

"Look deep in to nature, and then you will understand everything better" ~Albert Einstein~



INTRODUCTION



Map of the Magic Forest

Magic Forest Academy is a series of nature-based educational guides. This Stage 2 collection is most suited for ages 7-12, covering 52 individual nature themes filled with reading, math, science, art, crafts, games, recipes and more.

Our books are flexible and can be used independently to compliment nature studies and other curriculum, or combined together as an inclusive full-year curriculum that flows naturally with the seasons. Our content is written as child-led

so that older children may advance at their own pace, while younger children may prefer teacher guidance to complete activities.

Where we stand apart from other nature-based educational curriculum is that we are secular, affordable, practical and maintain a high level of academic enrichment through nature study. We put emphasis on conservation and highlight concepts that children can enhance with their own inspiration and imagination. We embrace classical studies while also championing today's youth to pioneer new and innovative ideas.

Each one of our 52 book highlights a unique nature theme. There are numerous ways to include our nature based books in your educational program; either presenting a weekly themed study throughout the year, or broaching one academic focus for a general nature study. The Magic Forest guides are flexible to accommodate those who prefer structure and then those who are looking more for a journey of ideas. Our activities can be adapted for one child or a group of children.

Our philosophy revolves around nature conservation with a healthy focus on learning about history and cultures who are known champions of nature. Our studies introduce over 50 indigenous tribes of North America, and numerous other cultures across the world who influence an appreciation of nature. Our hope is that students of the Magic Forest learn through these examples, becoming their own stewards of nature. In return, studies have shown that children who are regularly in touch with nature grow up healthier, smarter and happier.

This syllabus is designed in the same format as each guide, starting with an Introduction, followed by sections for Reading, Math, Science, Arts & Crafts, Fun & Games, a Recipe, and then finally an extensive list of Additional Activities to explore. It is understood that one week is not enough to cover all activities, thus we suggest exploring those that interest the child and continuing to use our guides each year as children are inspired o explore more. Thank you for your interest in the Magic Forest!

In the Magic Forest, we have an appreciation for both modern and classic literature, as well as for all genres. For each theme we highlight a suggested book related to the specific nature topic. Throughout all 52 books you will find a nice mix of poetry and prose with a balance of classic and modern literature that have one thing in common which is being rich in content and style. The goal is to spark an interest for children to read, not to force them. If our suggested reading is met with enthusiasm, which we think it will, then by all means go on that journey to either read the book together or solo. In this section of each guide we list the book title and give a brief

synopsis of why we suggested the particular



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authors or publishers of books that we suggest. These are books that we have personally read and we provide our personal review. We do not claim copyright to any books we suggest or highlight in our Magic Forest guides. We highly suggest that if you do enjoy the book, then perhaps send a fan letter or email to the author, or find a resource on the Internet where your child can rate the book with comments. This not only benefits the author, but also provides an opportunity for children to practice their writing skills.

Suggested Activities

book.

Following are ideas to incorporate with the Reading section of our nature themes:

- 1) If suitable, draw a map of locations mentioned in the book, or create a 3D model.
- 2) Create postcards of each location in the book, and perhaps create a travel brochure.
- 3) Pretending to be one of the characters from the book, write a letter to another character, or send a postcard.
- 4) If you belong to a group or class or have several friends, have each of you pick one character from the book and write letters to each other as those characters.
- 5) Create a Diary and update it as one of the characters.
- 6) Pick a secondary or unassuming character from the story and write a new story from their point of view.
- 7) Create a Screen Play of the book, and if possible, invite friends to perform the play.
- 8) Create a Portrait Gallery of each character.
- 9) Make up a song or poem about the story, or make up a story about the poem.
- 10) Keep a journal of new words you learn from the story and write their definition as well as synonyms and antonyms.
- 11) Write your own story or poem about the books Nature Theme.
- 12) Write a Book Report about the story.
- 13) Start a Book Club to review each book in the guides; either online or in person.
- 14) Look up other books by the same author and read them for pleasure or to compare.
- 15) Look up other books about the Nature Theme and read them for pleasure or to compare.

