



If somebody is waiting for you,
is ready to listen to you, calm down, give a meal and heal,
feasibly - it is your mother or Nature.
Nature has prepared a basket of wonders and wisdom.
Come and see it, you will return cleverer and happier!

You are welcome! The door is open!



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Dzīvo Latvijas valsts mežos

bringing neighbours closer

Have you ever dreamt of finding yourself in the happy land of Sprīdītis (Tom Thumb), meet the gnomes and the Forest's Witch? Would you like to enjoy a peaceful walk in the woods or maybe quite the opposite - spend your time actively? If your answer is yes, then Tērvete is the place to go.

During fifty years of its existence, Tērvete Nature Park, managed by JSC "Latvia's State Forests", is currently known as one of the most popular tourism objects in Latvia. Mysteries of the park are emphasized by the wooden sculptures inspired from the famous Latvian writer's Anna Brigadere fairy-tale characters, as well as many other wooden items and features.





Park's most popular places are the Dwarf and Fairytale forests. The unique pine forest, which habitats majestic trees close to the age of three hundred, astonishes many of nature's lovers. Paths, that are perfect for relaxing walks, trail through not only the Old part of the pine forest, but also the entire forest area.

From May until October everyone is kindly welcomed at the park by "live" fairytale characters: in the Dwarf forest- the Gnome mummy awaits you, whilst in the Fairytale forest the Witch is happily larking about. The visitors are taken around by the Fairytale train, however, the Playground provides a great area for sporting activities, where you can prowl around the labyrinth, take rides on a horseback or simply relax and enjoy a picnic. Our visitors particularly interested in sporting activities, may go around the area on bicycles.



RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Tērvete Nature Park, abound with surprises, stretches out in a 1200 ha wide area, where one third of this area is taken up by the Fairytale world- governed by the King of the Forest and his advisers and friends. Embosomed by sumptuous trees the Forest Mother's trail winds around the Fairytale forest. Here we can learn how to read the Book of Nature as well as get acquainted with life in the forest.



Children tend to be particularly interested by the dwarf houses and the large wooden mushrooms both sitting in the Dwarf forest. Here the Gnome mummy awaits for her guests and, while demonstrating all the achievements of her little dwarfs, she also puts to the test the visitors' watchfulness, wit and dexterity.



Lower down the hill, set up on wooden piles in a wet ditch, one can see the Stingy's hut. Sometimes Stingy himself welcomes the park's guests and shows them around his house. Visitors that have managed to win over Stingy's heart are usually treated with some hot soup, prepared by pinchpenny himself.

The Witch's forest has gained a rather large popularity. The most joy is provided by the Forest's Witch herself, and, while sitting at her campfire, each traveler may take his time to enjoy the special herbal tea.





A variety of events have become a tradition at the Nature Park of Tērvete. In spring families are welcomed to spend the Easter in a real Latvian hullabaloo. However, on the last night of April, the mysterious atmosphere of the Walpurgis Night can be celebrated in the forest lit by campfires. On May, the Tērvete Nature Park launches its summer season with a number of open-air performances, songs and dances. During the solstice, the forest spirits create a wonderful atmosphere in order to enjoy summer in its full bewitchment, while in autumn we celebrate the harvest season- Michaelmas. Teachers are invited to summon on the Forest Wisdom day, while the tourism season's closing is celebration ends with the "Fairytale Lullaby" event.



LEARNING ABOUT FOREST



The Tervete Nature Park offers to its younger visitors an opportunity to combine leisure with study- a process of exploration, by visiting the Environmental study trails, taking part at various workshops and summer camps. These activities are based on an international environmental education program "Learning about Forest", which has been implemented in more than 15 countries worldwide. Since 2005 JSC "Latvia's State Forests" has played an important part in implementing this program within the territories of Latvia. Its main purpose is to raise the new generation's awareness of the importance of the forest's diverse significance. It covers the following forest study topics:

- Forest as part of the nature
- Forestry
- Woodworking
- Forest nature's conservation
- Bounty of forest and forest recreation
- Forest and culture





Unconventional methods, wholesome environment and wisdom about the nature are few of the things that take us closer to the understanding of sustainable action in the forest. Provided that pupils learn to feel comfortable in the nature regardless of the conditions and provided that they take pleasure in the process of learning about the nature and its natural laws, they also form a clearer understanding of the ways humans affect forest's development. They also learn to make a decision and acquire a sense of responsibility towards the forest.



