



Outdoor STEM

Title

Build A Squirrel Nest

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lesson, students will learn:

- To work as a team to solve a problem
- To measure accurately
- To understand why red squirrels are endangered and how to help
- To learn how to make solid structures and tie knots.

Lesson Description

- Introduce the red squirrel character (you can ask the children to give it a name).
- Share a presentation about red squirrels and why they are an endangered species.
- Introduce the challenge of building a nest in a team for the squirrel using only string scissors and natural material.
- Introduce success criteria for the nest.

For example

- 1.50 cm above the ground.
- It must be warm and comfortable
- Squirrel fits in the nest.
- Make a store that fits six acorns
- The store must have a roof that opens

- Build nests in areas which are well-resourced with natural materials.
- Discuss the need to build a platform that fits the squirrel's body size. Learners can measure the squirrel's dimensions.
- Demonstrate basic knot-tying techniques.
- When finished, ask learners to show their nests to their peers, discussing their designs while reflecting on how they achieved the success criteria and teamwork skills they used.

Curriculum Links

- Measurement
- Problem-solving
- Teamwork
- Building solid structures
- Conservation and sustainability

Age Range

- KS2 (8-12 years olds)



Resources

- Squirrel cuddly toy
- Scissors
- Measuring sticks and rulers
- String
- Cards with success criteria
- Presentation about red squirrels

Extension Links

- Project about why red squirrels are endangered and how to help them.
- Film a news report about red squirrels.
- Write instructions on how to build a squirrel nest.