

**Activity: Woodsy Words**

**Grade Level:** Grade 1

**Major Emphasis:** Sensory Awareness/Vocabulary Development

**Major Curriculum Area:** Language Arts

**Related Curriculum Areas:**

- Refer to Outdoor Education Curriculum Matrix K-2
- Mathematics
- Human Relations
- Science

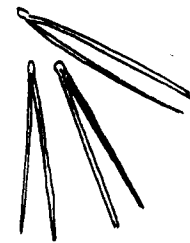


**Program Indicator:**

The student will expand listening and speaking vocabulary.

**Student Outcomes:** The student will:

1. describe an object by touch.
2. describe an object using senses other than touch or taste.
3. choose an appropriate object to match a list of adjectives.



**Figure 1: Examples of Natural Objects**

**Readiness:**

1. Introduce vocabulary:  

describe	color	pattern	texture
match	adjective	senses	object
2. Review various shapes, colors, textures and sizes. Describe objects which are familiar to students.
3. Have students use descriptive words for objects in the classroom.
4. Read a story about the out-of-doors and list various descriptive words (adjectives).

**Materials:**

easel	natural objects	tagboard word cards (optional)
markers	touchy-feely jugs	treasure bags

**Procedures:****Activity A: Touch-Guess (DL1,2,3&4)**

1. Have students walk a designated area or trail. Have each student find and collect one natural object (i.e. pine cone, leaf, stone, twig). Use a bag or pocket to hide the nature treasures.
2. Have students return to the meeting site. In two separate circles, have students put nature treasures in touchy-feely jugs one at a time.
3. On the first pass, have students feel the object and describe it using an adjective while it is in the touchy-feely jug. *The instructor should record the words as they are given.* As each word is added, the group will read the entire list.
4. Students will identify the object in the touchy-feely jug by using the list of adjectives.
5. Repeat the procedure for each additional object from other students.

**Activity B: (DL2,3&4)**

1. Using a teacher-made list of adjectives, students will match the word list with an object within the immediate vicinity.
2. Repeat the procedure using various objects.

**Summary: (DL1,2&3)**

1. The teacher will display an object or picture of something from nature. Students will provide adjectives describing the object or picture. The teacher will record the adjectives on cards.
2. Using the objects or pictures and word cards, the group will make a mobile to be displayed in the classroom.
3. A group L.E.A. will be written using the adjectives on the mobile to describe the object or picture.

**Follow-Up:**

1. Select an adjective-rich book to share with the class. Discuss the adjectives.
2. The teacher will display a framed paragraph and have the students supply adjectives.

**Extension Activity:**

Play “20 Questions” with the students. The questions should be descriptive terms with “yes” or “no” answers. Examples: Is it red? Is it rough?

## Teacher Resources:

### Books:

< \*Sharing Nature With Children, Cornell, 507 COR.

< \*Teaching the Pleasures of Reading, Rowell and Goodkind, 372.4 ROW.

< \*Hug A Tree, Rockwell, Sherwood and Williams, 371.3 ROC.

< \*Learning About Nature Through Games, Musselman, 793.8 MUS.

### Supplemental Material:

< \* "Using the Outdoors to Promote Creative Thinking," Howard.