MATH

Each of our educational books connects math to the nature theme for that specific book. The math explored is presented in its own unique way, from a concept to a philosophy to a practical application. There are no worksheets in the Magic Forest. We explore pure math through the natural world around us.

While we may, at times, close each math section with examples to sharpen skills, sometimes the math sections are open ended for children to explore from their unique perspectives. We encourage parents and teachers to foster inquisitive minds with activities that incorporate each themed math. For example, we cover how to perform upside down math (Prime Factorization) in our Bat themed book, much like a bat hangs upside down. Get creative with follow up activities that make practicing Prime Factorization fun. For example, you can create a stack of paper bat cutouts listing one Prime Factorization problem on each bat. You could create an area in a room to resemble a pretend cave or tree, so that children can hang the bats upside down once they solve the problem. Who wouldn't have fun solving math problems in an effort to populate the cave or tree with lovely bats! This is just one idea and example of how to incorporate fun and imagination with learning math.

Another suggestion is if your child prefers having worksheets, let them create a worksheet for you to complete. People often learn more quickly when they become the teacher, and in presenting the problems are naturally forcing themselves to learn them. If you have a large group of students, let each one add a problem to the worksheet. They will love seeing you solve their problems and it promotes a community effort in seeing the world of math that is all around us.

Math can be fun, and in nature, it's there to explore, so every chance you get head outdoors to see nature's exciting math. In the Magic Forest, children not only learn Prime Factorization, but everything from measuring rain and wingspan, calculating tree ages and sea level, cubing numbers, calculating ratio and proportion, and so much more. Most importantly, all of these math concepts are mapped to the books nature theme so it makes sense while remaining fun.



SCIENCE



The Magic Forest holds science near and dear, because Nature needs more scientists who understand natural changes and manmade ones that we should keep checks and balances on. We hope our introduction to each Science theme not

only inspires a love of science, but an appreciation for the nature theme it is attached to.

Some of our science activities provide an opportunity to perform experiments, while others promote investigative science. We study surface tension in our Herbs & Spices book, go ice fishing (for ice cubes!) in our Ice themed book. We make crystal snowflakes and clouds in bottles, raise tadpoles, make dandelion curls, create sponge fossils, spore prints, and even jump down rabbit holes amongst many other hands on activities. We also investigate how flying squirrels fly, how seeds are dispersed, about meadow ecology, moon phases and more. Our Science themes in each nature book are designed to present science and nature hand in hand as they are in the natural world.

We highly suggest that children start a Nature Journal they can use when studying each science theme, because quite often it helps to document and diagram what you are learning. Not only to improve memory, but when memory fails us, have a guide to refer back to. Like a proper scientist!

In this section of every book, we list the specific science either covered in the nature theme or more specific to the experiment. This way children learn exciting career paths linked to the science they are learning; for example, **Oceanography, Ecology, Mycology, Paleontology** and more. If you have a chance to arrange a meeting with Scientists in each field, or even students or teachers from a local college or university, this is highly suggested to further foster a love of science

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ARTS & CRAFTS

The Arts and Crafts section of our books are one of our pride and joys. We not only came up with an amazing list of nature crafts that tie perfectly to each theme, but each craft is unique and clever. We put a lot of emphasis in to reusing everyday household items that children can repurpose in to fantastic craft items, instead of presenting a pricey supplies list, or suggesting items that are difficult to find. Children absolutely adore the crafts they create, either for themselves or as gifts for others. We make everything from Beaded Dragonflies to Berry Baskets, Garden Markers, Trilobite Charms, Herb Sachets, Sunburst Weaves, Sock Bunnies, Rain Sticks and much more. If you follow the complete 52 book cycle you will cover a total of ten famous artists as well, including Georgia O'Keeffe, Claude Monet, Charles Seurat, M. C. Escher, Hokusai, Vincent van Gogh, Cezanne, Kandinsky, Klimt, and Joseph Cornell.



