

## Explore project for special needs Schools and groups

**Venue:** Waltham Abbey Gardens, WaterWorks Centre

**Programme Length:** 2 hours

### SESSION AIM

The explore project allows students to discover the Lee Valley Regional Park in bite size portions. Choose two or three different half hour programmes from our list of sensory, art, and environmental lesson plans to create a unique session that will be both relevant and fun for your students.

### ACTIVITIES

Welcome and introduction to the programme

- ❖ Safety talk, including appropriate behaviour
- ❖ Summary of programme

Please call us to discuss your choice of activities, which link to the following topics:

- ❖ Bird watching
- ❖ Minibeast hunting
- ❖ Pond dipping
- ❖ Local history
- ❖ Orienteering
- ❖ Rivers
- ❖ Plant science
- ❖ Sensory
- ❖ Environmental art

**SAFETY** All activities and sites are risk assessed. All Lee Valley Regional Park teaching staff carry mobile phones and first aid kits. Groups should follow their ratio guidelines. We provide a copy of our safety rules for teachers to discuss with students prior to visit. Further H&S information is available at [visitleevalley.org.uk/outdoor-learning](http://visitleevalley.org.uk/outdoor-learning)

**CLOTHING AND BAGS** Appropriate outdoor clothing e.g. waterproofs, suitable footwear, sun cream and hat. It is recommended that hands free bags are brought to carry lunch etc.

**ASSESSMENT** Open-ended questioning, ongoing peer discussion, sharing experiences, investigating results, predictions and plenary

**BEHAVIOUR** Teachers are responsible for good behaviour throughout their visit including lunchtime supervision.

**POST VISIT** Pupils can send their trip inspired letters, poems, pictures and environmental pledges to [learning@leevalleypark.org.uk](mailto:learning@leevalleypark.org.uk) A selection will be displayed online at [visitleevalley.org.uk/outdoor-learg](http://visitleevalley.org.uk/outdoor-learg)

**WASTE AND RECYLING** Please see our website regarding lunch waste and our recycling policies.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

This will vary according to the activities selected, but by the end of the programme it is our aim that all students will have enjoyed a quality learning outside of the classroom experience, and have positively engaged with the varied and interesting plants and animals that can be found within Lee Valley Regional Park. This will hopefully lead to a continuing appreciation and interest in the natural world.

## IDEAS FOR PREPARATION WORK

This will depend upon the options chosen but discussion on the following may be helpful.

What living things are there in the Lee Valley Regional Park? What trees, plants, birds, animals and invertebrates might students see on their visit?

What they can do to help wildlife, for example provide food and water for birds, not picking wildflowers or dropping litter and treating all living things with respect.

## IDEAS FOR FOLLOW- UP WORK

### Make a mobile

Students could create a mobile relating to the plants and animals they found on their visit.

### Make a recycled bag bird or minibeast model

To reinforce the appreciation of some of the wildlife seen on the visit, students could create a bird or minibeast model using an old carrier bag stuffed with rolled up newspaper and sectioned off using tape or elastic bands to make a head and body. A range of craft materials can be taped onto this basic shape to form eyes, a beak, antennae, wings, legs and feet depending on the creature being made. The pupils could then present their creation to the rest of the class.

### Make a 'Lee Valley Park' poster

This could include their favourite animal or plant or the activity they enjoyed the most.

If minibeast hunting was a chosen option then a collaborative '*Hidden World of the Lee Valley Park*' poster could be made. Ask each student to draw a minibeast on A5 paper which can then be cut out and stuck on a larger poster for display on the classroom wall.

To book or discuss this programme please contact Learning and Engagement on

**03000 030 618** or email [learning@leevalleypark.org.uk](mailto:learning@leevalleypark.org.uk)

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