

Dirty Hands Lesson Plan

This activity links with the Travel and Camp on Durable Ground principle of Leave No Trace

Activity: Explore natural surfaces and materials through touch

Learning Objectives: Explore natural materials and understand their role in the natural environment

Links to Curriculum:

SESE Geography Strand: Natural Environments, Strand Unit: The Local Natural Environment

SESE Geography and Science Strand: Environmental Awareness and Care, Strand Unit: Caring for my Locality

SESE Science Strand: Materials, Strand Unit: Properties and characteristics of materials

Time: Introduction 5 minutes, Activity 20 minutes and Wrap-up 10 minutes

Materials: Blindfolds (scarves or material), if conducting this activity in the classroom you will need a selection of natural materials such as sand, rocks, leaves, soil, grass and a container for each (trays or buckets)

Method

1. Introduce the concept of natural materials and surfaces and ask the class for examples
2. Divide the class into pairs
 3. Take the class outside to the school grounds or a predetermined area (this activity works best in an area with several different surfaces)
 4. In each pair, one child wears a blindfold whilst the other child is the guide
 5. The designated 'guide' in each pair leads their partner around the school grounds investigating the different surfaces present
 6. Ask each child to touch, describe and then guess what each surface is (e.g. grass, soil, gravel, rocks, tree roots etc)
 7. Have each pair switch roles and repeat the activity to ensure every student gets the opportunity to investigate the surfaces
 8. Use the reflection questions below to facilitate a class discussion



Reflection:

Were the materials/surfaces natural?

Where would you find each of these materials in the natural world?

Which surface do you think would be best to walk on?

Can our footsteps have different impacts on different surfaces?



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Further Investigation:

Complete the Dirty Hands Quiz to wrap-up the lesson.

To extend the lesson, investigate soil life in the school grounds. Take pupils out to the school grounds to carry out a worm hunt. This can be carried out using just a watering can!

Alternative:

This activity can also be carried out in the classroom. Divide the class into groups (depending on how many types of materials you have). Using scarves or material, blindfold all the pupils or alternatively ask them to close their eyes tightly. Place one of the materials in the centre of each group and ask the pupils to put their hands in and feel the material. Ask pupils to describe what they feel e.g. is it rough/smooth, hard/soft and to guess what they think it could be. Ensure each group gets a chance to investigate and describe all the materials.

For more information on the Travel and Camp on Durable Ground principle and the other Leave No Trace principles visit:

www.leavenotraceireland.org

