



Forest School Session 5

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

Did You Know?

The days will continue to get longer until the summer solstice, mid summer, the longest day of the year, which is generally June 21st. After the solstice the days will start to get shorter, but there will still be more hours of daylight than darkness until September 21st, this is how the trees tell the time and know when to grow

Activity:

Can you make a magical woodland person, it could be a stick-man, a grass fairy or a peg doll

Go outside and look for some materials: I picked a dandelion stalk, (the flowers from week 2), one where the seeds had blown away; some sticky weed which is good for attaching things; and some plantain because there was lots growing where it shouldn't be – making it a weed.



This is who I made:

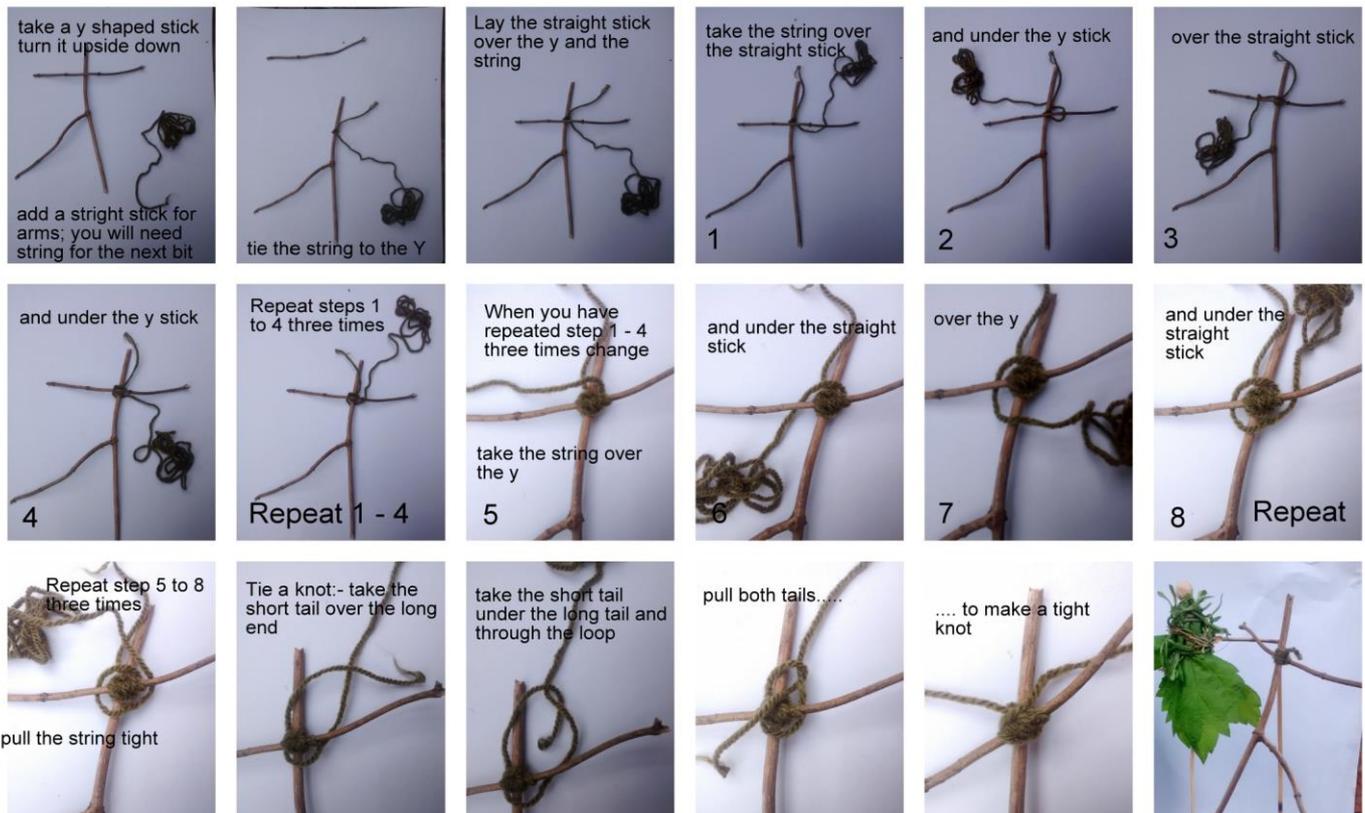
Dancing Dandelion was impatient to get going, but Prince Plantain wanted his clothes to look just right before they set off to the Butterfly



Ball.

At the photo booth they met Peggy Doll who was delighted to be outside in the fresh air, and Stick Man was so excited he had forgotten his trousers!

But off they all went on their garden adventures perhaps they will find the den you made last week? Remember the y shaped stick for making a den? You can use it to make a stick man too, just turn it upside down



Fact: As soon as the daylight increases trees start growing faster, they produce flowers to attract pollinating insects, once pollinated the petals fall from the flowers and the seed carriers begin to grow with a precious seed inside. Tree seeds carriers include fruit, nuts, cones and wings, they take all summer to grow and will be ready to carry the seed away in Autumn, when the days get shorter again.

Trees of the week: can you guess what seed carriers these trees will have?

Cherry Tree - know for its spring blossom, big bunches of small pink or white flowers with 5 round petals, the twigs are smooth and shiny and the leaves are a simple oval shape with serrated edges. Most of the blossom will have blown away by now, but look closely and you can see cherries growing, they have the seed inside and will turn red when ripe



Horse Chestnut – they are one of the first trees to flower, their flowers stand up above the leaves like candles, the leaves have 5 big fingers all on one stalk. Do you know what their brown shiny nuts, hidden in green spiky shells, which children love to collect in autumn, are called * ?

Time to Reflect: What was your forest person called? What adventures did they get up to and how did they feel? What would their three Beltain wishes be?

* the nut from a Horse Chestnut tree is called a Conker, it comes in a green or brown spiky shell, squirrels like to eat them, children like to play with them

