

Teacher lesson idea

Guess my name

Younger KS2 children enjoy creating mysteries and riddles for their classmates to solve. With this in mind, a cross-curricular lesson involving guessing which tree others are describing, can help them to identify trees and use descriptive language whilst doing so. Their writing should take the form of a poem or riddle.

Online help with tree recognition:

www.british-trees.com

www.naturedetectives.org.uk

www.saps.plantsci.cam.ac.uk

Illustrated guides:

Collins photographic key to trees ISBN 0-00-219840-1,

Readers Digest field guide to the Trees & Shrubs of Britain ISBN 0-276-00218-0

Undertake the first part of this lesson in a wood so pupils can observe the trees.

You will need:

Prepared identification information outlining the characteristics of three or four trees which should detail silhouette, leaf shape, fruits & seeds etc. (see above). Worksheet (supplied) for each child or group.

- Allocate the children to one of the chosen trees in the wood and help them to identify it using an identification guide. They can work alone or in small groups
- Encourage them to closely observe the characteristics of each tree ie feel, smell and listen as well as look
- They can then record their descriptions on the worksheet
- Use these details to write a poem about their chosen tree

- Decide on the structure of the poem you would like them to write eg the second and fourth lines to rhyme
- Set the number of verses according to the ability of the children
- Emphasize that the poem should be written in the first person, imagining they are the tree when they are writing
- Remind them not to include the tree's name in the poem as others will be trying to guess it

Later:

- Display your prepared identification material for the children to observe
- Get the children to read aloud their poems for the rest of the class to guess which tree they are

A prior visit to the wood will enable you to check which tree species are present.

Choose four or five different species and use one of the tree identification resources listed to help you prepare a visual display of key features for each tree. Actual samples from the wood could also be used. Display these to the class whilst their poems are being read aloud. This will help the children to match the descriptions in the poems with the features of the tree in order to 'Guess the name'. Reveal the names of the trees after everyone has read their poems.

Additional resources:

For a drama activity for upper KS2 children see the *Trees Uncovered* activity sheet on this site.

For further creative writing ideas try the online *Concrete Poetry* resource on this site (suitable for lower KS2 & upper KS1).



Pupil worksheet

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