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Learning Outside the Classroom

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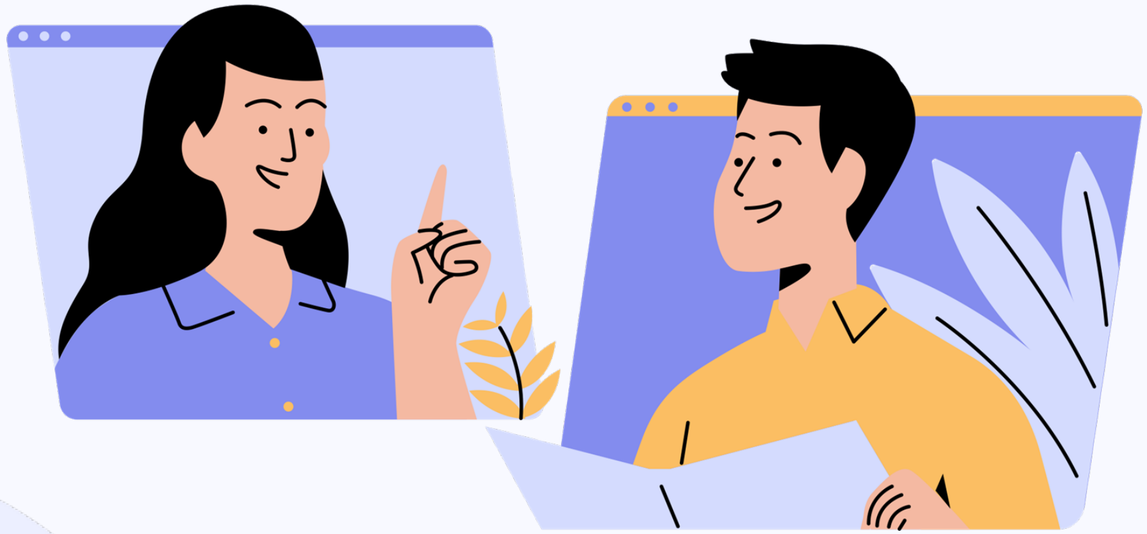

Contents of this presentation

- The Finnish Education System
- Outdoor Spaces for Learning
- How to Start Outdoor Teaching
- Outdoor Activity
- Feedback Opportunity

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Introduction to the Finnish Education System

The key to the Nation's Success lies within the **Education System** .

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Education for all

All education from preschool to universities is free of charge for Finnish and EU citizens.

Lifelong Learning is highly promoted.

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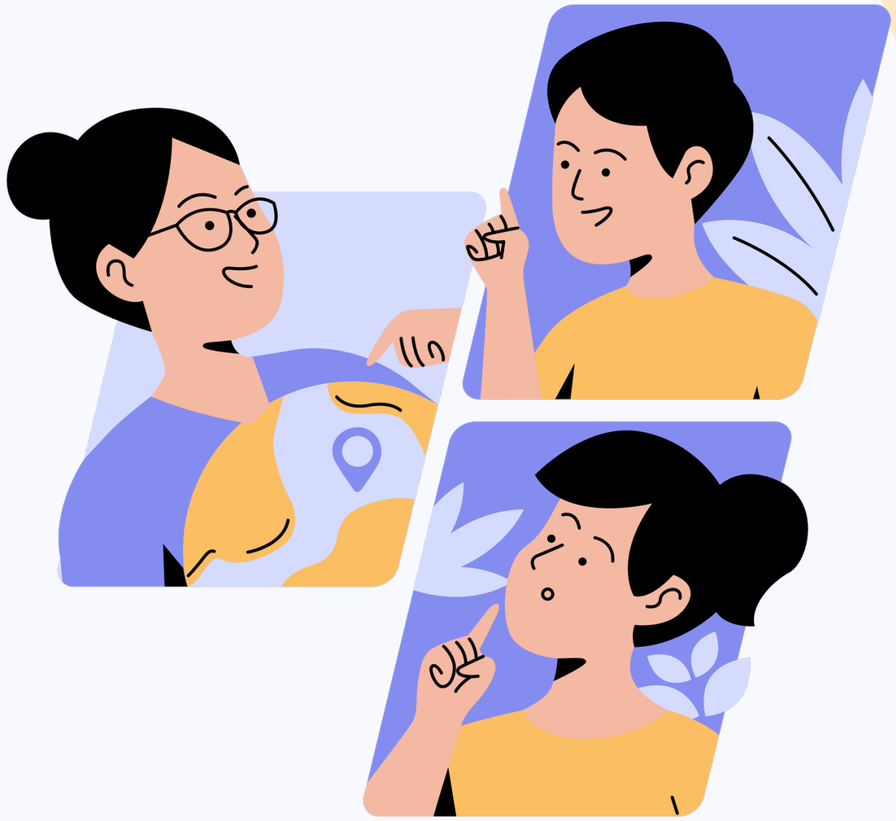
Equal opportunities



The Finnish system is based on providing every child with a neighborhood school that is **just as good** as any other school in the country.

