

Winter Magic!

Interactive Tour and Hands-On Activity

Class Level: 1st to 6th Class **Group size:** 30 max per visit

Duration of visit: 2.5 Hours **Part One:** Interactive Tour (1 Hour) **Break:** 30 minutes

Part Two: Hands-On Activity (1 hour)

Part One: Winter Nature Ramble

Curriculum Links:

SESE Science (Living Things: Plants & Animals; Processes of Life)

SESE Geography (Natural Environments: Weather & Climate; Planet Earth in Space)

SESE History (Skills: Time & Chronology)

Brief Description:

An introduction to the Museum and staff, followed by a short question and answer session on the topic of seasons, climate and weather, using a globe as a teaching aid. Irish native woodlands and the origins of the woods at Turlough Park are outlined followed by a brief safety talk on how the class will proceed through the woods and along the lakeside.

The life cycle of plants and trees and animal behaviour in winter time will be explored through brainstorming and observation of the woodlands and the 'key' as a scientific tool will be introduced and used throughout the walk. Children will be able to expand the key by the end of the session.

Aims & Objectives:

To use the woodland environment at Turlough Park to illustrate how winter affects trees, plants and animals and why. Children will learn about the seasons and their connection to planet Earth in space as well why Ireland has a temperate climate that is similar or different to other climates across the world.

The seasonal changes in appearance or behaviour of plants, trees and animals will be investigated and an awareness of how nature recycles materials encouraged. Using and expanding a simple key to identify trees without leaves will aid in developing the skills of observation and classification.

Preparation needed:

Any previous nature work will be beneficial.

Materials & Equipment:

Suitable outdoors shoes and jackets. Globe, tree key, twigs key, clip boards, pencils. Materials will be provided.

Follow Up Activities:

A Seasonal Tree Wall Chart

Teacher's Comments:

"Very well presented, good interaction with children and very relevant to school curriculum." Craggagh NS

"One of the best tours I've seen in 30 years of teaching." Killawalla NS



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Part Two: Hands-On Activity (1 hour)

Part Two: Make a Hanging Cake for Birds

Curriculum Links:

SESE Science (Living Things: Plant & Animal Life.

Energy & Forces: Heat. Materials: Properties & Characteristics of Materials; Materials & Change.

Environmental Awareness & Care; Caring for my Locality)

(Skills: Observe, Question, Estimate & Measure).

SESE Geography (Natural Environments: Weather & Climate).

Brief Description:

Children will be divided up into groups to work together to make a Hanging Cake bird feeder. They will gain insight into why birds might need extra help with feeding in the winter months as well as which food types, birds (and ourselves) require and why. The skills required are weighing, measuring, estimating and mixing the ingredients. Through heating and cooling the fat, the children will see how its characteristics can change and how important this change in consistency is, to making a successful bird feeder.

Aims & Objectives:

Complementing the Winter Magic! Nature Ramble, this activity aims to show how the availability of food for birds is affected by seasonal change. Using a hands-on approach the children will gain insight into the different food types (fat, carbohydrates and protein) and why birds (and humans) require these for health, growth and warmth. By making the Hanging Cake children will need to use SESE Science skills to

produce a cake that works and will gain an awareness of how heat and cold can change the characteristics and therefore the uses, of a material.

Preparation needed:

Any previous class work on the effects of seasonal changes on bird life and the food pyramid is useful.

Materials & Equipment:

Children may like to find and bring in their own recycled container. A plant pot or margarine tub of 250g volume. Measuring cups, knife, electric rings, string, rulers, scissors, bowls, spoons, lard, peanuts, seeds, crumbs. All other materials and equipment will be provided.

Follow Up Activities:

Recording the birds that visit the hanging cake at school using a reference book to identify each bird.

Teacher's Comments:

"....perfect for our pupils. Good structure, good timing, lot's of hands on. Thank you."

St. Bríd's Special School

"The children liked everything about making the (hanging) cake." **Aughlasheen NS**



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