

EDUCATION PLAN

Age range 3–5 year olds

0

The bear hunt

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Introduction to A Rocha UK

A Rocha UK is a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world and committed to equipping Christians and churches in the UK to care for the environment. We do this through our practical involvement in community nature conservation projects, and by engaging with churches, schools, land owners, communities and individuals – educating, equipping and inspiring them to participate in caring for the earth and its resources. Our vision is for Christians and Churches of all denominations to care for creation as an integral part of loving their neighbours and following God faithfully.

Introduction to The Bear Hunt

Title	Education Plan 0. The Bear Hunt.
Subject	Science, RE (supporting material and ideas at end to supplement).
Overview & age	An introduction for young children to an urban setting. Can be done in all seasons as it is sensory. (Winter is spectacular with water flowing but can be cold.) Suggested age range 3 - 5 year olds.
Time	2 hour session. And up to 1 hour for practical preparation.
Location(s)	All outside. Outdoor space including long grass, stream / water, mud and trees.
Learning Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To bring Michael Rosen's poem The Bear Hunt to life. ● To ensure the children enjoy an animated version of the poem, stimulating all the senses. ● To learn new creative adjectives and connect with nature all around.
Resources in order of usage	<p>Preparation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shears / secateurs ● Bucket(s) of water (if no mud) ● Netting or tarpaulin for camouflage of cave ● Large teddy bear <p>Education Plan Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' book by Michael Rosen ● Two tarpaulins ● Document Resource 1: Bible passage
Preparation / space required	<p>All outdoors. Need to have a route to walk in the following order: long grass, a stream / water, some mud, a forest / trees, a noisy / high area and a cave (tarpaulin or equivalent).</p> <p>Preparation: A scope of this trail is required the day before and a cave set up as close as possible to the start of the activity:</p> <p>Walk the whole trail, to make sure it is accessible, with shears to cut nettles, brambles and other vegetation. Also carry out a litter pick. Check the water level of the stream and mud areas to cross, this will depend on the season; ideally the water should be no more than halfway up a child's boot – move location until you get the right depth. See if there is a dry alternative for those without boots. Also crossing the mud should be squelchy without pulling a child's boot off; if too dry, add a couple of buckets of water earlier on the day of the activity.</p> <p>Set up a cave using netting and / or a tarpaulin (with air holes / window) and leaves to give a camouflage effect. The teddy bear needs to be set in the cave close to start the activity (so it is not stolen / moved). Additional tarpaulins need to be either carried or stored for the end, to allow the children to sit / lie on. Make sure there is a space for this, not too far from the cave.</p> <p>Strongly advise all children to wear wellies for full experience. Cover arms and legs and ideally wear a waterproof coat. In summer, you may need suntan lotion.</p>
Disclaimer	These resources are a set of free environmental education materials, provided by A Rocha UK to schools, colleges and youth groups. They may be printed for event use, but please acknowledge A Rocha UK and the authors of the material (where supplied).

It is the responsibility of the individual or institution using the education plans to ensure that a full Risk Assessment has been carried out and that adequate insurance provision has been given for the activities.

It is also the responsibility of that same individual or institution to ensure the activity is age appropriate and suitably supervised by qualified individuals.

A Rocha UK takes no responsibility for any loss, damage, injury, death or litigation related in whole or in part to any event or activity related to the plan.

Education Plan Activities

Time	Leader	Children
Total 2 hours	<p>0. Background – Setting the scene Welcome and thank you to A Rocha UK for providing the education plan (please see our Contents Page for an overview of our charity’s work, which we would be delighted for you to share about here).</p> <p>1. Introduction and engagement <i>(Resources: We’re going on a Bear Hunt book)</i> Point out first aiders, and Health and Safety input.</p> <p>Rehearse the Bear Hunt chorus; explain the song and actions.</p> <p>Walk to the start of the trail and introduce them to a brief history of the area (if known), e.g. from brokenness to beauty.</p> <p>2. Bear Hunt <i>(Resources: Two tarpaulins)</i> One more time before starting, fully animated, say the poem chorus and go straight into the grass verse. Point out nettles or brambles and steer clear.</p> <p>Walk to the stream / water and splash in it. The children say an animated chorus followed by the leader reading the river verse. <i>(Point out a dry alternative for those without wellies.)</i></p> <p>Walk to the mud and stamp in it. The children say an animated chorus followed by the leader reading the mud verse.</p> <p>Walk to the forest and stamp in it. The children say an animated chorus followed by the leader reading the forest verse.</p> <p>Walk out of the forest / trees. For the snow storm some improvising is needed especially in the summer when the sound of the local traffic can represent the swirling whirling snowstorm. The children say an animated chorus followed by the leader reading the snowstorm verse.</p> <p>Bring the noise level down after the snowstorm by asking the children ‘Can you hear that?’ Somebody will always hear the bear snoring.</p> <p>As we approach the narrow gloomy cave, split the children into smaller groups with adults supporting. The children say an animated chorus followed by the leader reading the cave verse. Then tiptoe, tiptoe towards the cave. In the cave, ‘One shiny wet nose!’ verse.</p>	<p>Listen and look at the logo.</p> <p>Listen.</p> <p>Chant the animated chorus & actions. Walk to the start of the trail then listen.</p> <p>Say chorus, then through the ‘swishy swashy’ grass.</p> <p>Say chorus, then through the ‘splash splosh’ water.</p> <p>Say chorus, then through the ‘squelch squerch’ mud. Say chorus, then through the ‘stumble trip’ forest. Say chorus, then ‘Hoooo woooo’ through the snowstorm.</p> <p>Think and answer.</p> <p>Say chorus, then ‘What’s that! One shiny wet nose... IT’S A BEAR!’</p>

