



CREATIVE AND
INNOVATIVE
EDUCATIONAL
ACTIVITIES



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SCIENCE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Field studies:

- ✓ Take students on nature walks or field trips to local ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, or coastal areas. Encourage them to observe, collect data, and analyze various aspects like biodiversity, population dynamics, or environmental factors.
- ✓ Align these activities with specific science standards or learning objectives related to ecological concepts, scientific inquiry, or data analysis.

Citizen science projects:

- ✓ Engage students in collaborative research projects that contribute to real-world scientific data collection. They can participate in bird counts, water quality assessments, or phenology studies, allowing them to contribute to scientific knowledge while learning about environmental stewardship.
- ✓ Align these activities with standards related to scientific investigations, data collection, or environmental awareness.

Experiment-based learning:

- ✓ Design experiments that can be conducted outdoors, such as investigating the effects of sunlight on plant growth, the impact of different soil types on water retention, or the behavior of animals in their natural habitats.
- ✓ Connect these activities with standards focused on experimental design, data analysis, or scientific explanations.



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ART OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Plein air painting:

- ✓ Take students outside with easels and art supplies to create landscape paintings en plein air.
- ✓ Encourage them to observe the colors, textures, and lighting conditions in the natural environment while expressing their artistic vision.
- ✓ Align these activities with art standards related to observation, composition, or expression.

Nature-inspired sculptures:

- ✓ Provide materials like clay, found objects, or natural elements for students to create sculptures that reflect the forms, patterns, or concepts found in nature.
- ✓ Encourage them to consider sustainability and environmental aesthetics in their creations.
- ✓ Align these activities with art standards related to three-dimensional forms, craftsmanship, or creative expression.

Photography expeditions:

- ✓ Equip students with cameras and guide them on outdoor photography expeditions.
- ✓ Encourage them to capture images that showcase the beauty and uniqueness of the natural world. Incorporate discussions about composition, lighting, or storytelling through visuals.
- ✓ Align these activities with standards related to visual communication, aesthetics, or digital media.

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Outdoor sports tournaments:

- ✓ Organize tournaments or friendly matches of popular outdoor sports like soccer, basketball, or cricket.
- ✓ Emphasize skill development, fair play, teamwork, and sportsmanship.
- ✓ Align these activities with physical education standards related to skill acquisition, cooperation, or healthy lifestyles.

Adventure-based challenges:

- ✓ Introduce students to adventure-based activities like rock climbing, orienteering, or ropes courses. These activities foster problem-solving skills, risk assessment, resilience, and personal growth.
- ✓ Align these activities with standards related to adventure education, personal development, or risk management.

Fitness trails or obstacle courses:

- ✓ Create outdoor fitness trails or obstacle courses that challenge students' strength, endurance, and agility.
- ✓ Incorporate exercises, challenges, or stations that target different fitness components.
- ✓ Align these activities with standards related to physical fitness, skill development, or goal setting.



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MORE IDEAS

1. **Nature Scavenger Hunt:** Create a list of natural items for students to find, such as specific leaves, rocks, insects, or flowers. Incorporate educational clues that teach them about each item's role in the ecosystem.
2. **Outdoor Science Experiments:** Conduct experiments that can only be done outside, such as studying the effects of sunlight on different materials, water filtration with natural materials, or soil testing.
3. **Eco-Art Projects:** Encourage students to create art using natural materials. This could include leaf rubbings, rock painting, or building sculptures from twigs and leaves. Discuss the importance of respecting nature and using only fallen materials.
4. **Guided Nature Walks with Journaling:** Lead students on a nature walk where they observe and note different plants, animals, and natural phenomena. Provide them with journals to document their findings through sketches and descriptions.
5. **Bird Watching and Identification:** Equip students with binoculars and guidebooks and teach them how to identify local bird species. Discuss bird behaviors, habitats, and the importance of conservation.
6. **Tree Planting and Gardening:** Organize tree-planting events or start a school garden. Teach students about plant biology, the importance of trees, and sustainable gardening practices.
7. **Nature Photography:** Provide students with cameras or smartphones to capture images of nature. Teach them about composition, lighting, and how to tell a story through their photos. This can culminate in a photo exhibition.

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MORE IDEAS

1. **Outdoor Storytelling and Writing:** Have students sit in a circle in a natural setting and share stories inspired by the environment around them. Follow this with a creative writing session where they write their own nature-inspired stories or poems.
2. **Water Quality Testing:** Take students to a local stream, river, or lake to test water quality. Teach them about different pollutants, the importance of clean water, and how ecosystems depend on water quality.
3. **Nature-Inspired Math Activities:** Incorporate math lessons into nature by having students measure the height of trees, calculate the age of trees by counting rings, or create geometric shapes using natural materials.
4. **Survival Skills Training:** Teach basic survival skills such as building a shelter, identifying edible plants, and navigating using a compass. This can be a fun and practical way to learn about nature.
5. **Wildlife Tracking:** Show students how to identify animal tracks and signs. Teach them about the behavior and habitats of local wildlife. This can include creating plaster casts of tracks as a keepsake.
6. **Ecological Role-Playing Games:** Create role-playing games where students act out different roles in an ecosystem, such as predators, prey, plants, and decomposers. This helps them understand the interdependence of species.
7. **Environmental Impact Projects:** Engage students in projects that address real environmental issues, such as organizing a litter clean-up, building birdhouses, or creating campaigns to reduce plastic use.



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SOURCES

<https://www.teacheracademy.eu/blog/outdoor-education/#inspiring-outdoor-education-examples>



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