

Forest Animals – Day 1

1. Hello song

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCLjdL8g-8s>

Using the song make a mountain out of paper, make it tall enough so children don't see what is behind it. They grab the binoculars and the teacher puts a forest animal behind it.

*Mitko went over the mountain
Mitko went over the mountain
Mitko went over the mountain
To see what's in the forest.*

*Mitko, what do you see?
I see a bear.*



2. Day, weather, season

3. Songs

Four little foxes- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik8GS-6ur1o>

The Fox- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drWHI-l_Gew

Grey squirrel- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1U5i_scF_M

Hide and seek- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tP4_XQO8UVg

The bear went over the mountain- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCLjdL8g-8s>

Forest dance- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwx2y-E2Ds&feature=emb_logo

The owl song-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kEjZHKXLDg&index=4&list=PL0XbPad5t90pwH6yr0g4-MU0PzavvmlR->

4. Drama

Once upon a time a king, a queen and their prince lived in a palace. The prince was very lonely, he didn't have any friends.

So he asked his parents if he could go on a trip in the forest to look for some friends.

Teacher puts tiny little animals under the colourful cups (flashcards also possible).

As the prince walks around the woods, students pick the cups up and ask the animal underneath.

Hello, skunk!

Can you be my friend.

After the prince collects all the animals, they go to the forest together.



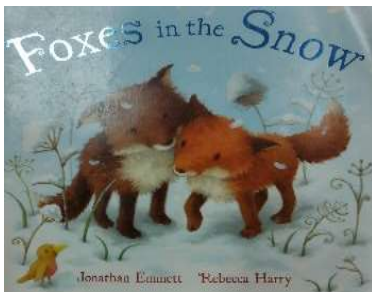
5. Action game

Students stand opposite each other on both sides of the line. Put TPRs in front of each pair, a soft ball on top, stick small pictures of forest animals.

Teacher starts calling out body parts (head, tummy, eyes, etc.). Students have to touch them. At certain point the teacher calls out the forest animal that is on the soft ball. The first child to get it wins.



6. Story time



7. Maths- Have you seen my little fox? (it can be done with different animals)

(Sung to: [The Muffin Man | Kids Songs | Super Simple Songs - YouTube](#))

Draw a burrow on a big flip chart paper sheet.

Print and laminate foxes. Prepare number cards with dots (if children don't recognize numbers).

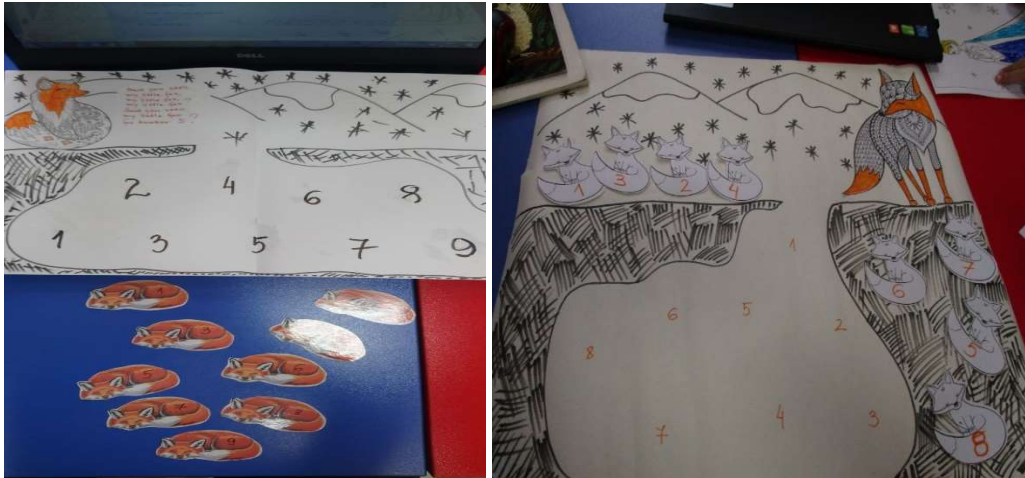
Every child picks a number card, counts the dots and puts the corresponding foxes in the den. Before every child matches the number of the fox to the corresponding number in the den, teacher sings the song.

