

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"> • Children learn about what happens to their rubbish and about the importance of recycling. 	<p>Story 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"> • To recognise signs of seasonal change. • Children learn how to identify common trees by their leaves and/or seeds. 	<p>Leaf Hunt 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"> • Children learn about plant structure and function. 	<p>Build a Tree 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"> • To explore trees using their senses. 	<p>Meet a Tree In pairs, children help each other to explore trees using their senses.</p>

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