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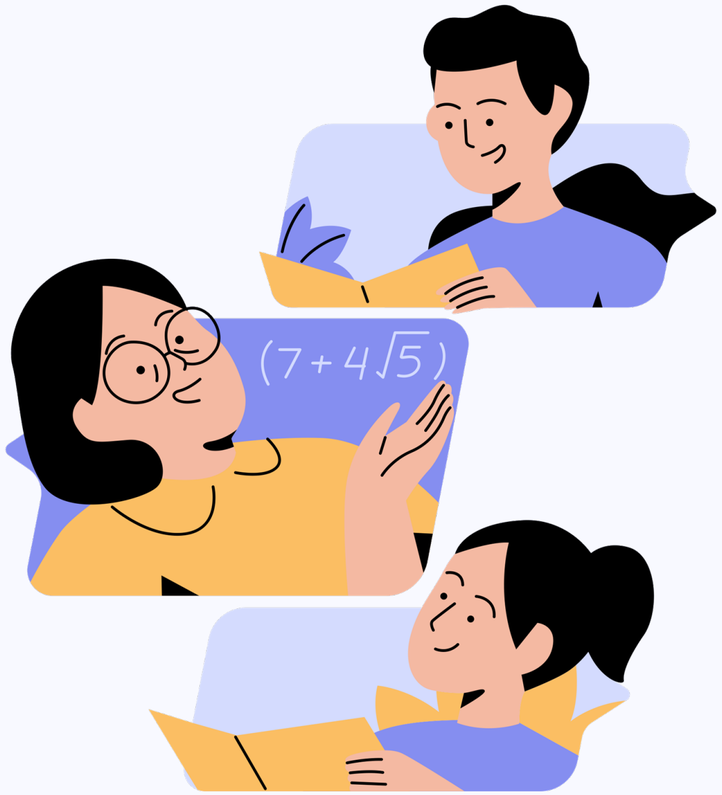

Autonomous Teachers

Teachers are **highly respected** in Finland.

Teachers also **work independently** and have significant **autonomy** to choose teaching methods, study materials, and many other matters.

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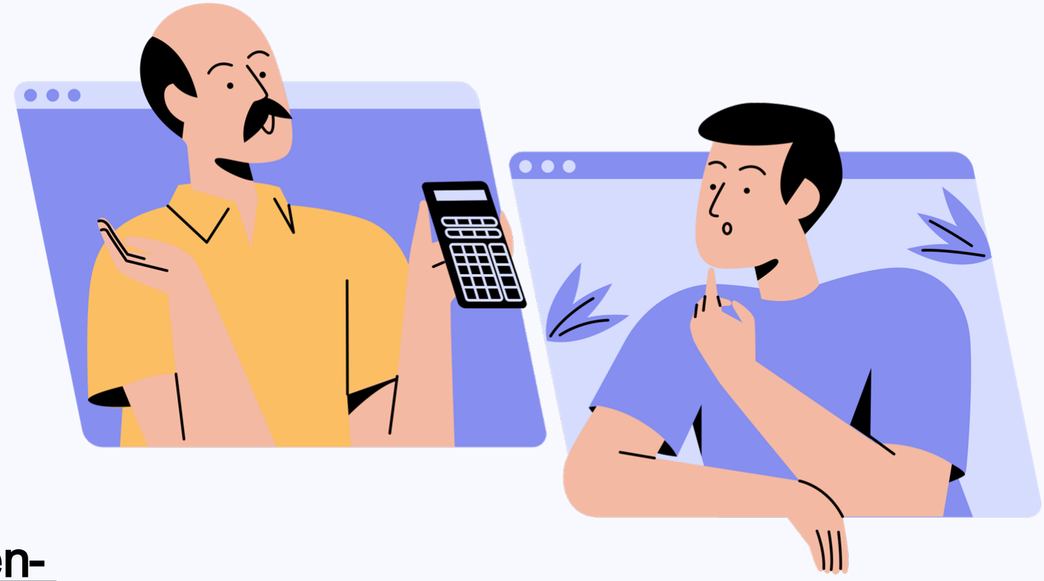
Evolving Education System



Embedded in Finnish culture are an **open-mindedness** for science and technology and a **commitment** to knowledge-based growth and prosperity.

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Investing in Education

By 2030, Finland plans to invest 4% of its GDP in Research and Development

Finland is investing in its universities and other institutions of higher learning.

