

# Woodland Wonders Pre-Trip Activities

To prepare your students for the investigations they will do on site, we recommend doing these activities prior to your visit.

## Woodland Mural

**Purpose:**

To discover what students know about the forest ecosystem

**Materials:**

- Scissors
- Glue/Tape
- Crayons/Markers
- Paper, various types

**Steps:**

1. Share with the students that in order to get ready for the field trip to the prairie, they will create a mural of the forest.
2. Ask: What do you think we will see, smell, touch, and hear in the woods? Have some students share a few ideas.
3. Divide students into small groups and have each group create a mural of as many things they can think of they will see, smell, touch, and hear in the forest.
4. Pass out the supplies and allow students time to make their mural. Encourage students to make their parts in 3-dimensional form.
5. When the groups are done, allow them to share their murals with each other.

## Leaf Observations

**Purpose:**

To encourage the students to observe leaves

**Materials:**

- 1 leaf for each student
- Crayons (optional)

**Steps:**

1. Following the school policies, take students on a walk and have each student collect one leaf.
2. Back in the classroom have the students observe their leaf. They can make a leaf rubbing, or trace their leaf and color it the same color.
3. Then in small groups have the students put their leaves in a center location. One student can hide their eyes and another student can take one leaf away. Have the student that hid his/her eyes describe the missing leaf. Alternatively they could point to the matching leaf rubbing or traced leaf.

## Literature Connections

A Woodland Counting Book by C. McGehee, *All in the Woodland Early: An ABC Book* by J. Yolen

# Woodland Wonders Post-Trip Activities

These activities will build upon the learning experiences from the field trip, we recommend doing these activities after your visit.

## Woodland Mural Revisited

**Purpose:**

To assess what students learned about the woods

**Materials:**

- Colored pencils/markers

**Steps:**

1. Share with the students that they will get to show how much they now know about the forest.
2. Review the sights, smells, sounds, and items touched during the field trip.
3. Have each student in the group draw two items to the mural that were not on the mural to begin with.
4. What types of factors were missing most? Where they living or non-living? How many groups added soil? Air? Sun? Reinforce that the woods has living and non-living factors interacting.

## Forest Leaf Collage

**Purpose:**

To assess what the students learned about the woods

**Materials:**

- Paper
- Pencil/Markers/Crayons
- (Optional) Additional resources

**Steps:**

1. Share with the students that they will get to show how much they now know about the forest.
2. Review their notes about their forest in their journals, and, if needed use additional resources.
3. Using the supplies, have students create a life-size replica of one leaf from a forest plant. They can write, or draw, one thing they learned about the forest.
4. The leaves can be displayed in the class and/or shown to younger students in a different grade.

## Literature Connections

A Woodland Counting Book by C. McGehee, *All in the Woodland Early: An ABC Book* by J. Yolen