

How many species live in mighty oak tree?

This lesson will allow the children to use their imagination to find appropriate materials for the creation of particular textures or colours. They will then learn how different materials can be used to create different effects, beyond “normal” mediums. This will develop their creativity and design skills as well as encouraging them to think logically about where certain animals, insects, or fungi would reside on an oak tree.



KS1/2 Art Lesson Plan



1 hour

* This lesson requires taking the class outside for ~15 minutes

Equipment

- Glue
- Pencils, crayons and felt tips
- A sheet of A4 card for each pair or group of three (and a few extra for mistakes)
- A large outline of an oak tree (physical or a screen projection - this is for the class to stick their pictures to)

Key learning objective

To find and use natural materials to create a picture of an organism and understand the basic principles of an ecosystem.

Key learning outcomes

- Use of imagination and creativity
- Sharing ideas
- Critical thinking
- Working in teams
- Using a variety of materials to produce specific effects

Time

Activity

Prep

- Have a large picture of an oak tree ready for the pupils to stick their creations on to. This can be a simple silhouette on a wall or table, or a projection on a whiteboard, but make sure that it has visible leaves, acorns and trunk hollows.

10 mins

- Explain to the pupils how diverse life is on an oak tree: many animals, insects and other plants rely on them. They are found around the UK and Robin Hood even lived in one!
- Ask the children to get into pairs or groups of three, depending on the size of your class.
- Assign each group an organism that lives on/in or uses an oak tree during its life. Here are some ideas:
Squirrels | Spiders | Earthworms | Caterpillars | Bees | Badgers | Bats | Mushrooms | Butterflies | Robins (or birds in general)

The children will create a picture of their organism, which they will then stick on the oak tree where they think it would be found.

10 mins

- Take the class outside and tell them to collect at least one natural material to use to create their animal, insect or fungi. (Ensure there is a safe or sectioned off area for the children to explore in).
- Encourage them to find things that are the right colour or texture for their animals. For example, green grass to make the caterpillar's body, stones for the badger's eyes, and twigs for the squirrel's bushy tail.
- Alternatively, you can let their imaginations run wild and enjoy the weird and wonderfully coloured creations they come up with.

25 mins

- Let the children create their pictures in whichever way they choose.
- It might make it easier for them to draw an outline first and then stick their materials over this.
- Let them use other familiar materials such as crayons to add any other details they want.

15 mins

- Ask each group or pair, while their work is drying, to tell you about the materials they used and why they chose them.
- Next, they can then stick it to the oak tree where they think the animal, insect, or fungi might live or visit the tree.
- You can then do a brief explanation of how the organism uses the oak tree.
- At the end you can keep or take a photo of your whole class' creation. This would look great as a display in your classroom, and can serve as part of the basis for a science class about life cycles or food chains later on!

Homework

Ask the students to find a famous piece of artwork that includes their assigned species and see if they can find a fact about the artist.