Have you seen my little fox, my little fox, my little fox?

Have you seen my little fox, my little fox, my little fox?

Fox number 5.

(Students have to find fox number 5 and put it back in the den.)



8. Phonics

Revise Jolly phonics songs

After each song, put water on a letter sound. Students predict what the colour of the letter sound is.



Forest Animals – Bears – Day 2

1. Hello song

[Bear Song - YouTube](#)

Use the eight bears from the song to teach the types of bears

Hello Denis, hello Denis.

What are you?

*I am a sloth bear.
I am a sloth bear.
How do you do?*

2. Day, weather, season

3. Songs

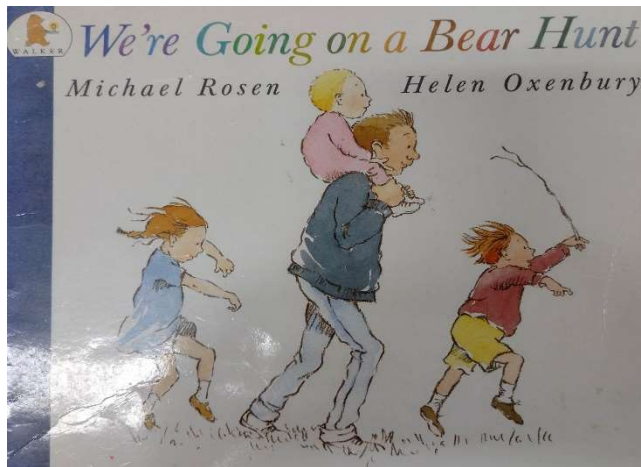
[The Bear Went Over The Mountain | Super Simple Songs - YouTube](#)

[Going on a Bear Hunt - The Kiboomers Preschool Songs for Circle Time - YouTube](#)

[The Bear Hunt Song 🐻 Starring Matt from Dream English 🐻 Brain Breaks Songs by The Learning Station - YouTube](#)

[🐻 We're Going On a Bear Hunt 🐻 | BOOK | Kids' Poems and Stories With Michael Rosen - YouTube](#)

4. Story – We are going on a bear hunt



5. Drama – Make a cardboard display and use the family puppets to retell the story





6. Action game/ Maths



Stick bears with numbers in different parts of the room (if possible, hide them). Put a cave in the middle of the room.

Chant:

*Have you seen a little bear
A little bear
A little bear
Have you seen a little bear
Bear number 5.*

Students find bear number 5 and take it to the cave.

7. Learning circle / Rhyme – opposites

Students pair up and practise opposites with this lovely rhyme.
Encourage them to use different voices or act out the different adjectives.

Fast/ Slow- sitting in the snow
Early/ Late- sitting on a gate
Mean/ Nice- sitting on the ice
Wobbly/ Straight- sitting on a gate
Serious/ Silly- sitting on a lily
Near/ Far- sitting in a car
Quiet/Loud- sitting on a cloud

Two Little Blackbirds (9 verses!): Storytime Fingerplay – YouTube



8. Game – Bear and honey game

Students have to fill their jars with honey. The first one to get 7 drops of honey wins. But if they draw the bear card, the bear eats all the honey and they have to put it back and start again.

Every time they get a honey card, they have to say:

A drop of honey in my jar.



9. Action song- We are going on a bear hunt by Dr. Jean (funny version)

[Going On a Bear Hunt with Dr. Jean - YouTube](#)

10. Craft – We are going on a bear hunt

Prepare a poster sheet for each child. Reproduce the route in the story, step by step. Have craft materials ready for the children to recreate each place on the hunt. Repeat the rhyme as they do each place.



Forest Animals – Animals actions and homes – Day 3

1. Hello song

What do animals do in the forest?

Use big flashcards to talk about what animals do in the forest.

Write big number on the back of the cards and stick them on the WB so that students don't see them.

