

Outdoor Learning: Curriculum Links



Curriculum Links

Learning outside the classroom can support many areas of the curriculum. Here are some ideas of how to include Outdoor Learning in literacy, music and art.

Literacy

Here are some stories and songs which can be linked to outdoor learning:

Serial Mash Books

- [Fun in the Forest – Michelle Singleton](#)
- [Skyscraping Sunflowers – Michelle Singleton](#)
- [A Village Full of Vegetables – Michelle Singleton](#)
- [Class 1 and the Winter Walk – Michelle Singleton](#)
- [Sam and the Wet Day - Michelle Singleton](#)

Other Books

- Gruffalo – Julia Donaldson
- We are Going on a Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen
- The Stick Man – Julia Donaldson
- Stanley's Stick – John Hegley
- The Green Line – Polly Farquharson
- The Wild Woods – Simon James
- Out and About Through the Year – Shirley Walker
- A Stick Is an Excellent Thing - Marilyn Singer

Songs/Nursery Rhymes [\(External Links - Please check for suitability before sharing with children\)](#)

- [Itsy Bitsy Spider](#)
- [Rain Rain Go Away](#)
- [Speckled Frogs](#)
- [Baby bumblebee](#)
- [5 Little Ducks](#)
- [Rain on The Green Grass](#)

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Art

Bryan Nash Gill (1961 – 2013)

Bryan Gill was an American Artist who worked mostly in wood, creating prints and sculptures from dead or damaged trees around his studio. He was interested in capturing the essence of the tree and showcasing the uniqueness it brought to the world. His prints reveal the happy springs, the hard winters and the regularity of the changing seasons.



Sir Richard Long (1945 – present)

Sir Richard Long is an English sculptor and one of the best-known British land artists whose work is characteristically made from earth, rock, mud, stone and other natural materials. His sculpture *Delabole Slate Circle*, which can be seen in the Tate, has 168 pieces of slate from a quarry in Cornwall and is almost 2 metres wide in diameter. When going on display, each of the pieces can be arranged differently however he specifies that they must form a circle and every piece should touch so that it can be locked together and stable.



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Vanessa Hogge (1963 - present)

Vanessa Hogge is a British ceramic artist known for her decorative floral wall piece. Her inspirations come from different flowers including chrysanthemums, delphiniums, and daisies. Every piece is shaped by hand and takes between two days and three weeks to make. She uses few ceramic tools which means that each flower is different.



Cas Holmes(1960 – present)

Cas Holmes is a textile and mixed media artist who creates collages using found materials. She is passionate about the environment and highlighting the vulnerability of wildlife. The stories and imagery to be found in everyday and commonplace things are a constant source of inspiration and she enjoys walking and cycling to find out about the world around her.



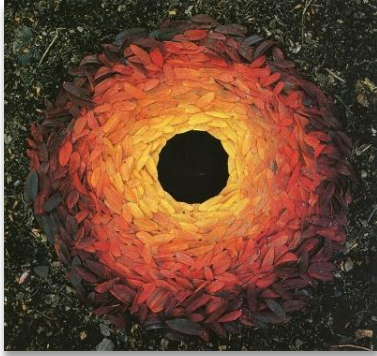
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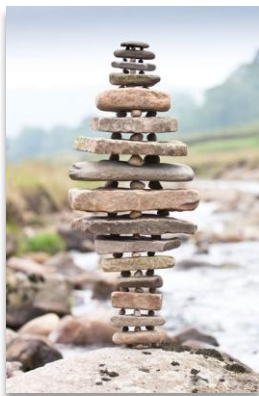
Andy Goldsworthy (1956- present)

Andy Goldsworthy is a British environmentalist, sculptor and photographer who uses brightly coloured flowers, icicles, leaves, mud, pinecones, snow, stone, twigs, and thorns to create temporary site-specific artworks. The only records of his work are his photographs which are taken before, during and after he has created his structure.



Richard Shilling (1973 -present)

Richard Shilling is a British artist and photographer best known for his ephemeral and changing art works made from natural materials in outdoor settings. He creates land art sculptures using only natural items from the surrounding area, which last between a few minutes to several months. In his work he uses common natural materials (leaves and sticks) to draw attention to their beauty and often include balancing sculptures and geometric designs using seasonal colours.



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Music

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Ludwig van Beethoven was a nature lover. He spoke with fondness of his childhood walks with his father along the Rhine near his home in Bonn, Germany. As an adult, he took regular hikes to explore the woods near Vienna, finding musical inspiration in long walks through the countryside. Now, more than 200 hundred years later, we remember Beethoven's work which inspires us to cherish the natural world, be filled with inspiration, and fight for environmental causes. [Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony](#) is his most famous work about nature. -

Olivier Eugène Prosper Charles Messiaen (1908 – 27 April 1992)

Olivier Eugène Prosper Charles Messiaen was a French musician who saw colours when he heard certain musical chords. He found birdsong particularly fascinating, notating bird songs worldwide and incorporating birdsong into his music. [Oiseaux Exotiques](#) was composed for piano and a small orchestra between 1955-56. It contains bird songs from India, Malaysia and South America and is one of his most beautiful pieces.

Mamoru Fujieda (1955 – present)

Mamoru Fujieda is a Japanese musician who believes that plant life can be experienced through a variety of senses and challenges his listeners to consider what plants sound like.

He spent 15 years creating music based on the electrical activity in living plants measuring the electrical changes on the surface of plant leaves and converted the data to sound. He used musical patterns from the forest as the starting point for his [magnum opus](#); piano miniatures with intricate melodies.

Meredith Monk (1942 - present)

[Meredith Monk](#) is an American composer and singer who is particularly famous for her work exploring the voice. *On Behalf of Nature* is a wordless poetic meditation on the environment exploring the delicate space where humans coexist with the natural and spiritual world. The result is a soundscape of extended vocal techniques playing above a hypnotic and eerie instrumental accompaniment.

John Luther Adams (1953 - present)

John Luther Adams is an American composer whose music is influenced by the natural world, a strong sense of place, his love of nature, and concern for the environment. He worked full time as an environmental activist before dedicating himself to music believing he could do more than politics to change the world and has now become one of most widely admitted composers in the world. For his listeners, he aims to bring the sense of wonder that we feel outdoors into the concert hall to re-connect the audience with the place.

His works include :-

[Become Ocean](#)

[In the White Silence](#)

[Canticle of Hold Wind](#)

[Inuksuit](#)

[Sila: The Breathe of the World](#)