



Early Settlers - a way of life

Curriculum themes

History

Geography – Investigating the local area

Resources required

Shelter building materials (these may vary according to the time of year)

Fire laying materials

Challenge 1 information sheet: *Build a shelter from natural materials*

Challenge 2 information sheet: *Lay a fire for warmth and cooking*

Challenge 3 information sheet: *Forage for food and collect water*

Background information

Best time of the year for the activity

Late Spring to early Autumn, but could be done any time of the year.

Timing

Challenge 1	Build a shelter from natural materials. 1 hour +
Challenge 2	Lay a fire for warmth and cooking. 30 – 45 minutes
Challenge 3	Forage for food and collect water. 15 minutes – 1 hour

Location on the farm

Woodland section of Ashes Beck, an ancient woodland.

Introducing the activity

How people have lived in their environment has changed over time. In the pre-farming age, 7000 years ago, hunter-gatherers lived in woodlands like this ancient woodland at Carrs Farm. They gathered wild plants and hunted animals to eat. They began to clear the woodland in which they lived.

Undertaking the activity

Introduction – Discuss the essential elements needed for survival – shelter, food, water, and fire. Compare how we get these essentials today. How did they survive 7000 years ago?

Choose one or a number of the challenges below depending on your itinerary for the day.

Challenge 1

Build a shelter from natural materials

Humans can live for weeks without food and days without water, but they can only live hours without shelter from the wind and the rain. The challenge is to build a shelter out of natural materials within the wood.

Discuss the steps outlined on the information sheet. All the materials required will be provided on site.

Challenge 2

Lay a fire for warmth and cooking

Together with shelter you need a way to keep warm and to cook food to survive. This challenge is to lay a fire. Introduce the activity by discussing the need for a safe site, away from overhanging trees and branches and a supply of wood.

Discuss the steps outlined on the information sheet. All the materials required will be provided on site. This activity could be completed as a class so that a central fire is produced or in groups with separate fires close to shelters that have already been built. The choice to light the fires is solely at the teacher's discretion. Materials to extinguish the fires will be available on site.

Challenge 3

Forage for food and collect water

There are many edible plants and animals in the countryside and sources of water. This challenge is to find something edible, identify it, think about how to prepare it and collect some water to go with it.

Discuss some of the edible plants and animals that may be found in the woodland. Use the information sheet to think about some of the plants that are edible throughout the year. Encourage the pupils to forage in the woodland to see what they can find and collect. Encourage them to use natural materials to collect some water. Emphasise that pupils should not eat or drink anything.

Follow-up ideas

Re-create shelters at school, on a more permanent basis, using living willow.

Make a detailed comparison of how we get our essentials for life today with hunter-gatherers 7000 years ago.