

# Orienteering Trail KS2

## Activity How-To Guide

### Session Outline

#### 90 Minute Session Plan for up to 30 children

Time	Location	Activity
30 mins	Classroom	Introduction to compass bearings
45-60 mins	Woods	Orienteering trail
5 mins	Benches	Complete the anagram
5 mins	Benches	Plenary

### Equipment

Please bring clipboards and pencils - 1 required per orienteering group. Download and print the maps and worksheets from our website before your trip - for example for a class of 30 working in groups of 6, you will need 3 sets of clockwise and 2 sets of anticlockwise instructions and 5 clipboards.

#### The following equipment can be borrowed from Surrey Wildlife Trust:

- Powerpoint presentation on how to use compass and set a bearing
- Compasses
- Basic first aid kits also containing map and whistle

**Remember to ensure the right walk group leader has the medication a child in their group may need.**

### Introduction to Compass Bearings

Do this activity at the location indicated in the table above

We recommend at least 20 minutes should be allocated for this activity.

You should plan to start the session in our education centre introducing the group on how to **use a compass** correctly and how to **take a bearing**. Use our PowerPoint presentation to take the group step by step through the parts of a compass, how to set a bearing and what to look out for in the woods.

Spend plenty of time practicing before you leave the classroom, remember some of your adult helpers may not be familiar with compass use.

## The Orienteering Trail

Divide the group into groups of 6 children or less, each with an adult helper.

There are 17 posts to mark the trail. These are between knee and waist height, with a silver disc and number on. Some groups will be travelling clockwise, from posts 17 to 1, and others will be travelling anticlockwise from points 1 to 17. **Please note that there are separate worksheets for the clockwise and anticlockwise trails - the bearings differ depending on which way the group are going.**

Clockwise groups will start from the back of the centre at the **OAK tree** carved stump and take a bearing that will lead them to post 17, while anti-clockwise will start from the large **SWEET CHESTNUT tree** on the main track and follow a bearing to post 1.

**Top tip:** Stagger the groups as they set off so that each group works out the new bearing rather than just following the group ahead. E.g. keep all groups practicing in the classroom until it is their turn to go. Set off group 1 clockwise, then group 2 anti-clockwise, group 3 clockwise, group 4 anti-clockwise and so on.

Remember that groups will arrive back at different times too - you may want to give group leaders instructions of what they should do on arrival back at the centre.

Follow the instructions on the clockwise and anticlockwise worksheets - these will give you the bearings the groups need to take as well as other things to do as you travel around the reserve. Record letters found on the posts onto your worksheet so that the children can complete the anagram challenge on their return to the centre.

**ALWAYS** take the bearing from the post - if you get lost, go back to the previous post and retake the bearing rather than proceeding further and getting more lost! As a last resort, Nower Wood is a conical hill with a circular blue rope trail around the top - so if you are very lost, you just need to head uphill until you find a blue rope attached to posts that you can follow back to the centre.

Once they return, each group will then need to work out the **anagram** from the clues they have collected along the trail. Remember, the first groups will arrive back some time before the last groups that were set off - you may wish to plan an activity for those arriving back first.

ANAGRAM ANSWER = GREY SQUIRREL

### Key Points:

1. Do not let children run ahead unsupervised.
2. Head back to the last post and retake the bearing if you get lost (you may come across a sign saying you are on the wrong path, for example)
3. Encourage each child to take the lead finding the next bearing so that everyone has a turn using their new skills.
4. Work together as a team to find clues and solve the anagram.

5. Do not swing the compass as it will break. Make sure to keep them safe around necks when on the move.
6. Only look for the orienteering posts (picture on the PowerPoint). There are many other signs and arrows around the woods not related to this session.

## **Orienteering Plenary**

5 minutes should be spent on this activity.

This can be done once all the groups get back to the field centre, and they have discovered which animal was revealed by the anagram challenge.

- 1) Check that they are all comfortable with how and why we use bearings.
- 2) If some are still uncertain, why not ask someone in the class who is confident with compasses to show them?
- 3) If you have key points you want to recap, you can go over these now to reinforce learning