

SELF-LED ACTIVITY

FARMYARD SENSORY TRAIL



Recommended for

KSI, SEND (Science, Art and Design)

Learning objectives

- Explore the farm and identify and name a variety of common animals.
- Develop observation skills.
- Consider where food comes from.

Time to complete

Approx. 30 minutes



Children in the stables with coconuts.

SUMMARY

This activity gives students the opportunity to explore Boscobel via a trail. Please print the trail on page 34 before arriving. If you would like to do the storytelling stop, please make sure to select this trail when you make your booking so we can have a copy of the book waiting for you on arrival.

The trail will explore Boscobel's farmyard, looking at the animals on the farm, the farmyard buildings, and the plants and flowers in the gardens on the site. There will be a sensory box prepared for the class, which group leaders can collect from staff on site. As you explore the farm, use the information in the Teachers' Notes (page 33) for additional detail and suggestions for participation at each stop. Although this is a sensory trail, please remind the group not to touch anything unless invited to. Please note that there may be edible plants and crops in the garden; these should not be picked and eaten. Also, plant material and thorns may be toxic or poisonous so always wash hands prior to eating meals.

MORE LEARNING IDEAS

Challenge your students to create a sensory artwork inspired by their trip to Boscobel's farm, using materials that reflect the senses they explored during the visit.

Write a short story about one of the animals they learnt about during the visit.

TEACHERS' NOTES

FARMYARD SENSORY TRAIL

This trail can be followed at the pace of the group and the stops visited in the order that best suits your group's needs. If any member of your group feels overwhelmed or overstimulated by the sensory input, Boscobel has plenty of calm spaces that you can use.

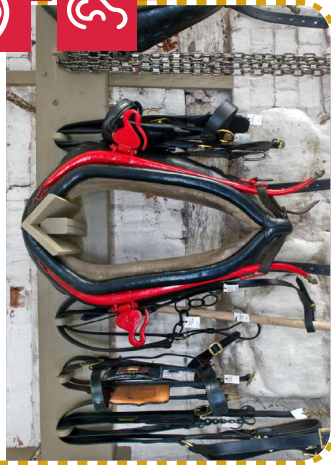
- **Stop 1: Stables** – If the group don't see it, point to the horse silhouette. A horse would neigh, whinny and make clip clop noises when they walk. Make clip clop noises with the coconut shells. Horses were strong so they were used to move heavy things around the farm.
- **Stop 2: Shed roof bird's nests** – Under the shed roofs are House Martin nests. House Martins are small birds with blue-black colouring on the upper part of their bodies and pure white underneath. They have a white bottom and a forked tail. Their legs and toes are covered in white feathers. House Martins come to the UK in the summer and spend the winter in Africa. They eat insects. Encourage students to pack the replica nests with feathers and wool to make a soft bed to lay eggs and raise chicks.
- **Stop 3: Cow barn** – This is the original cow barn at Boscobel. The barn is big enough for a few cows to be milked at once, but the herd would have varied in size. Today there is a 3D model of a cow in the cow barn. Ask students if they know what sound a cow makes. Encourage active participation. The sound boxes can be used for additional moos! Discuss what food we get from cows.
- **Stop 4: Oak tree** – In the garden there's an oak tree which is descended from the Royal Oak (the famous tree in which the future King Charles II of England hid to escape the Roundheads following the Battle of Worcester in 1651). Oak trees can grow over 20 metres tall, their trunks tend to be wide, with thick, rough and grooved dark brown bark. They support lots of different species. Identify the oak tree and offer students the chance to feel the textured bark. They could then use the paper and crayons to create a rubbing from the bark. Be careful that the crayons do not directly rub on the tree bark.
- **Stop 5: Knot garden** – After the students have explored the garden, come together to share answers and to use descriptive words to describe what they see and what they might smell e.g. sweet, flowery. Use the rosemary in the garden for this - students can crush/rub the leaves to pick up the scent. Ask the group if these are the same plants you might see on a farm – they aren't because they can't eat all of them. Ask what plants we can eat. Suggestions might include fruit, vegetables and cereal grains.
- **Optional story time** pause for younger groups: Introduce the story time with: 'Charles II was a king, and he stayed here at Boscobel while he was hiding from soldiers. When it was safe to move, he sat in the garden and read a book. We are going to gather around and read the story of The Gigantic Turnip.' March like soldiers to the spot where you're going to read.
- **Stop 6: Willow arches** – Invite the students to explore the willow arches. Ask them to think about the textures they can feel, whilst making sure not to pick any leaves or break any branches. After they have explored, come together to share what they felt e.g. the smooth branches and the soft leaves.

FARMYARD SENSORY TRAIL

See if you can find all of these things.
Tick each one off as you find it.



1 STABLES



2 BIRD'S NEST



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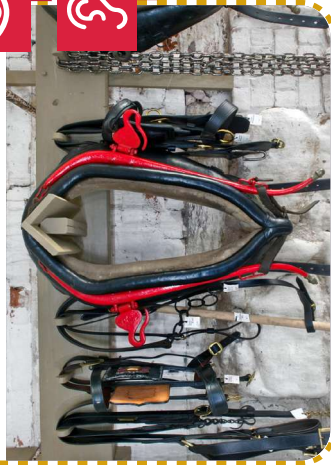
3 COW BARN



DID YOU KNOW?

Rosemary was used to help digestion, arthritis and baldness. Today it is popular in cooking.

4 OAK TREE



DID YOU KNOW?

Horses poo is very good for growing plants and flowers!

5 KNOT GARDEN



6 WILLOW ARCHES



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