



Educational Visits to Ashdown Forest – KS2 Sessions

Choose from the sessions below or let us know what learning or experience you would like your pupils to gain, and we can put together a bespoke day for you. All our sessions are interactive, involve some walking across the Forest and promote curiosity and care for the natural world.

Sessions generally run from 10am to 2.30pm and are based at the Ashdown Forest Centre.

- **Adaptation and Inheritance**

Evolution has enabled animals and plants to adapt to the ecosystem they live in. Compare the animals and plants of the heathland and woodland to see how each is adapted for their specific habitat. Explore the habitats and their different characteristics with games and activities. The species of Ashdown Forest provided the inspiration for one of Darwin's books. Develop the scientific questioning that Darwin was so good at.

Curriculum links: Science living things and their habitats, evolution and inheritance

- **Climate Change (Year 5 and 6)**

Explore the vitally important issue of climate change in an age-appropriate way. Understand what it is and learn how it effects biodiversity with activities and games. Understand how what we do can impact on the climate and reflect on positive, personal action for change.

Curriculum links: Geography, Science, PSHE

- **Environmental Art**

Explore form and colour in the landscape. Look at the shapes you see in the landscape. Develop sketching skills using a variety of materials including fingers, charcoal, sticks and oak gall ink. Make your own nature paints from things you find along the way or make your own charcoal pencils . Consider the work of land artists such as Andy Goldsworthy or Richard Long and create your own land art using found objects.

Curriculum links: Art and design, Science materials

- **Habitat Study**

Compare and contrast woodland and heathland habitats on the Forest with activities and games. Discover the adaptations of plants and animals living in each place. Understand the food chains and life cycles of key heathland species. Optional: explore how simple keys can be used to identify species and create your own keys or conduct a scientific study using a quadrat to explore biodiversity in each habitat.

Curriculum links: Science

- **Maps**

A chance to spend the day exploring whilst developing map work skills. Includes using maps of different scales and styles, grid references, sketching and the points of the compass.

Curriculum links: Geography

- **Nature v Nurture**

A day of practical fieldwork and discussion to explore the challenges and conflicts facing management of the Ashdown Forest today. Having looked at how human activity has played a part in creating the landscape we see today we will consider if cutting down trees is ever the right thing to do and look at what would be lost if we don't!

Curriculum links: Geography, Science

- **Poetry**

Take inspiration from the wonderful poems of local authors Rudyard Kipling and AA Milne and explore the Ashdown Forest and use it as stimuli for writing. Discover different ways of experiencing the world around us through sensory activities. Use sensory and emotional responses to the natural world to create your own poems. Extend your vocabulary with words from nature. Focus on *The Way Through the Woods* (Kipling) or *The Charcoal Burner* (Milne) to imagine the life and history of the Forest.

Curriculum links: English

- **Rocks and soils**

Take a closer look at the underlying rocks of the Ashdown Forest. Find out about the different soils and how they affect the types of plants that grow here. Discover how the rocks and soils of the Forest dictated how it has been used by people over time. Hunt for iron in the rock and find out how this affects the streams that cross the site.

Curriculum links: Geography, Science, History

- **Stone Age**

Try out new skills and discover what you would need to survive in the Stone Age. Develop hunting skills, learn about tracking animals, have a go at making an arrow and search for wild food. Handle Stone Age artefacts that provide evidence pre-historic people hunted on the Forest. Build a temporary shelter using found materials.

Curriculum links: History, Technology

- **A Walk though Time - a historical study of the Forest**

Discover how the Forest has been used from the Stone Age to the modern day. Understand how this has changed the Forest. Explore the area's history with activities and drama games as you walk across the landscape. Discover how maintaining this internationally important wildlife site for conservation draws on the historic land uses.

Curriculum links: History

- **Time Travellers**

A chance to find, identify and explore archaeological features next to the Forest Centre.

Curriculum links: History

- **Forest School**

Bring your class to the beautiful Ashdown Forest for regular Forest School sessions at our newly developed Forest School site near to the Education Barn. It is also available for one off, or once a term, sessions. In addition to the site, we have the different habitats of the Forest to explore, which gives lots of opportunities to walk increasing fitness and well-being.

- **John Muir Award**

Upper KS2 classes can work towards gaining this nationally recognised award by taking time to explore and get to know the Ashdown Forest as part of their award programme. We can help create a John Muir Award programme for your school.

- **Free Outreach sessions**

Use an outreach session before or after your visit to consolidate learning or to enrich topic work. Outreach sessions can be workshops of any length up to a day per class or a general introduction to the whole school for example through an assembly. Topics for outreach sessions can support any of the above sessions and are free of charge to schools within 15 miles of the Ashdown Forest.