In this section we post detailed step-by-step instructional photo's, making it easier to

complete each Art and Craft project.

Suggested Activities

- Explain the difference between Art and Craft, and highlight which type you will be creating each theme. While most books present a craft to create, there are ten guides in the full year 52 themes that do highlight a famous artist and art project.
- 2) Encourage children to come up with their own art and/or craft to create per theme.
- 3) If a child wishes to create something else than the tutorial, encourage this. It's okay if they prefer not to follow the tutorials to create their own craft or artwork. Sometimes just watching an adult work through the tutorial themselves is sufficient. Use our guide as just that, a guide.
- In addition to the Arts & Crafts tutorials and ideas, encourage children to keep a Nature journal they update with their own sketches and diagrams.
- 5) Display children's Arts & Crafts. Find unique and special ways to put creations on display. If space is limited, take photo's of previous arts and crafts before displaying new ones and then keep photo montage on display.
- 6) Recycle and Repurpose materials wherever possible, and when suitable, use natural materials.
- 7) Most important, have fun and encourage creativity and imagination when focusing on Arts & Crafts.

FUN & GAMES



You only get one childhood, and when you're older it helps to look back at all the fun you had. This is why, in the Magic Forest, we always stop to enjoy some fun and games. In each themed guide, we present games that compliment each nature theme, with instructions on how to play with a group, and if suitable, on your own.

Each game and fun activity is filled with the imagination and skills suitable for average Stage 2 ages and abilities. If a child has physical or other limitations, the activities can be altered so everyone can join in. Perhaps ask the children to come up with their alternative set of rules and instructions, because children are clever and often have the best input. Use this section to enjoy what childhood offers the most of, which is having fun. We think children will have fun in the Magic Forest though. Who couldn't enjoy becoming a Bat at Night, or a Mouse Detective, a Tree Explorer, or a Snake in the Grass. We also make Scarecrows, enjoy a Moon Toss, make Colorful Songs, Build a Meadow and much more.

The best part is that all of this fun is focused on the specific nature themes, thus reinforcing a lifetime appreciation.



Each guide booklet has this section that focuses on classic childhood fun. The sort of activities that every child should enjoy at least once when they are young, yet so many children are missing out these days. Classic fun; such as, playing Hot Lava, Jumping in a Pile of Leaves, having Helicopter Seed races, playing pick up sticks, wishing upon a star, enjoying hopscotch, flying a kite, building a fort, learning to whistle, splashing in puddles, and finding a 4-leaf clover. We have

captured 52 classic simple fun and cleverly mapped it to the specific nature themes. We encourage learning academics linked to nature, but don't forget the classic childhood gems that are the memory builders that not only last a lifetime, but get passed on to next generations to enjoy.

RECIPE

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Learning to cook is not only a basic life skills, but in the process you are applying reading and comprehension skills while also learning science and math, without evening knowing it. To children, cooking is an enjoyable activity that results in a tasty reward, and our Stage 2 educational books are the perfect time to increase those cooking skills. Picky eaters suddenly start trying new foods if they are allowed to pick out the ingredients and cook or bake the recipe themselves. Cooking also promotes confidence that extends to all areas of life.

We use mostly original Magic Forest recipes throughout our 52 books, with a focus on health and nutrition, and with all recipes mapping to the specific nature themes. You will not find chemical food colorings in our recipes, nor corn syrup, canned soups nor refrigerated biscuits.

Here are a few tips to making the most of this section:

- 1) Set aside ample time. Do not rush this activity.
- 2) Expect spills and messes and making cleaning up part of the fun.
- 3) Use your best judgement for how much involved each child is, but do try to promote independence with cooking.
- 4) Get children involved in the planning, budgeting shopping, cooking, and clean-up.
- 5) Ensure Kitchen Safety skills are followed at all times.

