



Journey Through the Seasons



Foundation Stage

Summary of Activity

Pupils are given a photograph of their school grounds from the previous season. Pupils use the photographs to explore their school grounds until they identify the area shown in the picture. Pupils then take photographs of the same view but in the current season. Starting from a central point, the pupils walk a route to reach the area in their photograph, collecting objects to record their journey as they go. Ideally this activity would be repeated each season.

Learning Objectives

1. To describe differences between the seasons.
1. To recount a journey.

Preparation

During the previous season, take photographs of the school grounds from a single spot, but facing in different directions.

Make 'Journey Cards' for each pupil. These are strips of card with double-sided sticky tape on.

Resources

- General selection of seasonal images.
- A seasonal song.
- Digital camera.
- Photographs of school grounds from the previous season.
- Journey card for each pupil.

Health and Safety Consideration

1. Refer to your risk assessment for your school grounds.
2. Complete a risk assessment if you leave the school grounds. Refer to Norfolk guidance at www.norfolkesinet.org.uk
3. Consider pupil specific risks.
4. Consider activity specific risks such as picking up harmful objects to include on the Journey Cards, e.g. nettles and thorns.



NWT Upton in Winter



Saving Norfolk's Wildlife for the Future

Activity



Introduction – Sing a Season

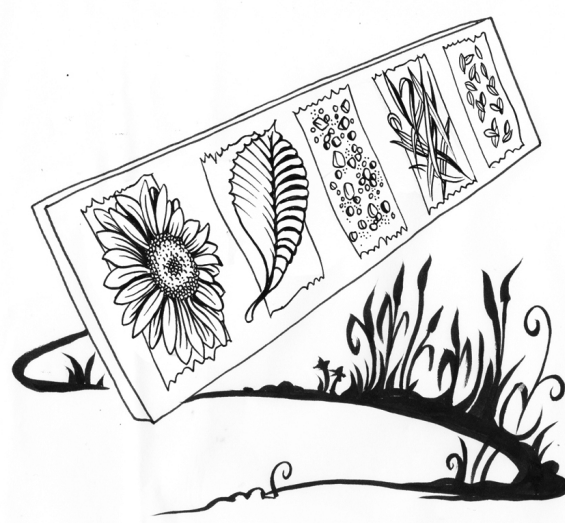
Introduce this activity by reading one of the seed/growing stories listed in the follow-up section.

Main Activity – Journey Cards

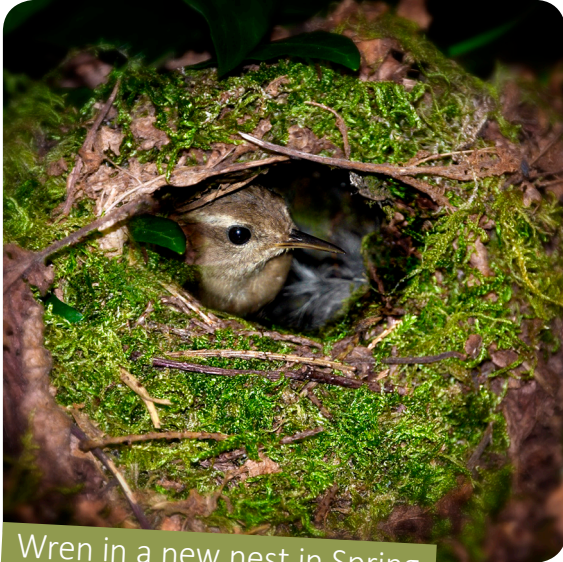
1. Outside in the school grounds organise the class into pairs or small groups. Give each group a photograph of a view of the grounds from the previous seasons, and ask them to identify that view in the grounds.
2. Once they have matched their photograph to a view, help each group to take a digital picture of the view in the current season.
3. Bring the class back to a central point and explain that they are going to go on a journey around their school grounds to reach the area that was in their photograph. It can be as wiggly or straight as they want it to be, as long as they end up at the correct area.
4. Explain that you want the pupils to remember the path they take on their journey, by making a Journey Card. Ask the pupils to stick objects onto their Journey Card that will remind them of the path they take, for example; some grass or a daisy if they are crossing the field, fallen leaves or twigs if they pass by a tree or small stones if they pass through the playground.
5. Emphasise that pupils should stick on their objects in the order they find them along their path, so that one end of the card is the start of the journey and the other is the finish.