Ask them to come to the board and pick a card, see what the animals are doing and sing a song:

*Hello Mite, Hello Mite,
What are you doing?
I am eating, I am eating.
How about ...Albenka?*



2. Day, weather, season

3. Songs

Four little foxes- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik8GS-6ur1o>

The Fox- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drWHI-l_Gew

Grey squirrel- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1U5i_scF_M

Hide and seek- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tP4_XQQ8UVg

The bear went over the mountain- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCLjdL8g-8s>

Forest dance- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rwxi2y-E2Ds&feature=emb_logo

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4. Learning circle- Let's take a walk in the forest!
(Sung to Let's take a walk around the farm)

[Animal Homes Vocabulary for Kids - YouTube](#)

Draw a den, burrow, a log, a tree, a nest, a beehive, a cave, etc. on a flip chart paper. Prepare pictures of forest animals. One for each animal home.

Let's take a walk around the forest

Around the forest

Around the forest

Let's take a walk around the forest

Around the forest

What do you see?

I see a bird in a nest

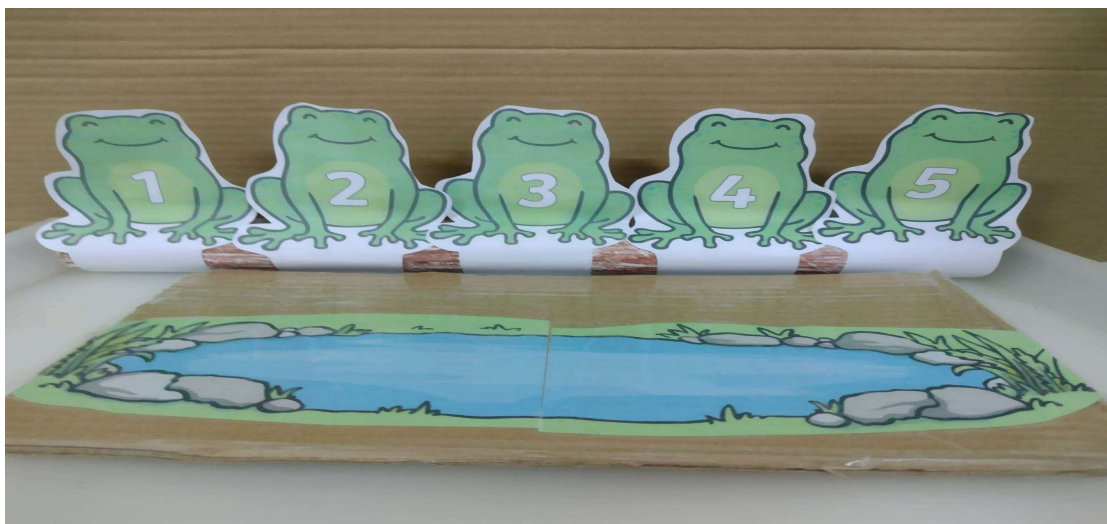
I see a rabbit in a burrow

I see a bee in a hive

Etc.

5. Song/ Drama

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziGG_L9C12o



- Action game - after the drama activity with the frogs students play a game where they will be frogs, they have to stand in one part of the room, eat a bug (use the colourful rubber bugs) and jump to the pond (place a big flip chart paper pond on the floor). While students jump, the others count how many jumps it takes to get to the pond.

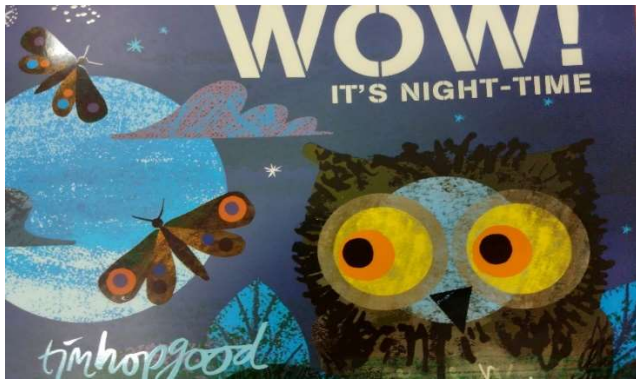
Mitko-the speckled frog, Sat on a great big log

Eating the most delicious bugs, Yum! Yum! (Mitko picks a bug from a bowl and says what it is)

He jumped into the pond, Where it was nice and cool

Teacher: Let's count for Mitko. How many jumps will it take to get to the pond.