Don't just limit this section to cooking and eating. Expand the learning by researching the Nutrition in each ingredient, or what country each ingredient originated from, or what cultures enjoy the same recipe or similar. Cooking can involve reading, math, science, geography, social studies and much more.



Ingredients

- In each book you will find the recipe in the green section to the left, and the list of ingredients in this section, with a photo of each recipe above.
- We cook from fresh ingredients and encourage healthy eating.
- Some recipes are savory, some sweet, all are vegetarian
- If you see an ingredient that will either cause an allergy, or you are simply opposed to using, this is understandable and we suggest finding substitutes. Most, if not all, of our recipes will allow for ingredient substitutes.

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When all is said and done, there are still many additional activities that may interest a child to expand their studies of a particular nature theme. We use this section to include an extensive list of activities we enjoy here in the Magic Forest, and may interest your child as well. Activities in this section extend to geography, social studies, history, and more Our philosophy is that learning is a lifelong enthusiasm, so the goal is not to complete every suggested idea, but to enjoy those that interest you.



Many of our activities require active research. With the Internet at nearly everyone's disposal, and being a very useful tool if used properly, we encourage you and your child to look up information on the Internet where possible. When using the Internet, or any resource, make sure you use a reputable source for information; such as, universities, colleges, schools, government sites and online libraries. Blog articles can be very useful as well. Just remember to always check original sources in footnotes. This is an excellent time for children to learn how to do proper research.

Some of the additional activities include field trips or finding nature groups and clubs related to a specific theme. We always encourage children to contact experts in the field of study they are interested in learning more about, especially since so much of the natural world is still unknown with new information being discovered daily. If a field trip is too long of a distance to arrange, perhaps using Skype or a similar application to host conferences with experts is doable.

One of our main focuses in the Magic Forest is to learn more about the indigenous people of North America, because from what we have learned, they exemplify to us how all people should respect and appreciate nature. Each tribe, each nation, each community is unique from the other, and yet have many synchronicities. When expanding your research, please always contact the respective tribes or nations directly for more information. Most, if not all, have their own website with contact information.

After completing our nature themed books and the additional recommended activities, if you still want to continue with a particular nature them, then visit our website at www.magicforestacademy.com. We have created individual pages for each theme with links to numerous additional resources; such as, websites, lesson plans, books, movies, video's, toys, games, educational products and much more!

Magic Forest Full Year Guide

Below is the suggested timeline of all 52 themes as a full-year study. Each themed book is aligned to the month and season it flows naturally with, though each book is designed to be referenced at any time. Each Season Bundle contains 13 themed books. While most of our books Arts & Crafts section contains a nature themed craft, we have chosen 10 famous artists to study throughout the year.

Magic Forest Stage 2 Syllabus								
A u	Mushroom Autumn <i>Apple</i> Night	September	March	<i>Trees</i> Birds Spring Rabbits	S			
t u E n B	Squirrel Mountains & Caves Leaves Bat	October	April	River <i>Song</i> Earth Wind	r n g B u n d l e			
u n d – e	Owl Seeds Spider <i>Reptile &</i> <i>Amphibian</i> Mouse	November	Мау	Clouds Garden Bee Meadow <i>Flowers</i>				
¥inter Bundle	Snow <i>Stars</i> Winter Cones	December	June	Dragonfly Butterfly Summer <i>Pond</i>	Summer Bundle			
	Fire Sticks/Twigs/Logs <i>Dreams</i> Herbs & Spices Moon	January	July	Snake Fossils Rain Rainbow Ant				
	Wolf Ice Fox Hibernate	February	August	Ocean <i>Island</i> Rocks, Gems, Minerals Berries				
Indicates Famous Artist Study								

Spring: Gustav Klimt, Wassily Kandinsky, Georgia O'Keeffe

Summer: Claude Monet, Georges Seurat

<u>Autumn:</u> Paul Cezanne, Katsushika Hokusai, M. C. Escher

Winter: Vincent van Gogh, Joseph Cornell



Each book comes with this page containing line-items to take Notes.

