



## Sustainable Woodland Explorers

### Objective:

Students will learn about the principles of sustainable woodland management and apply these principles by creating a small, eco-friendly woodland model while understanding the importance of balancing human needs with environmental conservation.

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### Activity Title:

*"Sustaining Our Woodland: A Balance Between Nature and People"*

**Age Group:** KS2

**Duration:** 1.5-2 hours

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### Materials Needed:

- Natural materials collected from the forest (twigs, leaves, moss, bark, stones)
  - Large sheets of paper or biodegradable trays for creating woodland models
  - Illustrations or examples of woodland zones (e.g., canopy, understorey, forest floor)
  - Information cards about sustainable practices (e.g., coppicing, planting native species, protecting wildlife)
  - Art supplies (non-toxic glue, string, scissors)
  - Clipboards, paper, and pencils for note-taking during exploration
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### Activity Plan:

#### 1. Introduction to Sustainable Woodlands (15 minutes)

- Begin with a discussion:
    - What is a woodland? Why is it important?
    - What does sustainability mean in the context of a woodland?
  - Introduce principles of sustainable woodland management:
    - Protecting habitats and wildlife
    - Encouraging biodiversity by planting native species
    - Harvesting resources like wood without harming the ecosystem
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#### 2. Woodland Exploration (30 minutes)

- Take students on a guided walk through the forest.
  - Encourage them to observe and collect natural materials responsibly (e.g., only fallen items).
  - Discuss features of the woodland, such as tree layers, habitats, and signs of human impact (e.g., paths, litter).
  - Introduce examples of sustainable practices, such as coppicing or leaving deadwood for wildlife.
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### 3. Building a Woodland Model (30 minutes)

- Back in the Forest School area, students work in groups to build a small woodland model.
  - Each group incorporates sustainable woodland principles into their design, such as:
    - Zones for wildlife (nests, burrows)
    - A mix of tree layers (canopy, understorey, forest floor)
    - Resources for humans (wood piles, pathways)
  - Use natural materials collected during the exploration to make their models.
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### 4. Reflection and Sharing (15 minutes)

- Groups present their woodland models, explaining how they applied sustainability principles.
  - Discuss the challenges and benefits of balancing human needs with protecting nature.
  - Encourage students to share ideas on how they can support sustainable woodlands in their local area.
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### Outcomes:

- Students understand the importance of sustainable woodland management.
  - They develop skills in observation, creativity, and teamwork.
  - They learn to value the balance between conservation and resource use.
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### Extension Ideas:

- Plant native trees or shrubs in a designated area as a hands-on contribution to woodland sustainability.
- Create a "Woodland Charter" with promises for protecting local woodlands.
- Explore the role of woodlands in combating climate change and supporting biodiversity.
- Compare woodlands to other ecosystems and discuss global deforestation challenges.

