

Shoots with Roots

Five Visit Program 2016/17

Intermediate (4 – 7) Outline



Year Theme: Getting to know your local ecosystem is good for you, and for it.

Visit One – Sept/Oct: Getting to know Milner Gardens & Woodland

Activities:

- *Tour and Orientation
- *Nature Games – what does this place (Milner Gardens) look, smell, feel like?
- *Personal Reflection activity – how does time in nature make you feel?

Concepts: Healthy lifestyle/personal benefits of time spent in nature. Emphasis is on an orientation to the site and a positive experience that creates enthusiasm for the next four visits.

Follow-up: Picture or writing about the visit to bring back on Visit 2 – template will be provided as it has to be a specific shape and size. A walk comparing a different natural space to Milner Gardens would be a nice link.

Visit Two – Nov/Dec: Getting to know nature in fall/winter

Activities:

- *Forest Walk looking at cold weather adaptations of plants and animals
- *Orchard Wassailing – looking at how PEOPLE survive winter!
- *Leaf Mulch and Soil Activity – how to help plants survive the winter
- *Circle Journals (need to bring pictures/writing from the Visit 1 follow-up activity)

Concepts: Adaptations of plants and animals, cultural celebrations of winter, decomposition, nutrient cycling

Follow-up: None required (journals will be done during the visit) – looking more in-depth at various relationships in nature would fit well.

Visit Three – Feb/Mar: Getting to know nature as citizen scientists

Activities:

*Bird Dress-Up

*Bird Observation Trail Game

*Bird Walk – lists shared with ornithologists world-wide via www.ebird.com

Concepts: scientific process skills such as observing, recording, communicating

Follow-up: Circle journals (templates will be provided) to bring back on Visit 4.

Visit Four – Apr/May: Getting to know native plants and their uses

Activities:

*Plant ID Race

*Forest Tea sampling

*Plant mapping – introduction to our phenology project

Concepts: Plant diversity, natural resources, sustainability, interdependence in nature, mapping skills, climate change

Follow-up: Circle journals (templates will be provided) to bring back on Visit 5.

Visit Five – May/June: Getting to know our impacts on nature.

Activities:

*Invasive Species ID and Removal or Tree Planting/ Forest Rehabilitation Project

*Web of Life

*Circle Journal completion and celebration

Concepts: personal responsibility, interconnectedness in nature, citizenship, cooperative problem-solving

Follow-up: None required. Kids will be sent back with their completed circle journals as well as free family passes for a visit to Milner Gardens with their families.

Year-Long Project: Circle Journals.

To link the five visits together, students will create Circle Journals over the year.

These are inspired by Wheels of Time and Place (<http://partnersinplace.com/wheels-of-time-and-place/about>) and will consist of four drawings (or writing – it's flexible) – one per each of the first four visits - that fit together to make one circular representation of each student's year-long experience with Shoots with Roots and Milner Gardens & Woodland.

This project will **require classroom follow-up** to make journal sections **after Visits 1, 3, and 4**. We will work on the journals during Visit 2 (so you don't have to fit in one more activity at Christmastime!), and assemble them on Visit 5.

The intention is that by the end of the year, each student will have a keepsake from the program that doubles as an assessment tool for the teacher - you will be able to see visually what each student has learned and remembered from the entire five-visit field trip.