

# Extension Activity 1: Create a Forest Map!

Working in groups, students will collaborate to plan and design a forest map. They will decide what features to include, choose roles for each person and create a map that reflects their shared ideas. When they're done, each group will present its forest map to the class and explain how they worked together to create it.

---



## Focus areas:

- Teamwork
- Spatial thinking
- Creativity
- Sharing



## Materials:

- Create a Forest Map! handout
- Forest Map Outline
- Classroom materials for drawing and building



## Instructions:

- 1) Divide students into groups and explain the objective: Groups will work together to design a forest map.
- 2) Give each group the **Create a Forest Map!** handout, which has the instructions for the activity. For younger students, you might want to go through the instructions as a class first.
- 3) Give each group the **Forest Map Outline** or a big sheet of blank paper. Students can use the outline or design their own. Then allow time for teamwork.
- 4) When time is up, ask groups to share their maps with the class and explain how they worked together as a team and how each person helped.
- 5) When all groups are done presenting, answer the discussion questions as a class.



## Discussion questions:

- What made your team work well together?
- Did anyone use a strength in a surprising way?
- Why is it helpful when people don't do or see things the same way?

# Create a Forest Map!

---

## Step 1 Build your team

Everyone in your group is important, and each person has special skills. Talk about what each person would like to do when you create your map. You can switch jobs or have more than one. Work together and listen to each other's ideas. Then pick a job based on how you can help your team best. Here are some ideas:

- **The artist:** Loves to draw and color the map
  - **The planner:** Has great ideas and helps decide where things go
  - **The organizer:** Makes sure everything fits and works together
  - **The storyteller:** Can tell a fun story about your forest when the map is done
- 

## Step 2 Come up with a plan

What do you want your forest to look like? What will you put in it? Where will everything go? You can add anything you like to your forest map! Be creative. This is your forest! Here are some ideas to get you started:

- A fort made from sticks and leaves
  - A stream with fish or frogs
  - Rocks or a small hill to climb
  - A dirt trail for walking or hiking
  - Trees, flowers and animal homes
  - A secret hiding spot or lookout tower
  - Animals like birds, deer, foxes and squirrels
- 

## Step 3 Make your forest map

When you're ready, use the Forest Map Outline or a big sheet of paper to draw your forest map. Use markers, crayons, colored pencils or whatever you like. Label your map with names, pictures or signs. Remember your jobs and cheer each other on.

### REMINDERS

- Everyone's ideas matter. Let each person share!
  - Use kind words and take turns.
  - There is no wrong way to make a forest. It's all about imagination and teamwork.
- 

