



## **Nutty Maths!**

**A selection of outdoor maths-related activities to for children aged 3-6 years**

**Scotland: Early**

**England and Wales: Nursery, Reception, Year 1**

**Northern Ireland: to end Y1**

Trees for L<sup>y</sup>fe

## Estimation

Compare natural objects – trees, apples, conkers, bags of hazelnuts, logs, leaves – and ask the children to estimate which is the heaviest item, and which is the lightest, longest, shortest?

Can they line them up in order? Share with the group: How did they work this out?



## Learn with Leaves



How many patterns can the children spot outside? Can they make some of their own using natural items?

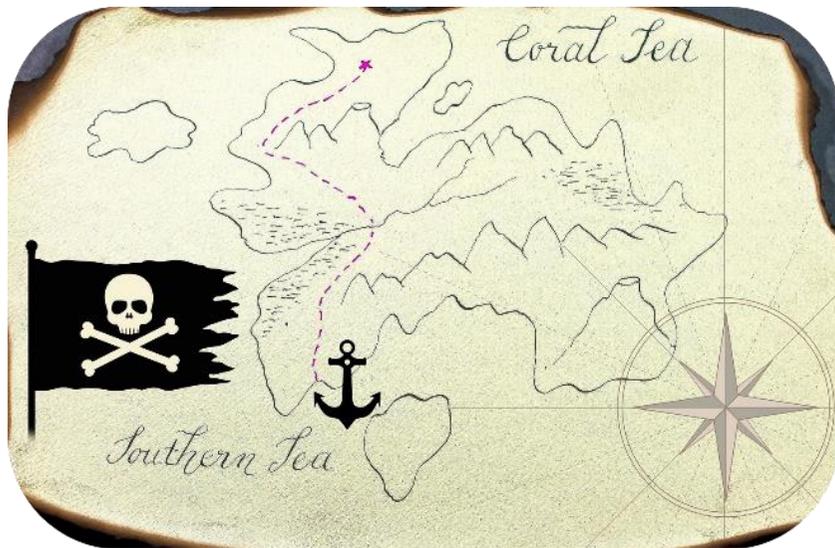
Autumn is a great time to do this. They can collect different colours, shapes and sizes of leaves and create their own patterns, sort them into categories and even look at symmetry in nature.

Can they work alone or in groups to create some natural artwork?

## Treasure Hunt

Choose something in the school grounds (or garden or park) such as a particular tree, bush or natural feature – but don't tell anyone what you've chosen. Discuss left and right and make sure everyone knows which is which. Direct the group using 'left' 'right' 'backwards' 'forwards' and numbers of paces, to see who can find the object first. Who can name the tree or plant? Once they get the idea get smaller groups or pairs to do this for each other.

For a variation, use blindfolds (ensuring you're in a safe, obstacle-free space, and with someone to guide or keep an eye on each child), use compass directions, or make a simple map of an area, including landmarks such as buildings and trees, with an 'X marks the spot'. With confident children, ask them to make their own simple maps too.



## Measuring and Sharing



After collecting some tasty edible berries together, ask the children to make sure everyone gets a fair share. They can count them out individually, or measure them using everyday objects such as scales, cups or jugs. Be sure to give the berries a wash before eating. Why not bake them into a cake together, then get the children to divide the cake up into equal pieces for everyone?

NB. You can use any small objects or shop-bought berries for this, but it's nice to forage for some brambles, blaeberrries (bilberries), or raspberries to get outdoors and learn how to identify edible berries.

# Minibeasting

Find out what minibeasts live in different environments – woodland, tree bark and leaves, leaf litter, old walls, vegetable beds, and meadows. You just need some simple equipment - spoons or paintbrushes for gently scooping up the tiny animals to get a closer look, and trays, magnifying pots, or even washed-out yogurt pots to place them in to take a closer look. Be sure to keep them out of sunlight, and put them back where you found them after taking a look.

Try to identify what you find using books or guides. Look at things like how many legs do the creatures have? Is their body all in one piece, or in segments? What colour and size are they, and where were they found?

Sort the minibeasts into categories based on these characteristics. Altogether, count up how many minibeasts are in each category - you can even make a simple graph or picture chart to show the results.



Thanks for reading, we hope you enjoy these activities! Be sure to take a look at our website where you'll find more resources and lots of information about our different projects and the flora and fauna of the Caledonian Forest.

You can also find updates, photos and videos on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube!

Trees for Life

Rewilding the Scottish Highlands  
Ath-fhiadhachadh na Gàidhealtachd

Design © 2020. Trees for Life is a registered Scottish charity – number SC021303. A company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland – company No. SC143304, with registered offices at The Park, Findhorn Bay, Forres, Moray, IV36 3TH.