



Abstract

Raincliffe Woods, designated as ancient and semi-natural woodland, provides an ideal location to conduct habitat investigations exploring the contrast between broadleaf and coniferous woodland. This visit encourages student to look for evidence on how multi-use and sustainable forests are managed. This is combined with a special awareness walk where children are encouraged to use all their senses and imagination in a series of fun activities investigating the special adaptations of woodland plants and animals.

Learning Objectives:

- To understand the differences between broadleaf and coniferous woodland through microclimate and vegetation studies
- To enhance sensory awareness and imagination through a 'Discovery Trail' of challenges
- To understand the adaptations of woodland animals and plants
- To investigate how woodlands are managed for different user groups and how woodlands can be sustainably managed

Options:

- To further understand the differences between broadleaf and coniferous woodland through 'minibeast safaris'
- To discover the composition of a brown earth soil through the creation of soil profiles
- To enhance creativity through the design of a fantasy forest (**evening**)

Learning Outcomes:

- To measure and record temperature, humidity, wind strength and light levels using the appropriate field equipment
- To use co-ordinates to randomly place quadrats to assess ground species richness
- To use collected data to describe differences between the contrasting woodland areas
- To explain any differences found, demonstrating an understanding of woodland management/ecosystems
- To experience the woodland through a series of challenges relying on different senses, creativity, imagination and teamwork

Options:

- To experience the use of a variety of minibeast safari kit
- To identify and explain any differences in invertebrate abundance and richness between the contrasting areas
- To understand the components of soil
- To complete a labelled and annotated profile of a brown earth soil
- To design a sustainable, multi-use forest using tree ink stamps and a budget for forest facilities (such as nest boxes and benches) (**evening**)