WORKSHOP „MAMMADABA”

“Mammadaba” - Mother Nature - a branch of JSC “Latvia’s State Forests” whose aim is to acquaint both Latvian citizens and visitors from abroad with the wealth of our nature, joining one and all with the primitive beauty of nature. “Mammadaba” has gathered its basket full of knowledge from which we can draw inspiration for work, serenity for our rest and thirst for both knowledge, and personal development.

The workshop invites to bring the processes of learning together with the nature. By doing both relaxing, and studying at the tourism units of “Mammadaba”, 1st to 9th grade pupils and their teachers are offered to master the Environmental Education Program “Learning about Forest”. Forest is our national treasure. How much do we know about it? How do we perceive and appreciate it? Knowledge about the economic, ecological and social meaning of the forest can be derived through a number of different subjects. Lesson taught in the woods- what a change to the usual school weekday!

We are always happy to welcome back pupils and their teachers who are occasionally attending the “Mammadaba” workshops in order to explore, research and observe the nature whilst indirectly studying math’s, English and Latvian languages or social sciences. And of course, it is the best place to study environmental sciences and biology!

The Tērvete Nature Park helps its workshop participants to collect points through cognitive tours and by jointly working together to complete forest cultivation and regeneration tasks. We are pleased when we see fulfillment in the eyes of our little helpers, as we believe that it positively affects their attitude, promotes nature preservation, offers new knowledge and many positive experiences.



FOREST MOTHER'S TRAIL

Taking part in field trips in order to explore, perceive, hear and savour the forest.

1st – 6th grade pupils

- learn about the most common species of plants, animals and fungi
- find out about existing relationships between living organisms
- carry out observations about animate and inanimate nature as well as some research
- learn the rules of behaviour in nature

7th – 9th grade pupils

- learn about forest ecosystems and observe the biodiversity of the forest
- use knowledge and express considerate attitude while exploring the nature

Forest Mother's trail winds all the way round the Fairytale forest, and here we can discover one of the many wisdoms the forest owns.

Within the forest territories most often we run into squirrels, however, only footprints, burrows and rummaged places bear any witness about the forest's other inhabitants.



Therefore talks about animals are led with a little help of the beautiful paintings on the stand. Yet sometimes the fairytale rabbits, squirrels and beavers appear to greet us.

The presence of birds can be heard and caught at all times, but to recognize them by their song or appearance - that is not quite so easy! We try to learn how to differentiate the most common birds. The forest nourishes many. Here, in his smithy, the woodpecker has been trying to husk seeds from the pine cones, yet the pine cone looks completely different after a squirrel has been feasting on it.



Each tree has its own character, beauty and value! Can we identify trees by their leaves or flowers?

Have we noticed that all plants grow on four different storeys within the forest? On which storey do the pine trees grow, on which- juniper and hazel trees, ferns and strawberries?

It is, indeed, rather important to get acquainted with forest berries, especially considering the many possible ways of preparing the berries into a variety of delicious dishes. Yet it is also important to acknowledge and identify poisonous berries growing in the forest.

Mushroom variety is especially large in autumn, however, also in the winter there are colorful fairy mushrooms lining up along the pathways. Which mushrooms are the very first to appear in spring?

While walking in the woods, we must keep in mind that we can run into lizards and snakes. Do we have to be scared of all of them? No! Learn to recognize and distinguish reptiles living in the woods!



