

PE LKS2 Unit 20

Outdoor and adventurous activities 2

Lesson 4

Cross the swamp



Lesson 4 Cross the swamp

 **35-40 mins**

Learning objectives

Children should learn:

- to develop their problem-solving skills and work with others to solve a 'cross the swamp' challenge;
- to choose and apply strategies and skills to meet the requirements of a task or challenge;
- to work safely;
- to describe and evaluate their own and others' performances, and identify areas that need improving.

Success criteria

Children:

- use skills with control in problem-solving activities;
- choose sensible skills and approaches for the challenges set;
- meet the challenges effectively in teams;
- realise that activities need thinking through, and recognise that planning is useful;
- conserve their efforts and keep their concentration during tasks;
- prepare themselves effectively and follow safety procedures;
- learn from listening to and watching others and use what they learn to improve their own performance.

National Curriculum Attainment Targets

Pupils should be taught to:

- take part in outdoor and adventurous activity challenges both individually and within a team.

Vocabulary

agree, approach, challenge, collaborate, equipment, improve, plan, problem solving, review, strategy, team work

Resources

- a suitable environment, e.g. around the school grounds or in the hall
- benches and/or ropes
- hoops (2 per team of 4)
- mats (2 per team of 4)
- **Interactive CD Image Gallery: page 20, Problem Solving**
- **Resource sheet 3: Cross the swamp**

Advance preparation

- You will need to select an area of about 25 metres squared (i.e. 5 m x 5 m) either in the school hall or outside, depending on the weather and availability of space. Being outside and open to the elements gives more realism to the activity. Mark two sides of the selected area with benches or ropes; these represent the banks of a swamp. The swamp area can be the grass, if outside, or the gym floor, if inside. The area should be prepared prior to the lesson and, where possible, without the children seeing it, so that they see the set-up for the first time when they arrive to do the challenge.

- The idea behind this challenge is for teams of children to work collaboratively to move themselves and their provisions safely from one side of the swamp to the other, using mats as rafts. You will need to tell the children what the challenge is and explain that the mats are rafts. Refer to the diagram on Resource sheet 3: Cross the swamp for ideas of the layout and equipment to be used.

Introduction

10 mins

- Have the children sit around the area marked out on the ground.
- Tell the children that they are going to be set a challenge which will require them to work together in a team to solve a problem. Discuss with the children the idea of a challenge – what is it? What happens when presented with a challenge?
- Ask the children what working in a team means to them. Look for ideas such as listening to each other, collaborating, agreeing, making a plan first, etc.
- Explain that the challenge is for teams of four to cross an imaginary crocodile-infested swamp, using mats as rafts. They must move themselves and their provisions (a bag and a lunchbox) across the area without touching or falling in the imaginary swamp. They will be given a certain amount of time and equipment to complete the challenge.

Main activity

25 mins

- Put the children in teams of four and give each team some provisions to carry with them, for example, a bag and a lunchbox. Explain that the area on the ground that is marked with boundaries (e.g. ropes or benches) represents the crocodile-infested swamp. Explain that the mats and hoops are the rafts. The children must keep their feet on/inside the mats/hoops. Allow the teams to have two mats and two hoops each.


The rules are:

- All the children should cross the swamp safely and take with them their provisions (bag and lunchbox) for a picnic on the other side.
- No person or bag should fall in or touch the swamp, i.e. the ground or floor; any person who does is out and any bag is lost.
- Nobody is to be hurt in any way during the activity.
- Equipment is limited to a set of gym mats and/or hoops.
- The teams have 25 minutes to complete the challenge.
- Encourage the children to discuss a plan of action that ensures the safety of all team members. Teach them how to lift and move the equipment safely. Get the children to consider the dangers and to listen to each others' ideas. Listen to the children's interaction and intervene with questions that encourage them to think through the problem and plan a solution. Ask them what strategy/approach they have chosen. They may need to review their strategy if it does not work in practice and improve it in order to be more successful. Make sure that they concentrate and conduct themselves safely in solving the problem.

Extensions

- Make the 'cross the swamp' challenge different by:
 - a) including more rules, e.g. only two children per hoop/mat at a time.
 - b) choosing different items for the children to carry, for a different reason;
 - c) asking the children to think of their own 'cross the swamp' challenge for others to try.

Plenary

 **5 mins**

- Discuss with the children what they thought of the activity. It is important that they have an opportunity to evaluate their own performance. Ask questions such as the following:

Key questions ?

Did you enjoy the challenge?

How easy or hard was it?

How successful were you?

What safety procedures did you have to think about?

How did you decide to complete the challenge?

Did your team work well together?

What did each person do?

What did the teams do differently?

What do we think was the most successful strategy/ approach?

Would you do anything differently next time?

- You could use a prepared evaluation sheet for the children to fill in.



Name: _____ Date: _____

Cross the swamp