	<p>Then have children go into the cave to see the bear. Wait for all groups to go into the cave. (<i>Can do photos while waiting.</i>) Then in a big group do 'Quick back through the cave ...' verse and actions. Continue upto 'the front door' part.</p> <p>A tarpaulin is stretched on the ground ahead. The leader reads the last verse of the poem 'Get to our front door...' & add actions.</p> <p>For the last bit 'Into the bed. Under the covers', either encourage the children to sit / lie down / put their heads on the tarpaulin to go to sleep. Can throw another tarpaulin over them, duvet style to mimic the effects of a safe secure bed. All together shout the last line.</p> <p>While still lying down, have a plenary time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which bit of the journey did you like best? • Quiet reflection of God being with them on the journey of life – through the hard times and through the good. • Ask them to imagine lying there in safety after the rush and uncertainty of the journey. <p>3. Faith and adventure (<i>Can stay lying down</i>) (<i>Resources: Bible passage</i>) Brief introduction to the Bible and Psalms - a collection of songs written to and about God.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We've just been on an adventure – a journey (the Bear Hunt). How did you feel? • Journeys can be exciting – but sometimes a bit scary. What things stop us feeling afraid? • Long ago there was a man called David. When he was young he was a shepherd – he looked after sheep. He went on journeys with them to help them find fresh green grass to eat. Sometimes it was a bit scary – because there were lions and bears in that country. • Did he feel afraid? No – even when he looked like he was alone, he knew God was with him, to look after him. He wrote a famous song about it. It begins: 'The Lord (God) is <u>my</u> shepherd'. • Read Psalm from Bible passage resource • David looked after the sheep; & God looked after him. <p>Summarise</p>	<p>See the bear.</p> <p>Say & do the actions in reverse, quickly. Sit / lie on the tarpaulin.</p> <p>Finally the children say together 'We're not going on a Bear Hunt again'.</p> <p>Listen Q & A then listen.</p> <p>Listen, answer the questions and then listen.</p>
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Additional Resources List

Document Resources Inventory - print all once unless specified otherwise

0 A Rocha UK introduction

1. Bible Passage

Resources you may need to purchase (prices may be subject to change)

Resource	Price	Source	Web address
Netting for cave camouflage	£21.95	Forest school	https://www.forestschoolshop.co.uk/sleeping-out/tarps-shelters/camo-nets-for-outdoor-play.htm
Giant Large Big Brown Teddy Bear	£46.79 + £9.00 delivery	Giant teddy bears	https://giant-teddy-bear.co.uk/bears/giant-large-big-brown-teddy-bear-115cm.html
We're going on a Bear Hunt	£6.99	Waitrose	https://www.waterstones.com/series/were-going-on-a-bear-hunt
Tarpaulins	£9.95 each (X2 = £19.90)	Forest school	https://www.forestschoolshop.co.uk/sleeping-out/tarps-shelters/boonies-outdoor-forest-school-tarp.htm

Total cost: £104.63

Other resources inventory

1. Shears / secateurs for clearing route (optional)
2. Map of route (optional)

Psalm chapter 23 verses 1 - 4 (International Children's Bible)

¹ The Lord is my shepherd. I have everything I need.

² He gives me rest in green pastures.

He leads me to calm water.

³ He gives me new strength.

For the good of his name,

He leads me on paths that are right.

⁴ Even if I walk through a very dark valley,

I will not be afraid because you are with me.

Your rod and your shepherd's staff comfort me.