TREE TRAIL

Not only the mighty pine trees but also a rather large variety of leaf-bearing trees and bushes can be found at the Tērvete Nature Park. But primarily we would like to take pride in our pine trees since the tallest pines in the Baltic States grow in the Tērvete Nature Park.

Elm or flatterer elm? Just like two sisters- so alike and so difficult to distinguish! If it is soft to the touch of a cheek, then it is elm, if not- then we must talk to the flatterer elm.

Ash, ash, what are you waiting for, other trees have brought out their young leaves already? Why is ash the last to notice the presence of the spring?

Let's evaluate and derive vigour from the most prominent tree species of Latvia- oak!

Gold dust falls over our heads when wiggling this bush's branch in spring, however, in autumn we will look for something tasty growing on it, hidden in its bone coat. What is it?

We have been walking along the track for quite some time already, but only now we have finally noticed spruce trees growing under the guise of other trees. A little further ahead, with blue-black coloured berries- a juniper.

We can rejoice about the rowan both, in spring when covered in white flowers, and autumn, when its branches are heavy and full with the peach-blow coloured berries.

On the most tranquil day gentle applause can be heard in the forest, when the tall trees are thanking both the earth, and the sun for allowing them to grow so fruitfully. Each leaf- a palm in a slender petiole... This is by no means all that we shall see in the forest! During each season it will address as in a different way.



BOG TRAIL

While walking along the bog trail, we will observe how the forest changes into a small mire, in addition- it is situated atop a hill. How do plants adapt to different environmental conditions?

Let's explore what lies at the bottom of a fern leaf, whether is it possible to find flowers growing on a fern and how much water can sphagnum absorb!

Compare the difference between a bog bilberry and a blueberry, as well as explore other bog and forest berries!



Also birch trees growing in mire area look different. What are the differences between a bog birch and a white birch?

Carefully touch the sharp sword grass, whereas the smooth rush will effortlessly slide through your fingers.



WOOD TRAIL

During classes we get to know the forest management cycle, evaluate the importance of forestry and wood as a renewable natural resource. We can move our math's lessons from a classroom inside to an outdoor class. We can not do without mathematics if we want to grow a forest as well as measure and calculate its values!



FIND OUT

- whether there are many forests in Latvia
- who owns the forests and how to manage them
- does our country have sufficient wood resources
- how to best use and spare the wood
- how to navigate the forest orientating by fire-breaks and blocks

ASCERTAIN

- whether stack and cubic meter measures
- contain an equal amount of firewood
- what does "woodchip" mean, how they're extracted and used
- how wood-pulp turns to „carbon storage“
- why wood-pulp is the „green fuel“
- whether the forest can affect the climate change



LEARN

- to read a tree's life by its growth ring
- to measure a tree's height and girth
- to survey the stack of firewood
- to calculate the amount of m³ in one log and the entire forest
- to use your mathematics knowledge in the forest

EXPLORE

- the plant diversity within a forest
- wood characteristics for various trees
- power-generating wood-pulp samples
- woodcutter's working tools- caliper, measuring tapes, Biterlih's ruler and altimeters



ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES „FOREST IN SEASONS“

By keeping track of forest activities and examining them during different seasons, we learn to understand nature's natural patterns. By taking delight in the forest's autumn season, we find out why tree leaves change their colour, learn about the forest bounty, fruit and nut varieties.

During classes, we learn the basic skills of outdoor life- learn how to survive in the woods, build a tree hut shelter, kindle a fire and study what the best course of action if you happen to get lost.

We learn to comply with the forest's safety rules and code of conduct, and learn to perceive forest as a soothing environment.



During winter nature enters into its big, silent mode, yet, when looking around more carefully, you may notice a number of urgent step patterns in the snow or hear various forest sounds. How do the forest's inhabitants lead their lives in winter? What jobs are there waiting to be done by humans?

