Seamer and Irton CP School – Forest School

Topic: Forest School – Shelter and den building

Year 4

Prior learning

- How to build a woodland hideout using a lean-to structure, big enough for themselves and four others.

Key knowledge I will understand

- How to build a free-standing tepee or tepee structure around a tree.
- How to build an A-frame shelter.
- Using a tarpaulin as a ground sheet.

Key vocabulary

- **Forked branch**
- **Shelter** –
  a place giving temporary protection, used for safety and retreat.
- **Structure** – a specific arrangement of things.
- **Tepee** – a cone-shaped structure.
- **A-frame** – a triangle-shaped shelter, designed to retain body heat.
- **Free-standing** – standing alone or on its own foundation free of support or attachment.
- **Tarpaulin** – a tarpaulin (tarp) is a large sheet of strong, flexible, water-resistant or waterproof material.

Take into consideration

- Choose the right site, think about size and shape. A tepee is a cone shape and an A-frame is a triangular prism.
- Make sure that any branches are really secure – you don't want them slipping.
- It is important that you find strong branches for the ridgeline and main frame as they will support most of the weight of your shelter.
- When piling the leaves or grasses on your shelter, start from the ground and work your way up, making sure there are no gaps so that it is camouflaged. To insulate and waterproof the shelter effectively add plenty of layers, ideally a depth from your finger tips to your elbow
- Discuss benefits and disadvantages of each design.
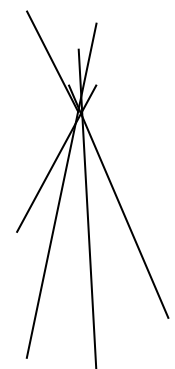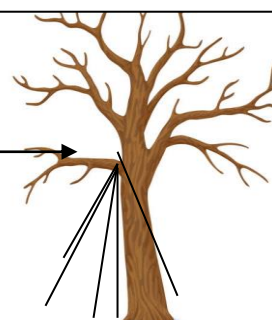
Mini A-frame

Construct your A-frame

- **Step 1**: The A-frame consists of the ridge pole and two large sticks at either each end or just one end for the entrance. Ensure the sticks have forked ends.
- **Step 2**: Make the ridge pole and two sticks into a triangular shape, leaning the forked sticks inwards towards one another so that they link and hold together. Repeat for both sides.
- **Step 3**: Cover both sides with sticks, filling the gaps like a rib cage.
- **Steps 4**: To camouflage use plenty of natural debris (dead leaves, pine needles, branches, bark, grasses, etc.).

Construct your tepee

- **Free standing structure** – start by using three branches, one with a 'y' shape to it and interlock them together.
- **Lean against a tree** – make a frame by propping some long, straight sticks in the fork and fanning them out. Smaller twigs and foliage can then be used to weave across and through the framework, creating a camouflage effect.

For a tepee around a tree, lean the sticks up around a central tree, angled firmly in place.

Free standing