

Spaces to play and explore at Kingsweston Estate

Print this out to take with you, or just use it to get ideas



Ideas of things to do as you walk from the house to the folly (arched ruin)

1. Go on a bug hunt

Lift up stones and logs to see what's hiding underneath. If you want to take a closer look at your mini-beasts without harming them, use a plastic spoon to pick them up and gently put them into a washed-out margarine tub. Always put mini-beasts back where you've found them when you've finished looking.

You can also hunt for bugs by gently shaking a low tree branch over a white sheet held under the tree. A few mini-beasts from the tree will fall on to the sheet so that you can observe them.

You can find out more about mini beasts on the Buglife website:

<http://www.buglife.org.uk/discoverbugs/knowledge>

2. Play the matching game

One person is 'it' while the others count to 20. During the counting, the person who is 'it' must find something unusual in the woods (e.g. a strange shaped stone, leaf or twig). The other people now have to find something that matches the object as closely as possible. The person who finds the closest match is the winner.

3. Find a colour

Pick a colour from your clothes and see if you can match it in nature. Try to match the colour as closely as possible. You'll be surprised by how many colours you can find in a small patch of woodland.

Activities to do along the avenue opposite the house

4. Create a natural sculpture

Make your own sculpture using things you've found in the wood. You could make patterns with leaves and twigs or draw in the earth with a stick. Leave your sculptures where they are when you've finished for others to enjoy. Avoid picking flowers or plants – it's best to leave these for the insects who feed on them.

For inspiration, take a look at Andy Goldsworthy's natural sculptures:

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/andygoldsworthy/pool/>

5. Make a mosaic from nature's colours

Create a mini mosaic using things found on your walk. Put a strip of double-sided sticky tape onto a piece of card. Now find little bits of leaf, moss and bark to create a colourful mosaic. Remember not to pick whole flowers, only use tiny amounts of each thing and wash your hands afterwards as some plants can be poisonous. You could use your mosaic to make a card or bookmark.

6. Meet a tree

You can do this activity in a pair or three. One person is blindfolded, the other/s lead them gently towards a tree (warning them of anything which may trip them and making sure they don't go into nettles or brambles). When they have reached a tree tell them to slowly put their arms out and feel the tree. When they have explored the tree by feeling it, slowly lead them back to the starting place (you could turn them around a couple of times to disorientate them). Remove the blindfold and see if they can find their tree again. They might want to feel the tree, with their eyes open, to check that they are right. This is a game of trust so make sure that whoever is blindfolded is well looked after.

Discover more about the UK's trees on the British Trees website:

http://www.british-trees.com/treeguide/view_all_species.htm

7. Make a mobile from fallen leaves

Collect special looking leaves from the ground to make a mobile. You might choose them for their colour, shape or texture. Make the mobile by tying thin string or thread around the leaf stalks and hanging them at varying lengths from a stick. You could press the leaves first (flatten them for a few days under a heavy book) or leave them to curl. To make a different shaped mobile you could tie two sticks together to form a cross, then hang leaves from each corner and the centre.

Ideas of things to do along the path towards the house

8. Play woodland bingo

Print and cut out one set of the bingo cards provided. For the listening bingo you may want to find a quiet, comfy spot to sit and listen for a few minutes. To play texture, shape or 'I spy' bingo you could do it while walking along a section of the path. Cross out each thing that you see or hear, the first person to cross everything out shouts 'bingo!' and is the winner.

9. Shadow drawing (for a sunny day)

Draw the shadows cast by the trees on the edge of the woods. Lay some paper on the ground beneath a shadow (you may need to rest it on something hard like a book). Now draw the shadows cast on the paper. You could focus on something small, such as a leaf, or larger, such as a person's hand (if they can keep still!)

On the grass

10. Bat and moth (for 8 players or more)

Form a ring of people and hold hands. Pick three people to go into the centre. One of the people in the centre wears a blindfold and is the bat, the other two are moths and are not blindfolded. The bat must 'peep' (like a bat's sonar) and the moths must return the peeping noise while trying to avoid getting caught. Can the bat catch the moths by listening to the noise that they make? The people on the outside must make sure that the bat remains safely in the circle. It's better to walk while playing this game so that the bat doesn't crash into the moths by mistake!

Enjoy the woods safely & responsibly: take litter home, avoid picking whole flowers & plants, & wash your hands afterwards.

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