

Lesson Plan: Basic Outdoor Shelter Building

Objective:

Students will learn the basic principles of outdoor shelter building, understand the importance of shelters for safety and survival, watch virtual and live demonstrations of shelter building, and draw a simple shelter illustrating the principles presented in the lesson.

Materials Needed:

- Tarp
 - Rope or twine
 - Natural materials: branches, leaves, pine needles, etc.
 - Notebooks and pencils for reflection and sketches
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Lesson Outline

1. Introduction

- **Discussion:**
 - Start with a brief discussion on the importance of shelters. Ask students questions such as:
 - Why do we need shelters?
 - What are some types of shelters?
 - Have you ever built a shelter? What did you use?
- **Explain the Learning Objectives:**
 - Understand the basic concepts of shelter building.

2. Slides Demonstration

- **Show Different Types of Shelters:**
 - Present examples of various shelters (e.g., lean-tos, A-frames, debris huts).
- **Explain Key Principles:**
 - Location: Finding a safe and suitable site.
 - Structure: Using natural materials to create stability.
 - Insulation: How to keep warm and dry using leaves and other materials.
- **Provide in-classroom examples:**
 - Show videos of experts constructing diverse types of shelters
 - Introduce shelter-building in uncommon environments (i.e. snow, desert, etc.) that cannot be recreated with in-person demonstration for this class

- **Safety Tips:**
 - Discuss the importance of safety, including avoiding unstable branches and being aware of surroundings.

3. In-person demonstration

- **Exit the building**
 - Take the class outside of the classroom to a green area (must have a sturdy tree available).
- **Building Process:**
 - Construct a shelter against a tree (materials can be obtained by teacher)
- **Discussion:**
 - Discuss the qualities of the shelter that make it effective/ineffective
 - Open the discussion for suggestions/ideas/questions based on the live model constructed

4. Reflection and Discussion

- **Draw Shelters:**
 - Hand out paper and coloring tools
 - Students draw a shelter that illustrates the principles discussed in the lesson (encourage students to draw something different than what has been shown in the virtual and live demonstrations but that follows the same principles).
- **Present Shelters:**
 - Ask for volunteers to present the shelter they have drawn, explaining their design choices and materials used.
- **Safety Discussion:**
 - Reinforce safety practices learned during the activity.

5. Wrap-Up

- **Review Key Concepts:**
 - Summarize the main ideas of shelter building.
- **Future Thoughts:**
 - Encourage students to construct shelters in their backyard/local park, always keeping in mind safety considerations and the need for adult supervision