Also spread throughout each book are famous quotes and one idiom related to the nature theme, because raising awareness of how to interpret Idiom's is an important skill for children to learn.

While the quotes are intended to enhance the nature theme of each book, we encourage children to learn more about the author of each quote. Learning biographies leads to history, social studies and more. Some of the quotes are proverbs from specific cultures, allowing children to expand their learning to cultural studies.

We hope you are as excited about using our Magic Forest Academy nature based educational guides as we have been in creating them. Please check our website at www.magicforestacademy.com for many more FREE additional resources per nature them!

An Idiom is where we use certain words as an expression that means something entirely different than the words literal meaning. In this section of every book we list an Idiom with example that also maps to the books nature theme.

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For permission requests, write to the publisher, addressed "Attention:

Permissions Coordinator" to the following email address:

admin@magicforestacademy.com

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- 7) Most important, have fun and encourage creativity and imagination when focusing on Arts & Crafts.

FUN & GAMES

You only get one childhood, and when you're older it helps to look back at all the fun you had. This is why, in the Magic Forest, we always stop to enjoy some fun and games. In each themed guide, we present games that compliment each nature theme, with instructions on how to play with a group, and if suitable, on your own. Each game and fun activity is filled with the imagination and skills suitable for average Stage 2 ages and abilities. If a child has physical or other limitations, the activities can be altered so everyone can join in. Perhaps ask the children to come up with their alternative set of rules and instructions, because children are clever and often have the best input. Use this section to enjoy what childhood offers the most of, which is having fun. We think children will have fun in the Magic Forest though. Who couldn't enjoy becoming a Bat at Night, or a Mouse Detective, a Tree Explorer, or a Snake in the Grass. We also make Scarecrows, enjoy a Moon Toss, make Colorful Songs, Build a Meadow and much more.

The best part is that all of this fun is focused on the specific nature themes, thus reinforcing a lifetime appreciation.

Classic Childhood Fun

Each guide booklet has this section that focuses on classic childhood fun. The sort of activities that every child should enjoy at least once when they are young, yet so many children are missing out these days. Classic fun; such as, playing Hot Lava, Jumping in a Pile of Leaves, having Helicopter Seed races, playing pick up sticks, wishing upon a star, enjoying hopscotch, flying a kite, building a fort, learning to whistle, splashing in puddles, and finding a 4-leaf clover. We have captured 52 classic simple fun and cleverly mapped it to the specific nature themes. We encourage learning academics linked to nature, but don't forget the classic childhood gems that are the memory builders that not only last a lifetime, but get passed on to next generations to enjoy.

RECIPE

Learning to cook is not only a basic life skills, but in the process you are applying reading and comprehension skills while also learning science and math, without evening knowing it. To children, cooking is an enjoyable activity that results in a tasty reward, and our Stage 2 educational guides are the perfect time to increase those cooking skills. Once picky eaters suddenly start trying new foods if they are allowed to pick out the ingredients and cook or bake the recipe themselves. Cooking also promotes confidence that extends to all areas of life.

We use mostly original Magic Forest recipes throughout our 52 books, with a focus on health and nutrition, and with all recipes mapping to the specific nature themes. You will not find chemical food colorings in our recipes, nor corn syrup, canned soups nor refrigerated biscuits.

Here are a few tips to making the most of this section:

- 1) Set aside ample time. Do not rush this activity.
- 2) Expect spills and messes and making cleaning up part of the fun.
- 3) Use your best judgement for how much involved each child is, but do try to promote independence with cooking.
- 4) Get children involved in the planning, budgeting shopping, cooking, and clean-up.
- 5) Ensure Kitchen Safety skills are followed at all times.

Don't just limit this section to cooking and eating. Expand the learning by researching the Nutrition in each ingredient, or what country each ingredient originated from, or what cultures enjoy the same recipe or similar. Cooking can involve reading, math, science, geography, social studies and much more.

