



ACTIVITY KITS

For Outdoor Learning

In order to be prepared for activities outdoors, create student learning kits with a few basic essentials for outdoor learning.

Basic Outdoor Learning Kit

One kit for every student recommended

Materials:

- 1 personal waterproof kit bag to store personal equipment in (a small knapsack, extra-large zip-lock bag, small garbage bag)
- 1 waterproof "sit-upon" (instructions below)
- 1 personal journal (unlined is best) inside its own zip-lock bag
- 1 fat primary pencil for drawing
- 1 regular HB pencil and/or pen for note taking
- 1 clipboard
- Pack of coloured pencils
- Large bandana for blindfold games and in case of spills or accidents

Nature Study Kit | Supplementary

One kit per 2-3 students

Materials:

- 1 or 2 transparent collecting boxes or jars for small insects and spiders
- Several small plastic bags for collecting plants, fungus, rocks etc.
- String
- Hand lens or jeweller's loop (one per student is ideal)
- Assorted field guides (Birds, Trees, Plants, Insects, Mushrooms etc.)
- Small jars or insect collection containers
- 1 metre measuring tape

Landscape Study Kit | Supplementary

One kit per 2-3 students

Materials:

- Magnetic compasses (one per 2 students)
- Long tape measure (15 metres) or trundlewheel (2 or 3 per class is sufficient)
- Spools of coloured string
- Coloured flagging tape
- Graph paper (various sizes)
- Base maps (cadastral) of school grounds and community

Time and Change Studies Kit | Supplementary

One kit per 2-3 students

Materials:

- Weather instruments (thermometers, rain gauge, barometer, wind gauges etc.)
- Stop watches
- Cloud charts, snow classification charts etc.

Stewardship Activities Kit | Supplementary

One kit per 2-3 students

Materials:

- Gardening tools (plastic spades etc.)
- Gardening resource books
- Large plastic bin (for worm composting)
- Water testing kit (pH test, dissolved O₂, test beakers, aquatic invertebrate field guides etc.)

How to Make Your Own Sit-Upon

A "sit-upon" is a waterproof cushion used for sitting on grass, logs or anywhere outside. Having a sit-upon keeps children's bottoms dry and comfortable while writing in journals, drawing, quiet listening and rest times. This cheap and cheerful sit-upon is made of one section of the daily newspaper, folded in half, tightly wrapped with a large plastic bag and taped shut. Another option is to use a piece of soft cushion foam or a foam jigsaw block instead of newspaper. They should be kept small enough to fit neatly into the student's Basic Kit bag.

How to Make Your Own Lightweight Clipboard

An inexpensive, lightweight, versatile and durable clipboard can be made from rigid Styrofoam poster backing board (foamcore). This rigid foam board is easy to cut with a sharp utility knife. Cut to 8 1/2"×11" size. It is relatively water-resistant and will not go soft when wet. It weighs very little, but has a hard surface that is excellent to write on. Use butterfly clips to hold down paper work. Fit the clipboard inside an extra-large zip-lock bag when working outside in damp and wet weather.



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