- Story time



- Craft- a pinecone owl



- Phonics time



Forest animals – Food chains/ Rabbits – Day 4

1. Hello song

Using the song Pizza and chips, arrange forest animals on the WB: a fox, a wolf, a bear, etc.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEHxZk8C3eM>

Monday night

Bear had a fright

A hungry monster knocking at the window

Rubbing his tummy

And licking his lips

I'm going to eat you with pizza and chips.

2. Day, weather, season

3. Songs

[The Zoogies - Little Peter Rabbit | Nursery Rhymes & Kids Songs - YouTube](#)

Four little foxes- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik8GS-6ur1o>

The Fox- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drWHI-l_Gew

Grey squirrel- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIU5i_scF_M

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4. Learning circle- Food chains

Introduce the idea of food chains and practise:

The grass feeds the rabbit.

The rabbit feeds the fox.



5. Action game – Mr. Wolf, what’s the time? (Use different masks of forest animals)

6. Maths

Are you hungry?

Are you hungry?

Yes, I am.

Yes, I am.

Do you like carrots?

Do you like carrots?

Yes, I do.

Yes, I do.



7. Craft- There was an old lady who swallowed a fly (with forest animals)

[I Know an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly - Nursery Rhymes for Kids - Kids Songs - The Learning Station - YouTube](#)

Instead of the animals from the song, students can draw a food chain with forest animals.



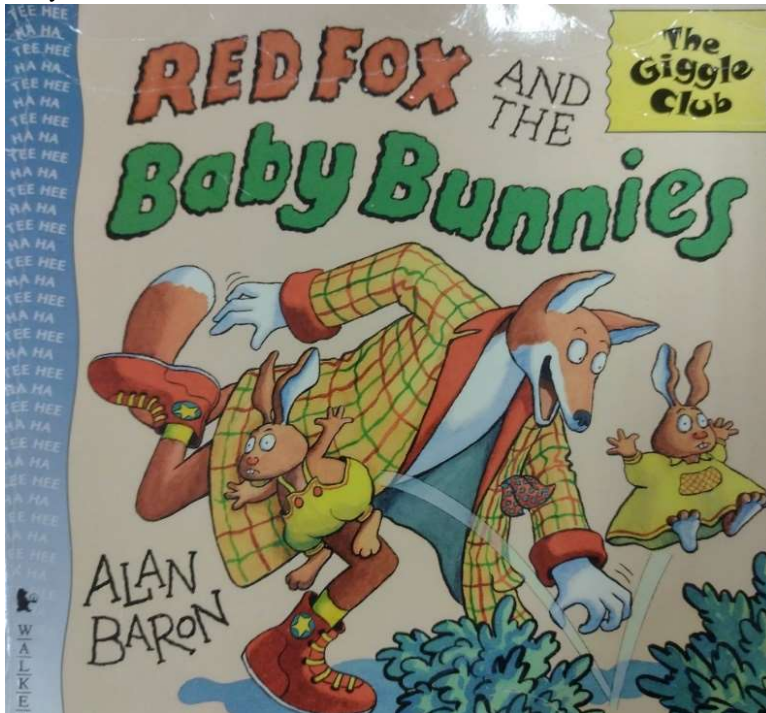
8. Phonics time



Write phonics on small paper flames.
Fill a spray bottle with water.
Students have to find the number and put the fire out.

