Our official Gruffalo Teacher’s Pack

A curriculum-linked pack of activities provided by the Forestry Commission for Early Years and Key Stage 1

forestry.gov.uk/gruffaloteaching
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TOP TIP FOR TEACHERS
Feel free to use the whole pack, or just individual programmes or activities.
Scene setting

Get to know The Gruffalo story, the characters and the forest environment

Aim of this section
To enable children to become familiar with the story, and familiar with the forest

Preparation

- Find your nearest Forestry Commission woodland at forestry.gov.uk/visit.
- For health and safety advice and to find out how the Forestry Commission looks after the nation’s forests, visit forestry.gov.uk/learning and click on ‘downloads’.
- If you are planning to visit, or would like more info or advice, please contact the Forestry Commission learning team – visit forestry.gov.uk/learning and click on ‘contacts’.

TOP TIP FOR TEACHERS

Some children will be totally unfamiliar with the forest environment – you could show them photos, or have a table with things you have collected e.g. leaves, cones, branches.

forestry.gov.uk/gruffaloteaching
Read The Gruffalo story, and discuss some of the following questions with your group...

Where is the story set?
- In the deep, dark wood.
- Why do you think it is called the dark wood?
- Maybe it is shady because of all the trees.
- What is another name for a wood?
- A forest, a copse, woodland.

What is a forest like? What is there?
- Trees, other plants, mud, water, open space, animals and birds...
- Where is the nearest forest?
- Do you know the names of any local or famous forests?
- The children may have heard of Sherwood Forest or the Amazon for example.

Who are the characters in the story?
- Mouse, Fox, Snake, Owl and Gruffalo.
- What other animals and birds can you see in the pictures in the book?
- Kingfisher, frog, dragonfly, squirrel, butterfly, woodpecker.
- Any other plants or living things?
- Toadstools, flowers, trees.
- Can you think of any other animals and birds that live in the forest?
Where are the animals' homes?
Underground, in a tree, in a log pile (sometimes called a timber stack).

Why is there a log pile?
Some of the trees have been cut down.

Why? What for?
To provide timber to make things.

Who has been to a forest? Where?
When? What did you do there?
What activities do you think people can do in forests?
Walk the dog, go birdwatching, camp, run, play, build dens.

Forests and trees are really important – why?
They provide food for animals and people, homes and habitats, jobs, timber and oxygen; trees store carbon, so they can reduce the effects of climate change; forests are also fantastic places to enjoy and visit.

What about forests in other parts of the world? Children may be aware of rainforests or the Amazon?
Some rainforests are not looked after properly, so that when trees are cut down (felled) it is a bad thing, BUT if forests are looked after carefully and responsibly, and more trees are planted, it is ok to fell trees.

Forestry Commission woodlands are cared for following long term management plans, that ensure that when trees are felled, they are replaced as appropriate.