We set off for a forest expedition- identify traces left in the snow, find places feeder places and places where the wild animals have slept over night as well as feeder places, evaluate and compare different forest stands. We notice that in winter forest operations are still in full swing- timber and firewood is being stocked.

During the team competition "The Accurate, attentive, proactive forest student" we learn to identify tree species in winter, find animals hidden in snow and trees, accurately hit the target, and to build various animals out of snow.

Bonfire, hot tea... Hike in the woods on a cold, snowy day offers a number of pleasant sensations.





In order to conduct phenomenological observations you must embrace yourself with patience and carefully monitor the nature on a daily basis. Your efforts will be rewarded with an invaluable knowledge - you will learn about plant varieties and spring. Afterwards, nature's young friends can set different tasks to all the oterguests visiting the park. Getting into the role of a tour guide can be very interesting, also allowing to demonstrate your knowledge.



FOREST REGENERATION AND CULTIVATION

Anyone, who has planted even a single tree, can be proud. Yet, if due to a successful teamwork there are new spruce trees prospering in the clearing, then it means you have learned both to plant trees, and to understand the significance of forest regeneration. Consequently, pupils get acquainted with one of the many forest management stages. For many years these trees will need human attention and care, in order to return their fruits to the future generations.

Perhaps such doings help to bring up a socially responsible person?

Those who have taken part in volunteer work during the park's clean up, are more likely to act responsibly and, in addition, in future will evaluate their own and other people's behaviour towards nature.



Placing nest boxes for birds- it means taking care of birds as well as protecting the forest and the park. It is important to be acquainted with types of bird breeds when building nest boxes; otherwise homes may turn out not be suitable.

When should the nest boxes be deployed? How far apart from each other will different bird families want to live? Which cardinal points should the runway face? How to protect the nest box from any unwanted guests? Why should the cages be cleaned every year? Here's a zoology lesson for you on a spring day!



FOREST ENTERING SCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN

Employees of Tērvete Nature Park tend to participate at exploration activities of nature, organised at schools and kindergartens. It is fascinating to touch a wolf's tusks, to assess a beaver's teeth, to feel the fur coat of a fox, raccoon dog, beaver or a wild boar, and to listen to stories about wild animals. Students learn about the diverse wildlife animal breeds and lifestyle, protected species, and find out about the competition between different breeds as well as about the characteristics of a food chain.

Did you know that deer lose their big, branched antlers every spring on a yearly basis, and that they have grown them back by autumn?

While looking at an exhibition of game trophies and listening to stories of the experienced forest staff, we learn about the ways hunters take care of wildlife animals, how the hunters protect animals from extinction and fields, gardens from devastation. Nowadays, hunting means both a type of leisure, and a reasonable participation in the processes of forest lifecycle.

Pupils learn to set the right attitude towards hunting.

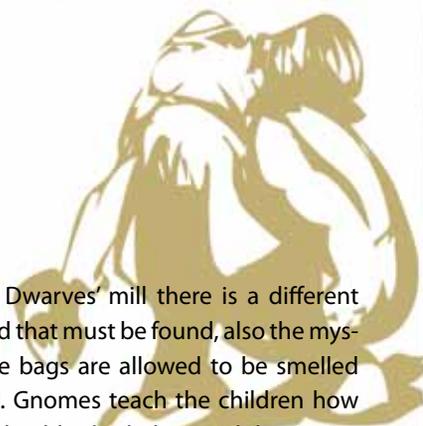


ENVIRONMENTAL WORKSHOPS AT THE DWARFS' FOREST

While still believing in fairytales and looking forward to meeting up the dwarves, kindergarten and primary school pupils travel to the forest by the Fairytale Train. Dwarves show around their village, allowing to take a look into their homes and they also have prepared all kinds of tasks and chores that children will need to accomplish. Forest gnomes invite the children to learn about trees, and they explain what grows out of the small seeds hidden in cones. Children help to assort pine and spruce tree cones. Which bird helps to plant the forest? Why can Crossbills incubate their chicks in the very cold of a winter? – asks the Dwarf mummy.