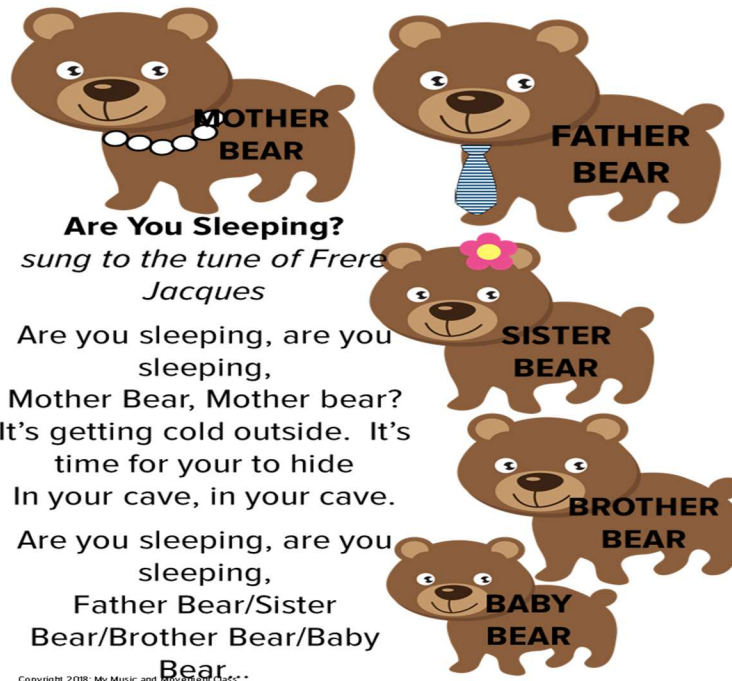
Fireman, Marty!
's' is on fire!
Put it out!

9. Story time



Forest animals – Recycling and keeping the forest clean/Hibernation – Day 5

1. Hello song
Use soft toys (a family of hedgehogs) and the baby crib.
Prepare some blankets for the hedgehogs.
Invite students to pick one (mummy, daddy, baby, brother or sister hedgehog), put it in the crib, cover it with a blanket and sing a lullaby. (the song below)



2. Day, weather, season
3. Songs

Four little foxes- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik8GS-6ur1o>
The Fox- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drWHI-l_Gew
Grey squirrel- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JIU5i_scF_M
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4. Drama- The Messy Magpie
<https://www.twinkl.bg/resource/t-l-54501-the-messy-magpie-ebook>

Do a drama activity where each child gets in the role of the Messy Magpie and picks a piece of rubbish from the forest, loads it in the truck and takes it to the recycling centre
Discuss which of these are metal, glass, paper, plastic
Think of a short rhyme to go with the drama activity.

Look at all that mess!
The forest is in stress!

*From all the rubbish on the forest floor.
No!No!NO! We can't take it anymore*



5. Phonics time – floating letters
Revise jolly phonics songs and play with the floating letters.



6. Action/ Drama- Row your boat
(Sung to: [Row Row Row Your Boat | Super Simple Songs - YouTube](#))

Children sit on the floor with a teacher as if they are on a boat.
Another teacher shows different animals puppets or soft toys of forest animals.

Row, row, row your boat
Gently down the stream
If you see abear.....
- Don't forget to scream (if the animal is scary)
- NO, we never scream (if the animal is not scary)

7. Cooking time – pumpkin muffins
8. Art



Brainstorm Week 1 - Forest Animals Week

Interactive spaces

We talked about the interactive spaces in all the wonderful activities above:

paper mountain
table top theatre
fox's den
Bear Hunt route
Two Little Birds theatre
frog pond
food chain cups
hungry rabbit paper bag puppet

All of these spaces enable a dual focus to learning. Firstly, they allow the teacher to create a space where learners process input through story, song, experiment or other. Secondly, the same space can be exploited to support learners in reproducing the content using some of the language from the story, rhyme or other while they create the space.

Other spaces we came up with broadly related to our week theme of Forest Animals and Autumn, include the following.

House spaces

Goldilocks and the three bears – house, spaces e.g. dining table, chairs, beds (it's too hot, hard, soft, cold).
The three pigs – three house spaces made with different materials.

Cows in the kitchen – a house space with kitchen and other places.

A squash and a squeeze – a house space with kitchen furniture and places.

Forests (house and location)

Little red riding hood – this can be a route through the forest, with fruits collected along the way. But there is also the house which offers another interactive space to work with.

Hansel and Gretel – again a forest route and a house space, perhaps with items left along the route to find their way home and with various places to hide in the house.

Gruffalo (Child) – there is a nice forest route in these stories.

With Gruffalo's Child, in Anglia School we have created a poster space which has the Gruffalo's cave within a forest, but we place the forest and cave at the foot of some mountains, and close to a bay by the sea. This meant that we could incorporate a favourite song into this lesson.