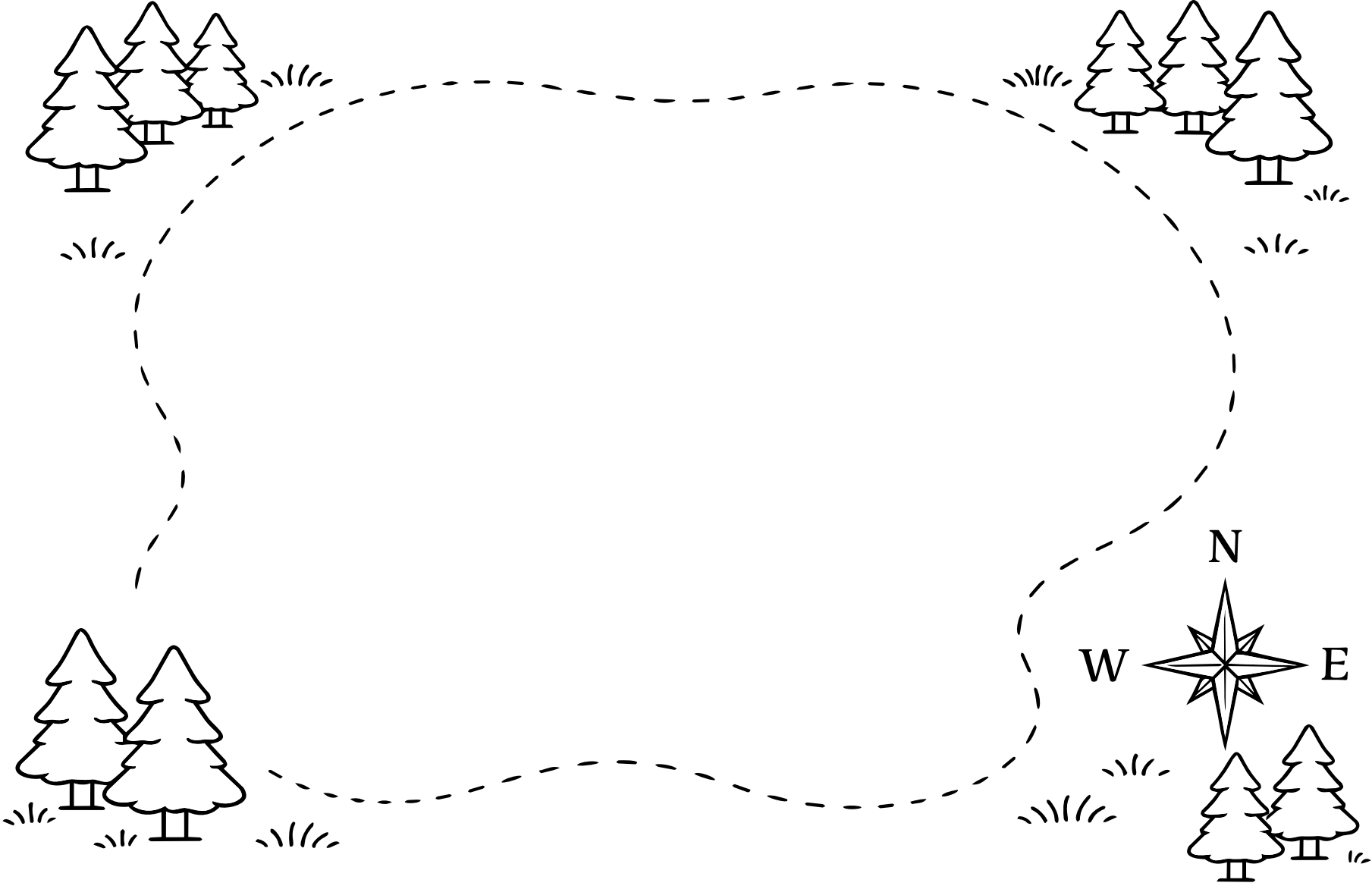
## Step 4 Share your forest map

When your team is done, show your map to the class and tell us:

- How you decided what to add to your forest map
- How each person helped

# Forest Map Outline

Create your own forest map with your team. Add fun forest things like rocks, animals and trees. Use your imagination!



# Extension Activity 2: Build a Home for a Forest Animal

Working in groups, students will collaborate to design and build a home for a forest animal. They will imagine and discuss what their animal needs and then build a cozy, safe forest home together. When they're done, each group will present its forest home to the class and explain which animal they picked, what kind of home they made and how each person helped.

---



## Focus areas:

- Teamwork
- Design
- Engineering
- Sharing



## Materials:

- Build a Home for a Forest Animal handout
- Classroom and natural materials for drawing and building



## Instructions:

- 1) As a class, talk about what different kinds of animal homes are in the forest. Which animals live in trees, caves, holes or nests? What do different animals need to stay safe and comfortable?
- 2) Divide students into groups. Give each group the **Build a Home for a Forest Animal** handout, which has the instructions for the activity. For younger students, you might want to go through the instructions as a class first.
- 3) Allow time for teamwork and gathering building materials.
- 4) When time is up, ask groups to share their animal homes with the class and explain which animal they chose, what kind of home they made and how each person helped.
- 5) When all groups are done presenting, answer the discussion questions as a class.



## Discussion questions:

- What made your team work well together?
- Did anyone use a strength in a surprising way?
- Why is it helpful when people don't do or see things the same way?