Plenary – Recounting Journeys

1. After the class have finished their journeys, arrange pupils into pairs. Ask the pairs to share Journey Cards by guiding their classmates along their journey. Pupils should explain where they collected the objects from, why they chose the object, and use interesting words to describe the texture, shape, size and colour of their objects.
2. Having already downloaded the digital images, compare last season's pictures to this season's pictures. Discuss how the pictures are the same and how they are different.
3. This activity should be repeated each season. Keep the photos and Journey Cards to compare what was recorded each season.



Follow-up Ideas



Wren in a new nest in Spring



If the activity is repeated each season, every year you will be building up a photographic record of the school grounds and how they change through the year. This record can be used when considering what changes staff and pupils would like to make to school grounds.



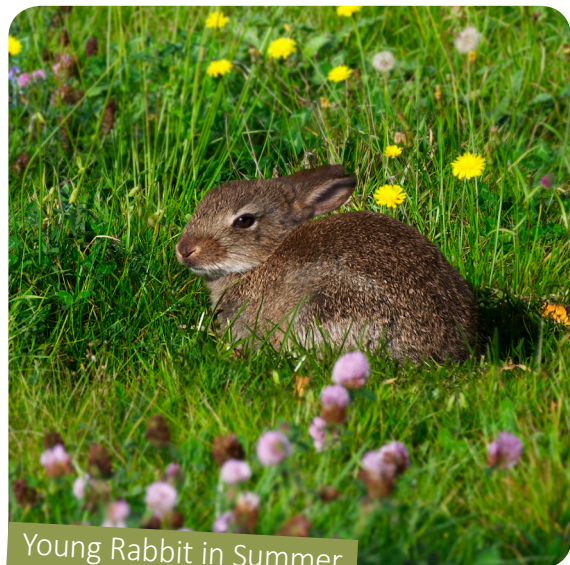
Create a wall display using a large scale plan for school grounds. Help the pupils map their journeys. Include the seasonal photographs and Journey Cards in the display. If possible have a table as part of the display and decorate it with items from the current season.



Create story boxes for each season. Objects to place in the boxes could include appropriate laminated images and items of seasonally appropriate clothing, e.g. scarf or woolly hat. Ensure that boxes contain some natural objects, for example: wildflowers, buds or petals for spring; grass flower heads for summer; fallen leaves and seeds for autumn; and bare twigs and evergreen leaves for winter.



The journey section of this activity could be run as a navigation exercise where the pupils have to use a map of their grounds to find seasonal objects.



Young Rabbit in Summer

Follow-up Ideas



Woodmouse Collecting Food in Autumn



To develop the theme of changes over time, refer to book Window by Jeannie Baker (ISBN 0-7445-9486-3).



Create seasonal collages using natural materials gathered from school grounds to create pictures or patterns.



Use a play-mat and toys to create a model of your school grounds and encourage the pupils to recount their journeys on it.



Book



Continuation



Literacy



Geography



Older



Art



Grounds



Citizenship



Replace the Journey Cards with Journey Sticks. Journey Sticks are sturdy sticks to which different coloured wool is wrapped, and interesting objects tied, in order to remember a journey.



Use images to explore other countries where seasonal changes are different. For example, year round heat at the equator and year round cold at the poles.



Robin and Rosehips in Winter

A Seasonal Song



To be sung to the tune of 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt'

Chorus

We're going on a journey
A long seasonal journey
Spring and Summer
Autumn and Winter

Verses

It is spring-time
Bright and jolly
Blossom on the trees now
Bluebells in the wood now
Oh yes!
We want to look for birds
Chirpy Cheepy
Chirpy Cheepy
Chirpy Cheepy

It is summer
Hot and hazy
The tall trees are green now
Lots of insects fly now
Oh yes!
We want to look for bees
Busy Buzzy
Busy Buzzy
Busy Buzzy

It is autumn
Crisp and crackly
Leaves are on the floor now
All the trees are bare now
Oh yes!
We want to play with leaves
Rustle Crackle
Rustle Crackle
Rustle Crackle

It is winter
Cold and icy
It's really chilly now
Snow is on the ground now
Oh yes!
We want to walk through snow
Crunchy Crispy
Crunchy Crispy
Crunchy Crispy



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