



Sandricks Activity Card 3

Looking for mosses and ferns



Location: Bottom of sandrock

Equipment: Camera

Time: 30 minutes

Audience: KS2

Activity Description:

Stage 1 - for the whole group - show the children a typical moss and a typical fern growing in the crevices of the rock. Give an example of how there could be different types e.g. shape and size of leaf structure.



Stage 2 - put the children into groups of two or three and ask them to look for as many different KINDS of moss and fern as they can amongst the crevices and joints of the sandrock. The children could take photos of what they find. See how mosses make their own soil by using the moisture that they receive from rainwater.

Stage 3 - in the same groups, see the spores on the back of any fern's leaf. These eventually drop off the plant and grow to make baby plants.

Stage 4 - discuss findings and share photos.

High Weald Teaching Point: By growing in this location, mosses tell us that the air is fresh and good. Impress on the children that these plants are rare and must not be picked. Care should be taken not to get feet, hands or fingers stuck in the cracks in the rocks.

Mosses belong to a group of plants called bryophytes which don't have flowers but have spores. Ferns have these spores on the back of their leaves, which can make new plants. The Weald is famous for its great variety of these types of plant, which are known as colonisers - they are the first plants ever to grow in rocky places. The Tunbridge Filmy-fern was named after this area.

Be a High Weald Hero - you can make a difference