Down by the bay where the Gruffalo roam (sung to the melody of 'Down by the bay')

Down by the bay where the Gruffalo roam

Back to my home, I dare not go

For if I do, my mother will say

Have you ever seen ...

A Mouse building a house

A Fox putting on his sox

An Owl eating a towel

A snake fishing for hake

... Down by the bay

Forest tree poster

Include animals and where they live in and / or around the tree and sing a song which repeats where the animals live using 'The wheels on the bus' melody.

Routes

Oliver finds his way – this has a route following a leaf.

Hugless Douglas – there is the route Douglas follows from hug to hug.

Little red riding hood – again a route through the forest to granny's house.

Seasons poster

Copy the pictures of the seasons and create a poster of them all together, get the children to place word cards onto the right pictures of each season.

Stories, picture books and songs

Another discussion we had during the week of course was around stories and songs themselves.

The blackbird and the fox (traditional) – Read the story and produce a tree poster with a nest for the blackbird and her eggs. The following link takes you to a pdf of the book and activities -

<https://app.box.com/s/28f9sj94ui8epog2r81a>

Book: Listen Listen (Philips Gershator & Alison Jay)

Read the book at the same time use the song - <https://youtu.be/8ZjpI6fgYSY>

Stop it every time to introduce the season. Have a poster of the same house in the different seasons. Students will place the different objects/animals according to the season introducing them with the rhyme from the song: here comes the spring with the rainbow.

Book: Apples and Pumpkins

Read the story about picking apples and finally the child gets a pumpkin and he uses it for halloween. Introduce a song about counting related to Halloween - https://youtu.be/GpO8_FMWcHA

Carve a pumpkin and do a counting activity in which students introduce apples to the pumpkin (red balls). Finally, as an extra activity we can do an apple pie recipe.

Simple song melodies for adaptation with other words

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxYWkzetPKE&t=288s>

Simple songs to change the words

Children's songs with CFG chord progression and the text of which can be manipulated to fit your own themes.

“Twinkle Twinkle”

c f c
twinkle twinkle little star
f c g c
how I wonder what you are
c f c g
up above the world so high
c f c g
like a diamond in the sky
c f c
twinkle twinkle little star
f c g c
how I wonder what you are

The ABC song is the same as twinkle twinkle.

“Baa Baa Black Sheep”

C
Baa baa black sheep
F C
Have you any whool
F C
Yes, sir, Yes, sir
G C
Three bags full
C F
One for my master
C G
and one for the dame
C F
and one for the little boy
C G C
who lives down the lane

“The Wheels on the Bus”

C

The wheels on the bus go round and round

G C

Round and round, round and round

C

The wheels on the bus go round and round

G C

All through the town

The wipers on the bus go “Swish, swish, swish,

The people on the bus go, “chat, chat, chat,

The horn on the bus goes “Beep, beep, beep

The baby on the bus goes, “wah, wah, wah!

The mummy on the bus go, “ssss sh,ssss sh,ssss sh,

“Old MacDonald had a farm”

C F C

Old MacDonald had a farm

C G C

Ee i ee i o

And on his farm he had some cows

Ee i ee i oh

With a moo-moo here

And a moo-moo there

Here a moo, there a moo

Everywhere a moo-moo

Old MacDonald had a farm

Ee i ee i o

“Frere Jaques”

just C chord all way through

The bear went over the mountain

C F G7 C

The bear went over the mountain, the bear went over the mountain,

C F G7 C

the bear went over the mountain, to see what she could see.

F C F C

And all that she could see, And all that she could see,

F C F

and all that she could see, was the other side of the mountain,

G7 C F

the other side of the mountain, the other side of the mountain,

G7 C

was all that she could see.

(you can change the words ‘over’ and ‘mountain’ to any other related prepositions and places to fit your theme, e.g.,
up – tree, through – river, under – bridge etc)

Art and Science for Autumn and Forests

Another discussion revolved around art and science in the theme.

Scientific concepts through art includes the changing colours of leaves.

So, have an exhibition of leaf art, framed by the children with the colours of autumn.

Fruits which float or sink (test each object and record the results).

