



Natural Materials ~ KS1

If QCA Units are used, this programme links with Science 1c, Sorting and Using Materials and Art 2b, Mother nature, designer and can also provide an introduction to Art 1b, Investigating Materials

This works well in the Autumn when there are a wide variety of natural materials to find in the garden.

MAIN AIMS

- ⊗ To develop curiosity and promote an interest in the natural world and local environment
- ⊗ To use sense to explore
- ⊗ To develop vocabulary to describe findings
- ⊗ To explore colour, shape, lines and textures
- ⊗ To record observations using drawings, rubbings and colours

INTRODUCTION

What are materials? What do we mean when we say, 'Natural Materials'?

Play game : describe objects/materials hidden in the box

GARDEN ACTIVITY

In groups, go on a sensory walk around Hill Close Gardens to explore a variety of natural materials and objects. Collect samples on square of card. Depending on the time of year, children can collect fallen leaves, etc. Following this, the children will have the opportunity to discuss their findings, using words to describe the materials and naming them. A word bank can be made.

BREAK - refreshments and a game

GROUP ACTIVITIES

1. sort a variety of materials and objects in various ways
2. use magnifying glasses to look closely at the shapes, lines and colours - sketch
3. in pairs, choose a material/object and draw the shapes and lines, make rubbings to reveal textures.
4. make a collection of colours from wool, fabrics, pencils and crayons





WHOLE CLASS ACTIVITY

Use the materials to create a large class collage either outside. If the session is between April and October, this can be left to view the next open weekend so that children can bring their families to look at their work.

TO FINISH

Go on a scavenger hunt in pairs.

Possible Follow Up Activities

- ⊗ Take the children's findings back to school. Repeat activity for further materials/objects. Extend to man made materials.
- ⊗ Use shapes, lines and colours to create a joint collage using fabrics.
- ⊗ Walk around school grounds looking for man made and natural materials and identifying what they are used for.





Where are we? ~ KS1

If QCA Units are used, this programme links with Geography Unit 1, Around School - The Local Area and Unit 5, Where in The World is Barnaby Bear?

MAIN AIMS

- ⊗ To develop curiosity and promote an interest in the natural world and local environment
- ⊗ To ask questions about Hill Close Gardens
- ⊗ Use appropriate vocabulary to describe Hill Close Gardens
- ⊗ Communicate own views about Hill Close Gardens in a variety of ways
- ⊗ Use a map to think about a route and follow this route to get to Hill Close Gardens
- ⊗ Make observations about where things are and consider why

INTRODUCTION IN SCHOOL - This can be done by our Education Officer during a visit to your school, or by the Class Teacher

The class will 'receive' a postcard in the post from Hill Close Gardens. Children will explore their ideas given from the postcard;

What do you think Hill Close Gardens is?

What do you think is there?

Where do you think it is?

What might you do there?

GROUP ACTIVITIES

On a large map, your school and Hill Close Gardens can be located and then the children can work in pairs or small groups to try and find a route from school to the garden.

TO FINISH

Look together to find the best route.

FOLLOW UP VISIT TO HILL CLOSE GARDENS

INTRODUCTION

Look back at the ideas discussed during the visit to school. Explain that today we are going to find out if the ideas were right!

GROUP ACTIVITY

In groups, the children will explore Hill Close Gardens. Each group leader will have a plan and question sheet to focus attention at various features (linked to children's initial ideas of what it would be like). Take photos to take back to school.





BREAK—refreshments and a game

ACTIVITY

Make own postcard from Hill Close Gardens.

TO FINISH

If available, a member, Volunteer or Trustee will join us to give children a chance to find out a little bit more about Hill Close Gardens - talk about their experiences in the garden and time for any questions.





Local Studies - comparing gardens ~ KS1

Children will need to have looked at their own gardens or the school outside areas already OR bring photos of their own garden or school outside areas to compare with Hill Close Gardens.

