

LEAF Lesson Plan



SEED GAME

Suitable for
AGES 6 - 12

LEARNING
ABOUT
FORESTS

Aim: To explain in an active way that tree seeds grow into new trees, provided they have the right conditions

Age: 6 to 12

Duration: 30 minutes

Materials:

Plant seed cards

Before the lesson, the teacher will need to print & cut out the sun, soil, air & water pictures. If using outdoors we recommend you laminate each sheet before cutting out the individual pictures.

Lesson Objective:

- 🌱 Pupils will learn that trees produce seeds which can grow into new trees
- 🌱 Pupils will learn that all seeds need, air, water and warmth to turn into a new plant (germinate)
- 🌱 Pupils will learn that plants need water, sunlight, soil and air to grow
- 🌱 Pupils will learn that seeds can move away from their parent (disperse) by using wind, animals or water.

Summary of Actions:

Discuss seeds with the children. Ask questions such as

- ➡ What is a seed?
- ➡ Do you know where seeds come from?
- ➡ Do you know the names of any seeds (e.g. conker, acorn)?

Explain that Coillte and other organisations collect seeds from the forest to grow into new trees in a nursery. But in nature, seeds fall from the parent tree, and are carried away from their parent by wind, water or animals. If conditions are right where they land, they can grow into new trees.

Discuss why seeds need to move away from their parents. If they grew close to the parent they might not have enough space, light or water.

Explore - Look around for seeds on the ground, or for brand new tiny trees (seedlings) that are just beginning to grow.

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Activity - Tell the students that they are going to be seeds. They have travelled from their parent tree with the help of an animal, the wind or water (depending on what type of seed they are) and have landed somewhere on the forest floor.

Ask the students to spread out from each other about 3 to 4 meters apart. Tell them to crouch down and pretend they are seeds, they are then not allowed to walk away from their chosen place.

Tell them it has rained a little, there is air in the soil and it is now the correct temperature for them to germinate, so they can 'grow' into a small seedling (germinate)- wiggling their toes as roots, and stretching to become seedlings, standing up with their first two leaves.

Now they are seedlings and still cannot move around (because real seedlings don't walk), but they can lean from side to side.

Randomly sprinkle the seed cards on the floor among the students, and tell them they need to lean over to collect as many seed cards as they can reach. In order to survive, they will need to collect at least one of each.

Discuss which seedlings survived - only the ones who managed to collect sun, water, soil and air will continue to grow.

Extension: Ask the children to look around the area and decide where they would like to land if they were a seed.

Discuss why or when seedlings might struggle to get enough light (in shaded areas), water (in a hot, dry summer), air (under water) or soil (on concrete).

Encourage the students to spend a few minutes looking at the trees around them, then discuss some of the following questions:

- ➔ Are all the trees the same size? Same colour? Same species?
- ➔ How does the bark feel?
- ➔ Can you identify the different parts of a tree?

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