# Build a Home for a Forest Animal

---

## Step 1 Choose a forest animal

As a group, choose one animal that lives in the forest. Here are some ideas:

Bears	Rabbits
Deer	Frogs
Owls	Woodpeckers
Foxes	Skunks
Squirrels	Raccoons

---

## Step 2 Build your team

Everyone is important! Talk together and decide what each person is good at and what they will do when you build your animal's home. You can switch jobs or have more than one. Here are some ideas:

- **The artist:** Draws pictures or signs for the home
  - **The planner:** Helps decide where everything goes
  - **The builder:** Uses materials to put the home together
  - **The decorator:** Adds fun forest details
- 

## Step 3 Work together to make your forest animal's home

Start creating! Remember your jobs and cheer each other on. Take your time, and make sure your animal will be happy and safe in its new home. Gather the materials you need to build and decorate your animal's home. You can use things from the classroom, home or nature. Here are some ideas:

- Blocks or bricks
  - Paper for drawing or folding
  - Sticks, leaves, pinecones
  - Small boxes or containers
  - Glue, tape, scissors
  - Crayons or markers for decorating
- 

## Step 4 Share your forest home

When your team is done, show your animal's home to the class and tell us:

- Which animal you picked
- What kind of home you made
- How each person helped

# Extension Activity 3: Make a Forest Diorama

Working in groups, students will collaborate to create a forest diorama — a 3D model inside a box. They will decide what animals and forest features to include, gather materials, choose roles for each person, and build a diorama that reflects their shared ideas. When they're done, each group will present its forest diorama to the class and explain what animals and features they chose, why they chose them, and how they worked together.

---



## Focus areas:

- Teamwork
- 3D modeling
- Nature study
- Art integration
- Sharing



## Materials:

- Small box or shoebox for each group
- Make a Forest Diorama handout
- Classroom materials for drawing and building



## Instructions:

- 1) As a class, talk about what different kinds of animals live in the forest (for example, bears, deer, owls, foxes, squirrels, rabbits, frogs, woodpeckers, skunks, raccoons). Then brainstorm what other things you would find in a forest (for example, trees; streams, rivers and ponds; rocks and mountains; fallen logs; leaves and bushes; caves or animal nests).
- 2) Divide students into groups. Give each group the **Make a Forest Diorama** handout, which has the instructions for the activity. For younger students, you might want to go through the instructions as a class first.
- 3) Allow time for teamwork and gathering building materials.
- 4) When time is up, ask groups to share their dioramas with the class and explain what forest features they chose, why they chose them and how they worked together as a team.
- 5) When all groups are done presenting, answer the discussion questions as a class.



## Discussion questions:

- What made your team work well together?
- Did anyone use a strength in a surprising way?
- Why is it helpful when people don't do or see things the same way?

# Make a Forest Diorama

---

## Step 1 Build your team

Each team member can help in different ways. What is each person good at? What do they like to do? Pick a job for everyone based on their strengths. You can switch jobs or have more than one. Here are some ideas:

- **The artist:** Draws animals, trees or backgrounds
  - **The builder:** Cuts, glues and puts everything together
  - **The planner:** Helps decide where everything goes
  - **The nature lover:** Reminds everyone what a forest needs
  - **The decorator:** Adds fun colors and details
- 

## Step 2 Work together to build your forest diorama

It's time to create your forest world! Use a small box or shoebox. This will be your forest. Gather the materials you need to design, build and personalize it. You can decorate it with things like:

- Paper to make animals, trees or backgrounds
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils
- Scissors and glue
- Craft sticks, pipe cleaners, pom-poms
- Sticks, leaves or pebbles
- Tape and string

Work together to add the trees, animals and other items to your box. Here are some ideas of things you can do:

- Use the inside walls to draw the sky, mountains or tall trees.
  - Make animals stand up by folding the bottom of the paper or taping them to blocks or rocks.
  - Don't forget to add water, homes and food for the forest animals.
- 

## Step 3 Share your forest diorama

When your team is done, show your diorama to the class and tell us:

- What animals and forest features you added
- Why those things are important in a forest
- How your team worked together