

Plants

Key Stage 1

year 1

(This activity was done in winter when no flowering plants available)

Aim to cover the following points:

- ⤴ plants need **light** and **water** to grow
- ⤴ plants have **roots, stems (trees: trunks, branches, twigs), leaves, flowers** and **seeds**
- ⤴ seeds (various sorts) grow into new plants
- ⤴ different plants grow in different environments – **ponds** and **boggy** areas, **grassland** and **woodland (copse)**
- ⤴ caring for the environment – how and why we look after the **Millennium Green** (bold type = words they should know and understand at the end)

Activities:

- ⤴ Using their senses (not taste!) - close eyes and listen, feel bark, stems and leaves, smell water mint, look for and at things
- ⤴ collecting some items to take back
- ⤴ 'playing' with seeds – burdocks and ash keys
- ⤴ pull up some willow herb (roots) (and mud!)
- ⤴ meet the sheep (if they will be met!)
- ⤴ help with management by cutting something back with shears, loppers and /or secateurs

Introduction to MG and safety – on arrival at entrance to MG

Look at ducks and nest boxes. Briefly talk about what they think plants are. Parts of plant and what they need to grow.

Roots and stems

divide into 2 groups then swap

1. go to wet boggy area and pull up a willow herb each – can they find ones as tall as themselves. These are last years dead plants – look at stems and especially roots. Can you smell a minty smell where you have been trampling about in mud – can you find the water mint? *Meet up at decaying log*
2. go to copse via boardwalk – close eyes and listen for dead leaves rustling and birds

Look at large roots of trees across moat and big oak. Age of trees – so big so trunks, branches and twigs are their stems. Feel trunks and twigs and dead leaves. New trees grow from seeds – everybody find a baby tree in the copse and stand by it. Point out holly and ivy and yew.

Meet up again at decaying log and give out pots to collect things. Get at least 10 different 'plant things' in each pot eg different shaped leaves, berries, seeds, catkins, grass leaves.....

Flowers

Not the right time of year for flowers – why? But look out for any.

One plant shows signs of flowering – hazel catkins. (Hazel nuts and squirrels).

Look at and round ponds and for items to collect including catkins as you go over to the picnic tables.

Seeds

Whole group at the picnic tables

Q what seeds have you seen so far? *Berries*.....Seeds form new plants.

divide into 2 groups then swap

1. every body get at least one burdock. Look at them closely (with lens?) – hooks, like velcro. 'Stick' to a friend - discuss how these seeds are spread.
2. Collect ash keys from big ash tree – look at seed and 'propeller' then fly them and discuss how these are spread. Remember ash seedling in copse.

Caring for the environment

Whole group at picnic tables

Q what would happen by the time you are grown up if we just left the MG alone?

Q how can we stop it all getting overgrown ?

Cutting for hay in field 1 and using sheep as 'lawn mowers' in F2

2 groups then swap

1. cut back some scrub
2. meet (or look for!) the sheep – how many?