

General Habitat Activities

Things you may need:

- Notebook and pencils
- Maps
- Photos of area to be visited
- Coloured paint swatches

- Sketching: Children must look closely at the particular area they are visiting and make a field sketch of it. Also observational drawings of species themselves could be done.
- Photo trail: Children are given previously taken photos and a map of route round the fieldwork habitat. Once out in the field they must walk this trail to find the features in their photos and label them on their map.
- Plants: Comparing plants that live in water to those that do not using different locations, e.g. pond and woodland species. Record differences in the leaves, heights, colours, stems. Where they are growing - sun/shade? How is the plant anchored? Where does the plant get its nutrients and water? Can sunlight reach all the leaves? Is the plant alone or in a group?
- Listen to the World Around You: Sit and listen to the sounds of nature by closing your eyes and counting on your fingers the different sounds you hear. Compare natural and unnatural sounds. Try this in several different habitats such as in a field, near a pond and in a forest and compare the kinds and numbers of sounds heard.
- Discover Colour in Nature: Get 10 old paint swatches of various natural colours from a DIY store. Cut them into individual squares and take them out with you. Children must choose a colour and try to match it with something in the natural environment that is of similar colour. You will be amazed at what colours you can find if you really look!
- Prepare a scavenger hunt of a list of items that children must find and bring back from the habitat that you are visiting. Some examples: Numbers - find leaves with 1/2/3/4/5/6/7 points; Colours - find an example of all the colours in the rainbow, or try to match the colours on their clothing; Shapes - find an example of a circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval, diamond, star, spiral; Vocabulary - find something hard and soft, wet and dry, cold and hot, big and small, tall and short, beautiful and ugly, thick and thin, fragrant and smelly, prickly and smooth; Alphabet - find something beginning with each letter of the alphabet.