MAIN AIMS

- ⊗ To develop curiosity and promote an interest in the local environment and natural world
- ⊗ To ask questions about the past at Hill Close Gardens
- ⊗ Use appropriate vocabulary to describe Hill Close Gardens
- ⊗ Communicate own views about Hill Close Gardens in a variety of ways
- ⊗ To identify differences between ways of life at different times
- ⊗ Make observations about the things in Hill Close Gardens and consider why they are there

INTRODUCTION

Start by looking at large photos of my garden, talk about what is in it, why?

If children have already looked at their own gardens or schools outside areas, collect children's ideas of what was in them, if not;

In pairs look at photos of own gardens if they have been able to bring them or other suitable photo.(this could be an outside area in their school). Talk about what they can see, what is it for?

The session leader will collect ideas and scribe the things the children can see in the photos (can be used later as a word bank)

ACTIVITY

Explain that we are going to look around Hill Close Gardens and that it is a very old garden. In small groups, follow a trail to look for clues to see if it is the same or different to our gardens.

CLASS ACTIVITY

What did we see? Look at prepared photos of things that the children would have seen. Make comparisons to our earlier list, asking questions such as, 'Did we see any swings?', 'a sandpit?' etc.

BREAK - refreshments. Play a game outside, direct children to various places/objects around the grassed area, children run/walk/jump, etc to it.





ACTIVITY

Children design a garden that they would like.

FINISH

Look at the gardens created and what is in them





Insect Inspectors ~ KS1

If QCA Units are used, this programme links with Science, Unit 2B, Plants and animals in the local environment

MAIN AIMS

- ⊗ To develop curiosity and promote an interest in the environment
- ⊗ To find and identify a variety of insects
- ⊗ To consider what colour and camouflage
- ⊗ To explore where they are found
- ⊗ To record findings in a variety of ways

INTRODUCTION

Each child will receive an 'Insect Inspectors' pack which includes the 'Mission Documents'.

Explain their mission is to track down the minibeasts of Hill Close Gardens.

ACTIVITY

Split into groups, each group starting at a different area of Hill Close Gardens to explore which minibeasts are there. Collect some minibeasts to bring back to the classroom for further inspection!

BREAK for refreshments and a game

ACTIVITY

'What have we here?' explain they are going to work out what 'gangs' the minibeasts belong to. In small groups, use the 'What have we here' page to classify the minibeasts found. When the minibeasts have been identified, the 'Minibeasts ID Parade' can be completed.

Groups can repeat this activity for minibeasts found in contrasting habitats, or each group can report their findings back to the group.

ACTIVITY

Together, choose one minibeast and find out 'more about your minibeast', considering what they eat and their colour.

Children can then do this in pairs or individually for another insect.

ACTIVITY

'Minibeasts of the future' - children can design their own minibeasts.





TO FINISH

Share minibeasts of the future

If you are staying for a day visit, you can choose from activities;

- ⊗ constructing a variety of minibeasts
- ⊗ exploring camouflage through art work and a game in the gardens

Possible Follow Up Activities

- ⊗ Explore a minibeast further using books and the internet.
- ⊗ Design and make a 'minibeast hotel'.





Maths Workshops ~ FY/KS1/KS2

Maths trails and activities can be planned focusing on shape, pattern, number and measures around the Gardens for all Key Stages. They are linked to the National Curriculum and give children a real life context to practice the skills they have learnt in the classroom. Examples are;

- ⊗ a shape and pattern trail
- ⊗ a number trail
- ⊗ measuring the sizes of beds to work out how many plants are required
- ⊗ using measures to make a scale model of a Victorian Summerhouse

Art Workshops ~ FY/KS1/KS2

Art workshops allow children time to sketch the large variety of trees, plants and flowers and consider size colour, texture and perspective. Activities focusing on a particular elements can be included.

Recycling Workshops ~ FY/KS1/KS2

To find out more about our environmentally friendly Centre and recycling in the Gardens, please contact the Education Officer.

Victorian Plant Hunters ~ KS1/KS2

If QCA Units are used, this programme links with Science, Unit 1B, Growing plants, Unit 2B, Plants and animals in the environment (focusing on plants) and Unit 4B, Habitats

This programme is best done during the Summer months

This Programme is being developed. Please contact the Education Officer to find out more.

