

Sensory Garden Pack

Guidance Notes for Teachers

This multifunctional pack can be used in a variety of ways to develop outside spaces but also to enhance inside areas! The items can be used to develop garden spaces and in forest schools as teaching tools for a range of topics within the KS1 and KS2 curriculums.



Contents:

- 2 x Woodland Jute Bunting
- 2 x Simple Bamboo Windchime
- 1 x Green Man
- 1 x Tree Plaque
- 1 x Fairy Plaque
- 1 x Bee Plaque
- 1 x Adventure Plaque

Please note contents and designs may vary.

Whilst this is an outside themed pack it is important to note that these items are not designed to withstand prolonged extreme weather.



The items in the Sensory Garden Pack shown in the pictures on the left can be used in KS1 and KS2 shared spaces.

- Use as starting points to discuss sustainability and preservation.
- Create cross-curricular links and cover elements of the Geography, Understanding the World, Science, Art and Design curriculum.
- Use in outside classrooms, forest schools, gardens, and calm spaces.
- Use in reading areas, libraries and calm spaces.
- Even the smallest outside space can be enhanced and developed with these resources.
- Where outside spaces are limited use these resources to create an inside-outside spaces!
- Provide opportunity for discussion about Fair Trade.

Activity 1 – Using the resources in an existing space

Introduce the resources to the pupils and explain that they can be used in a shared space within the school.

Pupils can:

1. Explore the school grounds and decide on a suitable area.
2. Vote for the area they wish to use.
3. Draw a plan and add labels and descriptions of the resources.
4. Write to the headteacher with their proposal.
5. Set up the space and then review the process.
6. Write invitations to invite staff and pupils to view the new resources.
7. Design an evaluation questionnaire for visitors to complete.

Activity 2 – Legend of the Green Man

The Green Man is one of the most famous woodland spirits and can be found in many different forms throughout history and across different cultures. Typically, he consists of a face covered by leaves and branches which sometimes sprout from his mouth. He is often found carved in medieval churches and cathedrals. For some people he represents a connection to the natural and spiritual worlds, a god of life, death and re-birth.

Pupils can:

1. Use natural resources to create a Green Man on a flat surface.
2. Sculpt a face using clay on tree trunks.
3. Write a set of rules of behalf of the Green Man about how the natural world should be used and respected.
4. If possible, explore the local area and look for examples of the Green Man.

Explore further - Research May Day celebrations and Jack in the Green.

Activity 3 – Plaques

These Fair Trade plaques are hand carved, and hand painted by a small family run business in Bali, Indonesia.

Tree of Life

The Tree of Life symbol represents different things across multiple cultures and religions. It can symbolise that everything in the universe is connected, with roots digging deep and branches reaching up to the sky. For others it can represent a connection to family and ancestors. The tree can represent growth and strength, and also immortality and rebirth. As trees grow with unique branches and change as branches break off and new ones grow the Tree of Life can be used a symbol for individuality.

Pupils can:

1. Explore and identify the trees within the school grounds and local area.
2. Design and make plaques with tree designs.
3. Create a personalised tree of life which shows family and friends, interests and hobbies.
4. Collect fallen branches and twigs from the school grounds and create a tree sculpture.

Explore further – Use online resources to explore the largest and oldest tress in the UK.

Save the Bees

Not only do bees produce honey, they are one of the planet's most successful pollinators – bees visit a great many more plants than other pollinators and so carry more pollen between plants. In the UK

a third of our wild bee species are rapidly declining, this is because of wildflowers disappearing and the use of pesticides in farming.

Pupils can:

1. Create seed balls using wildflower seeds and drop them around the local grounds.
2. Make posters with information about what can be done to help save the bees.
3. Write letters to the local councillors and school governors about why wildflower areas are important.
4. Investigate the lifecycle of bees.

Explore further – Explore bee keeping and honey production.

Fairy Magic

Fairies are mythical creatures that appear in folk stories and traditional tales from all around the world. Some people consider fairies to be magical and protective, whilst others believe they are mischievous!

Pupils can:

1. Hunt for signs of fairies!
2. Create fairy homes using natural and recycled materials.
3. Design and make posters to put up around the school asking if anyone has seen evidence of fairies!
4. Write tiny letters for fairies to find.

Explore further – Create a basket full of fairy themed stories.

Activity 4 – Music

These Balinese Fair Trade windchimes are made from sustainable, fast-growing bamboo. For some people wind chimes have spiritual significance and are associated with religious beliefs. They can be used to create a serene environment and as an aid for meditation. Some cultures believe that wind chimes bring good luck and ward off negative energy.

Pupils can:

1. Explore the positive implications of using bamboo.
2. Design and make wind chimes using recyclable materials.
3. Find a suitable space and invite pupils to take part in simple meditative practices.

Explore further – On a suitably breezy day, take the pupils windchimes outside to explore the different sounds.

Activity 5 – Animal Habitats

This Fair Trade jute bunting has been handmade in Nepal.

Pupils can:

1. Explore the school grounds and look for signs of existing animal habitats.
2. Create posters about why and how to care for animal habitats.
3. Explore habitats that can be created and look for suitable areas – think about insects, bees and hedgehogs.
4. Choose an animal from the bunting and create a fact file about this animal – think about habitat, life cycle, appearance.

Explore further – Make comparisons between different animal habitats, and identify the names for different animal homes.

Activity 6 – Make an inside-outside space

Pupils can:

1. Use the resources to decorate an area in the classroom and create a den-like space.
2. Use fallen branches and twigs to make a tree to display artwork on.
3. Enhance the area further by adding more resources – including houseplants, natural materials and animal toys.
4. Play soundtracks of noises from nature.

Explore further – Where outside space is limited, research ways to bring the outside environment indoors.

Additional activity ideas:

- Use the bunting as a base to attach collected materials to – tie on leaves, petals and twigs.
- Choose a leaf from the bunting and create a fact file about the specific tree.
- Create bunting suitable for an outdoor space – look at natural materials which are readily available.
- Write a pledge about caring for the natural environment.
- Create a letter writing resource box for pupils to write to fairies – include different letter templates, pens, pencils.
- Add magnifying glasses for collected items to be explored further.
- Use jute/hessian to create a range of items – bunting, flags, dens...

Fair Trade



Fair Trade is a worldwide movement that aims to help producers in less economically developed countries, whether they be handicraft producers or farmers. The term Fair Trade means that producers receive a fair price for the goods they produce.

Each item included in this pack can be a way to teach and learn about the principles of Fair Trade. Teaching the principles of Fair Trade provides learning opportunities in many areas of learning, including PSED, Understanding the World and Geography. The items have been sourced by a BAFTS recognised Fair Trade importer of 20 years. The suppliers of the items in this pack are small family businesses employing only a few people; we try to keep them in continuous work enabling their businesses to grow.

Explore further – What are the 10 Principles of Fair Trade? How does Fair Trade help producers? Research the many organisations around the world, including Fairtrade Foundation, the British Association for Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers (BAFTS) and World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO).