Outcomes

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

- Understand what happens to rubbish and about the need to recycle.
- To recognise signs of seasonal change.
- Know how to identify trees by their leaves and/or seeds.
- Name the parts of a plant and the function they perform.
- Can describe the lifecycle of a plant.
- Understand the importance of plants as habitats and as part of our environment.

### Before you come

Q Where does all your rubbish go?

### Programme Outline

Learning Objectives	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children learn about what happens to their rubbish and about the importance of recycling.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Story</b> Read the story of 'The Tin Forest'. Discuss what happens to our rubbish (decomposition times) and the importance of recycling.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To recognise signs of seasonal change.</li> <li>• Children learn how to identify common trees by their leaves and/or seeds.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Leaf Hunt</b> Children identify signs of seasonal change and learn how to identify trees by their leaves/seeds on a walk in the arboretum.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children learn about plant structure and function.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Build a Tree</b> The children use their bodies to create the different parts of a tree and look at the job of each part.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To explore trees using their senses.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Meet a Tree</b> In pairs, children help each other to explore trees using their senses.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn/reinforce the lifecycle of plants.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Plant lifecycle</i></b> Children act out the lifecycle of a plant.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn/reinforce what plants need to grow.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Plant survival game.</i></b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To learn about the importance of trees as habitats.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Disappearing habitats game.</i></b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To learn how to make a pot out of paper.</li> <li>To learn how to sow a seed and review what seeds need to grow.</li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Plant a seed</i></b> Children make a paper pot and plant a seed to take home.</p>

### Complementary Programmes

Why not have a led day by adding a second, shorter programme to complement The Tin Forest e.g. Woodland Art, Marvellous Minibeasts.

### Self-guided trails

To complement this half-day programme, we recommend the Forestry Commission's [Growing Green Activity Pack](#) 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.
- Year 2 – describe how plants need water, light, soil and air to grow and stay healthy.

#### ***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.
- 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.