



Lowerhouse Junior School Forest School Overview Sheet







Spring 1 - Year 4



Aims: The Forest School programme for Year 4 focuses on engaging students through hands-on activities that foster teamwork, creativity, and an understanding of the natural world. Session 1 involves mini raft building, where students will construct rafts using natural materials, testing their designs by floating them in a bucket of water to understand the principles of buoyancy and design, linking to the history curriculum on waterways and their importance. In Session 2, students will explore artistic expression through collage by using gutters to transport water and create a collage representing forest waterways, incorporating natural items and coloured paper, aligning with the art curriculum. Session 3 enhances problem-solving skills through teamwork challenges, where teams navigate a ball using gutters and play a card game that promotes collaboration and memory, connecting to PE. Session 4 develops communication skills through a squirrel war game, where blindfolded students are directed by teammates to collect coloured bean bags, enhancing trust and teamwork. In Session 5, students investigate local wildlife by building dens using natural materials, considering animal needs for shelter and camouflage, which ties into PSHE. Finally, Session 6 focuses on fire safety and history, where students discuss the fire triangle, learn safe fire lighting techniques, and enjoy toasting marshmallows, promoting safety awareness.

Curriculum Links:

-  History- Waterways and their importance.
-  Art- Collage.
-  PE- Teamwork/problem solving.
-  PSHE- Animals and their habitats.

Overview:

Session 1: Mini raft building- Building rafts to allow the children to gain a sense of creating structures which based on their purpose. The purpose of raft building is to float across a body of water, which could link in to the waterway's topic. At the end of the raft building, we fill a bucket with water to see whether our rafts float.

Session 2: To start the session, we will use gutters to fill up a bucket of water. The children will stand in a line holding a gutter each, the leader will stand with a jug of water and pour the water into the gutters. Can we manage to get as little water to seep through our gutters as possible?

Using a giant piece of cardboard and both coloured paper and items from the forest, we will create a collage of waterways within a forest environment- different shades of green and blue. We will see whether we can manage to create a meandering effect of the river in our collage.

Session 3: Team work and problem-solving skills. We will once again use the gutters but this time to get a ball from one side of the playground to the other! We will also play the card game, placing a suite of cards face down on the ground, each team has to run up to their suite of cards and flip one over, if it is in the right order of the suite they bring it back to their team, if not they will flip it back face down and the next team member has to try and find the right card. We will finish with alien heads, a scavenger hunt for aliens on small boards which have a name and number; the children have to return to the leader memorising the name and number on the alien they found.

Session 4: Archery/ squirrel war game. We will carry on with team skills in our squirrel war game, where two children stand blindfolded with their teams behind cones standing opposite each other. Each team will have a coloured bean bag, and their team members must direct them towards their colour of beanbag (the bean bag is called the squirrels nut). We will also bring the archery set to this session.

Session 5: In this session we will focus on animals in their habitats by building dens with natural resources in the forest school area. We will think about what materials the animals would use and why, delving into camouflage and predators, storing food and making a warm inner to the shelter filled with foliage.

Session 6: In this session we will look at fire lighting. We talk about the fire triangle (Oxygen, Heat and Fuel) and what it takes to harness fire. We talk about the history of fire and what we have gained from this resource in human nature. We look at what kind of wood is suitable to use for fire and putting fires out safely. This is a great way for children to consider elements of safety and how to keep themselves and others out of harm. We will toast marshmallows and sandwich them into chocolate digestives to make smores as a treat for the end of the term.