



Forest School Summer 2 Session 3



In these sessions we will be sharing inspiration, facts & ideas for activities

Did You Know?

Saturday 20th of June is the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year, mid summers day, we will have 16 hours and 38 minutes of daylight on that day. But on the other side of the world, in Australia for example, on the same day, it is their Winter Solstice and they will only have about 9 hours daylight.

Activity:

I have been wondering about the weather, in one day we have had lovely warm sunshine, wild fresh winds and big rain showers. Which is your favourite weather?

What do you like doing in the sunshine?



I've been growing some food; corn, beans, squash, blackcurrants, peas and potatoes

All those plants need plenty of sunshine, rain and wind

The sunshine makes me thirsty, luckily I can get a drink of water from my kitchen tap, plants and animals get their water from the rain. If it doesn't rain they go thirsty so we might need to help them out

I made a watering hole for wildlife, I used a shallow tray, big enough for a bird to bath in, I filled it with water and then I put some small stones in so that if any insects fell in they would be able to climb out and dry off



Can you make a mini pond or bird bath? You could design a swimming pool for wildlife, how deep would it need to be for all the different animals? What features would make it fun for woodlice to wood pigeons?



Which animals would you like to visit your swimming pool?

Now its raining – I went outside in the rain, its was cool and refreshing, I collected it in buckets, I've watched raindrops race down the windows, and I've jumped in puddles but I don't need to water the plants today. What is your favourite activity in the rain?

My cat runs about madly in the wind, the birds seem to use the wind to fly faster, spiders and butterfly's have been spotted high in the sky using wind to migrate. Painted Lady butterfly's travel all the way from Africa to the UK on their migration



What do you like doing in the wind?



I made a wind catcher to play in the wind

You will need a plastic bag, some string, some scissors and some coloured pens

- decorate your bag
- cut three pieces of string, two short and one long
- tie the short pieces to the bag handles then tie them together and attach the long piece

If there is no wind you might be able to make it fly by running along holding the end of the long string

Fact: My Blackcurrant berries are swelling and getting sweeter in the sunshine, the plant uses the sunshine, water sucked up from the roots and co2 from the air to make sugars in its leaves, the sugar gets sent round the plant in a liquid called sap. When I looked closer there are other creatures enjoying the sugary sap, little aphids are sucking sap out of the plants shoots, and then as I looked I saw some ants who were 'farming' the aphids, protecting them because the ants favourite food is the sweet secretions, called honeydew, that come from the aphids – what can you see on your plants?



Flower of the week:



Herb Robert



Garden Geranium

Herb Robert is a pretty pink wild flower, it has 5 petals, red stems and light green leaves with frilly edges. It grows on the edges of woodland or under hedges, it has quite a strong smell and if you rub it on your skin it is said that the smell will repel midges

Herb Robert is from the Geranium family which also includes popular garden and house plants

Time to Reflect: What is your favourite weather? Can you think of fun activities for wind or rain and go outside next time the weather changes to try them out

