

Journey Across the Smelly Swamp

- **Purpose of Activity:** The purpose of this activity is to encourage children to practice good listening skills, cooperate with others, and consistently follow directions.
- **Standard:** Students will demonstrate competency in the motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.
- **Objective:** Students will travel forward and sideways, changing directions quickly in response to a signal or obstacle using a variety of locomotor skills. Students will also develop the basic movement patterns and performance cues related to outdoor play. Students will show consideration for others while participating in the game.
- **Suggested Grade Level:** K-2
- **Materials Needed:** Adventure Series Equipment

Assessment Ideas:

- Sharing and taking turns is very important for both safety on the equipment and making the game more enjoyable.

Adaptations for Students with Disabilities:

- Children in wheelchairs can also participate. If certain exercises are beyond their capability, these students may choose to perform alternate exercises while following the story.

See included CD for electronic version.



Story Overview

This activity combines a story with physical play.

1. Warm Up: The teacher will lead the students in a warm-up activity followed by a light stretch before the activity begins.
2. Tell the students that they will be taking part in a learning adventure during today's class.
3. Reinforce to students the importance of following directions as the story is being read to them.
4. If students are not listening, stop the story. The adventure will not continue until students start to follow directions again.
5. Tell everyone to try their best to perform the tasks in the story. If a student has difficulty, other members of the class can assist in helping that student accomplish the task.
6. Closure: The teacher will review some of the movements from the story. The teacher will also ask the students questions concerning the story.

CheckList

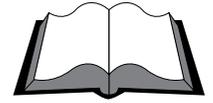
This is a tale about a smelly swamp. Many years ago, this swamp was a beautiful and peaceful place. Now it has been polluted with garbage and is no longer a nice place to visit. We want to change it back to the way it used to be so we can play and enjoy our time there with our friends and our families. So let's go visit the smelly swamp and clean it up! But first we need to have the right equipment in order to take this journey.

- ✓ Does everyone have his or her work gloves?
- ✓ Body suits?
- ✓ Gas masks?
- ✓ Helmets?

Don't forget the trash bags, rakes, and other cleaning tools.

When everything is packed up and we are dressed and ready to go, we can begin our walk to the smelly swamp.

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Journey Across the Smelly Swamp (continued)



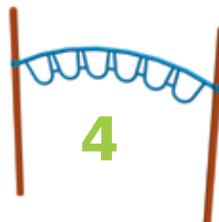
1 We walk for awhile until we reach the entrance to the swamp. At the entrance, we see a huge obstacle that is in our way. So let's climb over the obstacle to see what is coming next on our mission.



3 Already we can see cleaner water flowing into the swamp where we just cleaned up the garbage. Our hard work was already making a big change, and we are just getting started. The next part of the swamp has metal bars with garbage stuck to it. Once again we pull all the garbage out and are able to create yet another way to get over the swamp. Together we make an overhead bridge that is suspended over the swamp. Each member of the group makes his or her way across the swamp using the new bridge.

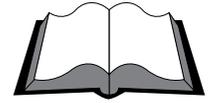


2 Slowly we move forward. In the swamp we see tons of garbage that has turned the color of the water from clear to green. We begin to clean up the garbage in the swamp. Among the garbage we find several feet of rope. Let's tie it together and make a rope bridge so that we can cross the first part of the swamp.



4 Continuing on our journey, we come across two trees that stand on each side of the swamp. Between the trees, the water is completely blocked by trash. This area smells terrible! We need to get that garbage out so that clean water can wash away that horrible smell. Everybody put on your gas masks and help me pull out the garbage. Once the swamp is clear, we make yet another overhead bridge that we tied up high in the trees. Let's cross from one tree to the other, using this new bridge.

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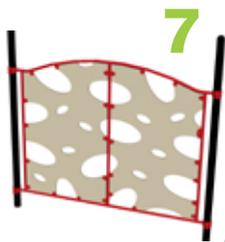
Journey Across the Smelly Swamp (continued)



We come upon another tree that has branches that we can climb. Let's take turns climbing it and take another look at the swamp below.



We have now reached the toughest part of the swamp, the floating tree stumps. Around the stumps are mounds of garbage that we must clean up along the way. Once the garbage is removed, cleaner water begins to make its way in between each tree stump. It is now safe for us to cross the floating stumps.



There is still more to do in order to clean up the rest of the swampy area. Right in front of us stands a tall wall that is covered in branches, leaves, and garbage.

We can tell that this was a wall that was once used to protect certain animals that lived here. Let's tear down all the dead branches and get rid of all the surrounding garbage. After cleaning off the wall, we can climb to the top to see the view down below.

Finally we reach the last area of the swamp. Looking at swamp behind us, we see that everything looks different, but in a good way. The water is clearing up, there are now clean areas to walk around, and most importantly, that horrible smell is starting to disappear.



We walk a little further until we notice tree branches that have fallen down, creating a slide down into a small stream of water. The water is completely clear and is also fairly warm. The group decides to slide down the slide and take a quick swim to cool off in the refreshing water.

After several trips down our new water slide, the group needs to head back home. Our job is now done. The group heads back around the outside of the swamp to take a shortcut home. We all leave the smelly swamp feeling better about what we did to help clean it up. Hopefully other people will follow our lead to keep the swamp clean and free of garbage.

The End