Ingredients

- In each book you will find the recipe in the green section to the left, and the list of ingredients in this section, with a photo of each recipe above.
- We cook from fresh ingredients and encourage healthy eating.
- Some recipes are savory, some sweet, all are vegetarian
- If you see an ingredient that will either cause an allergy, or you are simply opposed to using, this is understandable and we suggest finding substitutes. Most, if not all, of our recipes will allow for ingredient substitutes.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

When all is said and done, there are still many additional activities that may interest a child to expand their studies of a particular nature theme. We use this section to include an extensive list of activities we enjoy here in the Magic Forest, and may interest your child as well. Activities in this section extend to geography, social studies, history, and more Our philosophy is that learning is a lifelong enthusiasm, so the goal is not to complete every suggested idea, but to enjoy those that interest you.

Many of our activities require active research. With the Internet at nearly everyone's disposal, and being a very useful tool if used properly, we encourage you and your child to look up information on the Internet where possible. When using the Internet, or any resource, make sure you use a reputable source for information; such as, universities, colleges, schools, government sites and online libraries. Blog articles can be very useful as well. Just remember to always check original sources in footnotes. This is an excellent time for children to learn how to do proper research.

Some of the additional activities include field trips or finding nature groups and clubs related to a specific theme. We always encourage children to contact experts in the field of study they are interested in learning more about, especially since so much of the natural world is still unknown with new information being discovered daily. If a field trip is too long of a distance to arrange, perhaps using Skype or a similar application to host conferences with experts is doable.

One of our main focuses in the Magic Forest is to learn more about the indigenous people of North America, because from what we have learned, they exemplify to us how all people should respect and appreciate nature. Each tribe, each nation, each community is unique from the other, and yet have many synchronicities. When expanding your research, please always contact the respective tribes or nations directly for more information. Most, if not all, have their own website with contact information.

After completing our nature themed books and the additional recommended activities, if you still want to continue with a particular nature them, then visit our website at www.magicforestacademy.com. We have created individual pages for each theme with links to numerous additional resources; such as, websites, lesson plans, books, movies, video's, toys, games, educational products and much more!

If you are using our full-year 52 book inclusive educational guides together, please see the suggested timeline of each book by theme as aligned to the months. This sequence was designed to flow naturally with the seasons so that the topic is easier to study in this period of time, assuming a standard four season year

Magic Forest Stage 2 Syllabus								
Bundle	Mushroom Autumn <i>Apple</i> Night	September October November	March	Trees Birds Spring Rabbits				
	Squirrel <i>Mountains</i> & Caves Leaves Bat		April	River <i>Song</i> Earth Wind	B u d l e			
	Owl Seeds Spider <i>Reptile &</i> <i>Amphibian</i> Mouse		May	Clouds Garden Bee Meadow <i>Flowers</i>				
B u n d I e	Snow <i>Stars</i> Winter Cones	December	June	Dragonfly Butterfly Summer <i>Pond</i>				
	Fire Strcks/Twigs/L nas Dreams Herbs & Snices Moon	January	July	Snake Fossils Rain Rainbow Ant	B u n d l			
	Wolf Ice Fox Hibernate	February adicates Famo	August	Ocean <i>Island</i> Rocks, Gems, Minerals Berries	4			

Each book comes with this page containing line-items to take Notes.

Also spread throughout each book are famous quotes and one idiom related to the nature theme, because raising awareness of how to interpret Idiom's and Metaphor's is an important skill for children to learn.

While the quotes are intended to enhance the nature theme of each book, we encourage children to learn more about the quotes authors. Learning biographies leads to history, social studies and more. Some of the quotes are proverbs from specific cultures, allowing children to expand their learning to cultural studies.

We hope you are as excited about using our Magic Forest nature based educational guides as we have been in creating them. Please check our website at www.magicforestacademy.com for additional resources and products.

An Idiom is where we use certain words as an expression that means something entirely different than the words literal meaning. In this section of every book we list an Idiom with example that also maps to the books nature theme.