Gnome Carpenter introduces the children with ancient tools, teaches to saw, to work with a hammer and nails. This is how a seasonal clock or a simple musical instrument is being carved out of wood.



Within the Dwarves' mill there is a different wildlife food that must be found, also the mysterious little bags are allowed to be smelled or touched. Gnomes teach the children how to prepare healthy herbal tea. While visiting the Dwarves' farms, children will have played, worked, and learned many new things - now it's time to sit by the bonfire in its a cozy atmosphere and enjoy a tea with some treats.



At Christmas time the Christmas tree must be decorated with carrots, cabbage and other treats for the wildlife animals. But during Easter there are eggs that have been hidden by the Easter Bunny that must be searched for.



SUMMER CAMPS

Nowadays, when a rather large amount of time is spent indoors, outdoor activities and all the positive experiences gained from it, are an important part of a healthy lifestyle.

Summer camp invites to explore and learn about the nature and history of culture, to acquire skills and abilities of outdoor life, and to develop independence and teamwork. Tervete Nature Park, where nature and Anna Brigadere's fairytale characters supplement each other, is the appropriate setting for both activities, and recreation. Forest, bog and river ecosystems are being learned about while hiking in the woods and playing games.

The outdoor life's study center "The Grey Wolf" and its scouts often take part at the camp's activities. And their tasks require teamwork, agility and quickness in order to be able to find one's bearing on the grounds and to accommodate to different situations, to be able to set up a tent or a hut of wood and to kindle a fire. Archery and crossbow lessons simulate a feeling of being in a medieval forest.





During the creative activities, different kind of natural materials are being used, and real works of art are being created- paintings, fragrant hay bags, musical instruments.

Sporting activities and excursions add a sparkle to the already exciting camp life. Also a night track offers unusual feelings - variety of tasks, forest nightly sounds, and songs sung around the campfire.



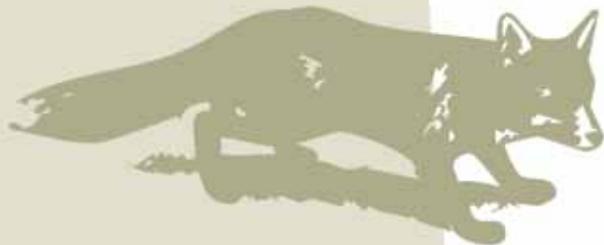
FOREST OLYMPICS

Teachers that have been the most successful and have been planning the most interesting forest exploration lessons are invited to attend Olympics at the Tervete Nature Park during the mid-summer break. Students who have been best at the Forest erudition test, come along with their teachers.

That's when the Olympics final stage begins! Theoretical questions intervene with practical tasks.

Forest as part of the nature must be assessed, values of ecologically grown forest must be noticed, the small, yet largely destructive bark beetle must be identified.

Necessary skills are needed in order to determine tree height, circumference, and to calculate timber volume.





The participants must be able to navigate the woods and to know how to spend time in nature responsibly. They also need know how to promote the park to the tourists. Woodworking tasks always require use of creative imagination.



Participants must be knowledgeable and sharp during the quick question rounds. Naturally, questions change each year as the range of the forest wisdom is vast! Yes, it is not quite so easy to become a winner and to receive the prize- a nature expedition to Norway or another country.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Latvian-Lithuanian cross-border project “Environmental Education Network for Sustainable Communities” is set to provide cooperation working jointly on development of environmental education, new exploration trails and methodological materials. It also enables students to explore the nature objects of neighboring countries.

By working together with Lithuanian teachers we learn about different methods of working with children and young people. The environmental exploration tasks, outdoor skills and abilities and games promoting team-work will be useful in future work.

Students offer a wide range of ideas during the competition “My forest trail”, and the winners are offered a chance to participate at the educational nature camp together with the fellow Lithuanian students.