Decay is a characteristic of Autumn in nature – make some compost in the classroom (green waste (fresh food waste), brown waste (paper, egg cartons, twigs), black soil, water).

We came up with a number of art styles (Haring, Abstract) in the theme. E.g., Arcimboldo would be a good focus to create a group art piece of a face made using tree fall objects, pine cones, leaves etc.

We can explore geometric shapes in the theme, again leaf shapes would make a nice patterning focus.

Collaborative posters can be used to produce a season art installation for each season where the background and the trunks are the same, but the children create the foliage according to the season (perhaps using fingers) – The children make “a friendship forest”.

Pumpkin cooking (or other autumn fruits, quince ‘meat’ jelly, roasted pumpkin – lantern, apples rosettes) and patterns (sharing culture – different foods from different places, Turkish delight) which we associate with Autumn.

Decorating jars with tissue paper and glue with autumn colours but testing the opaqueness and transparency, candles also need oxygen to work (adding cinnamon and orange decorations).

Early number concepts

In discussing early conceptual skills, we explored graphing in our Autumn and Forests theme.

One suggestion is to collect a bunch of leaves and get the children to create bar graphs with different leaves according to tree type. This fits nicely with the song ‘autumn leaves are falling down’ below.

<https://www.learningstationmusic.com/blog/2014/09/28/autumn-songs-children-autumn-leaves-falling/>

LYRICS:

Autumn leaves are changing colors, changing colors, changing colors. Autumn leaves are changing colors all over town. (Hold up both hands and turn them back and forth)

Autumn leaves are changing colors, changing colors, changing colors. Autumn leaves are changing colors all over town.

Autumn leaves are falling down, falling down, falling down. Autumn leaves are falling down, down to the ground. (Hold both hands up high, as you wiggle your fingers and bring them down towards the ground)

Autumn leaves are falling down, falling down, falling down. Autumn leaves are falling down, down to the ground.

Take a rake and rake them up, rake them up, rake them up. Take a rake and rake them up, on the ground. (Pretend to rake leaves)

Take a rake and rake them up, rake them up, rake them up. Take a rake and rake them up, on the ground.

Make a pile and jump in, and jump in, and jump in. Make a pile and jump in, on the ground. (Pretend to make a pile of leaves and then jump in)

Make a pile and jump in, and jump in, and jump in. Make a pile and jump in, on the ground.

Autumn leaves, autumn leaves, autumn leaves, autumn leaves, autumn leaves, autumn leaves, are on the ground. (Hold your hands up high and sway them back and forth to the end of the song)

Autumn leaves, autumn leaves, autumn leaves, autumn leaves, autumn leaves, autumn leaves, are on the ground, are on the ground.

<https://stayathomeeducator.com/5-autumn-leaf-activities-for-preschoolers/>



There are a number of ways leaves can be sorted (size, type, colour).

Science and cooking

Designing and testing is a useful skill for the youngest learner. Get children to create bird houses and then observe which colour is most popular among visiting birds.

Get children to make their own basket design for autumn fruits. The children can look at capacity and strength.

Still looking at autumn foods, carry out a survey on fruits and nuts and children's likes and dislikes. They can use any number of graphical diagram for their results.

Are there any celebrations or saints' days you can use as a focus for autumn and forest foods? Collecting mushrooms may be popular in your country, have an activity looking at some types. Talk about the danger involved in picking them in the wild.

Saints' bones – 'skeleton cooking' around Halloween you can use pasta shapes to create a skeleton representing the bones and cook them.

Autumn animals and their foods can be classified in many ways. Do they hibernate or not? What places do they live in (den, warren, etc), do they live in trees and/or on the ground?

You can explore life cycles and behaviour (squirrels collect and hide nuts / bears fatten up). Use a theatre box for role playing autumn behaviour. 'Camilla is a zebra' story about changing fur and skin (can be acted in a drama box) and you might bake biscuits with white and black stripes as part of this lesson too.

We tried to draw links between science and story – do you know any autumn stories with some science?

One idea is to make apple volcanoes. Link composting with leaf fall in autumn stories.

Painting with leaves gives you the opportunity to explore the changing colours of leaves in a science activity. You can also try drying the leaves out to keep them in a display.