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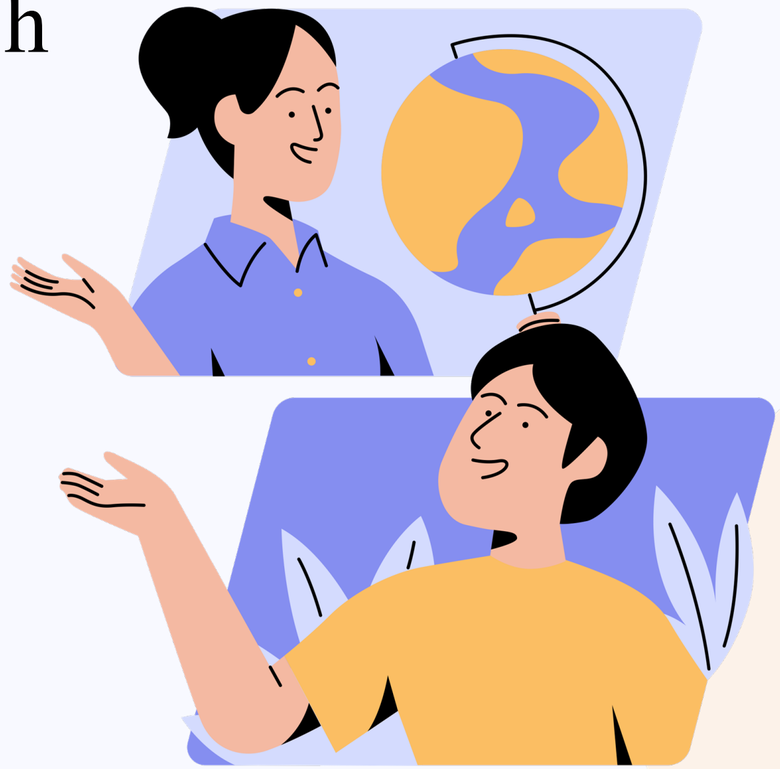
A student-centred approach

Finnish pupils spend **less time in classrooms** than most of their counterparts around the world.

In basic education, the average class size is 20 students.



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The joy of learning

Schooldays are relatively **short**, and there is **no standardised testing**.

Finnish schools focus on creating a **motivating** environment in the classroom, **support** for those who need it, and on a holistic perspective on children's **well-being**.

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Skills for the future

Finland's strengths lie in **excellent, relatively equal learning outcomes**, a **high education level**, a **healthy work - life balance**, and **flexibility of the education system**, making it possible to rapidly **adapt** to new technologies.

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Outdoor learning

"Not all classrooms have four walls"

Outdoor learning is **any** learning that happens outside of the classroom

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Education done outside the classroom & school building

More active style of learning

A way to enrich learning with practical methods

A method and physical place for teaching

Supports different kinds of learners

Uses multidisciplinary approaches and teaches transversal competences

A way to increase pupil`s participation and influence

A way of working

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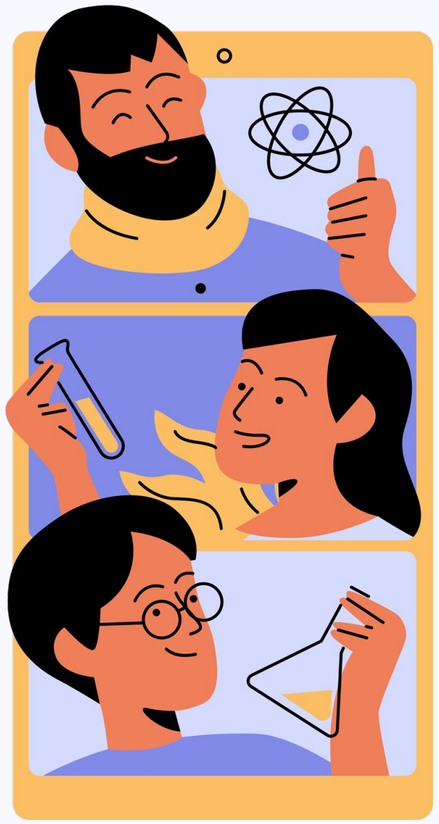

Outdoor Education in the National Core Curriculum

- Strengthen children's nature relationship
- Knowledge and understanding about environment and its phenomena
- Understand humans being part of the nature and dependent on the vitality of ecosystem
- The sustainable way of living
- Offer possibilities to explore, be curious, experiment, wonder and enjoy the nature!

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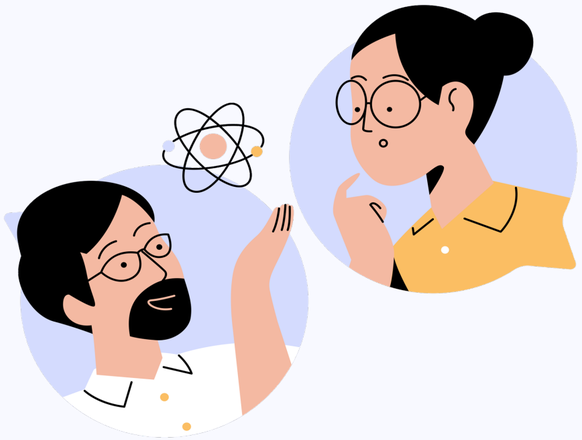
Pedagogical approaches related to outdoor learning



1. Place - based education
2. Experimental learning
3. Experience and adventure learning

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Who benefits from Outdoor Education?

Immigrants:

- Language skills accumulate by looking at pictures, touching objects and exploring
- Learning by doing
- Social aspect of learning outdoors

Children with special needs:

- No need to stay still or silent all the time
- No sensory overload
- Own ways of exploring and learning by doing
- A very stimulating learning experience

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Teaching outdoors has been studied worldwide and the results show that it is worth it

While outdoors, the mind calms down, motor skills develop, social relationships strengthen, and learning outcomes improve. When more movement is incorporated into school days, it will increase the wellbeing of **both the students and the teacher**.

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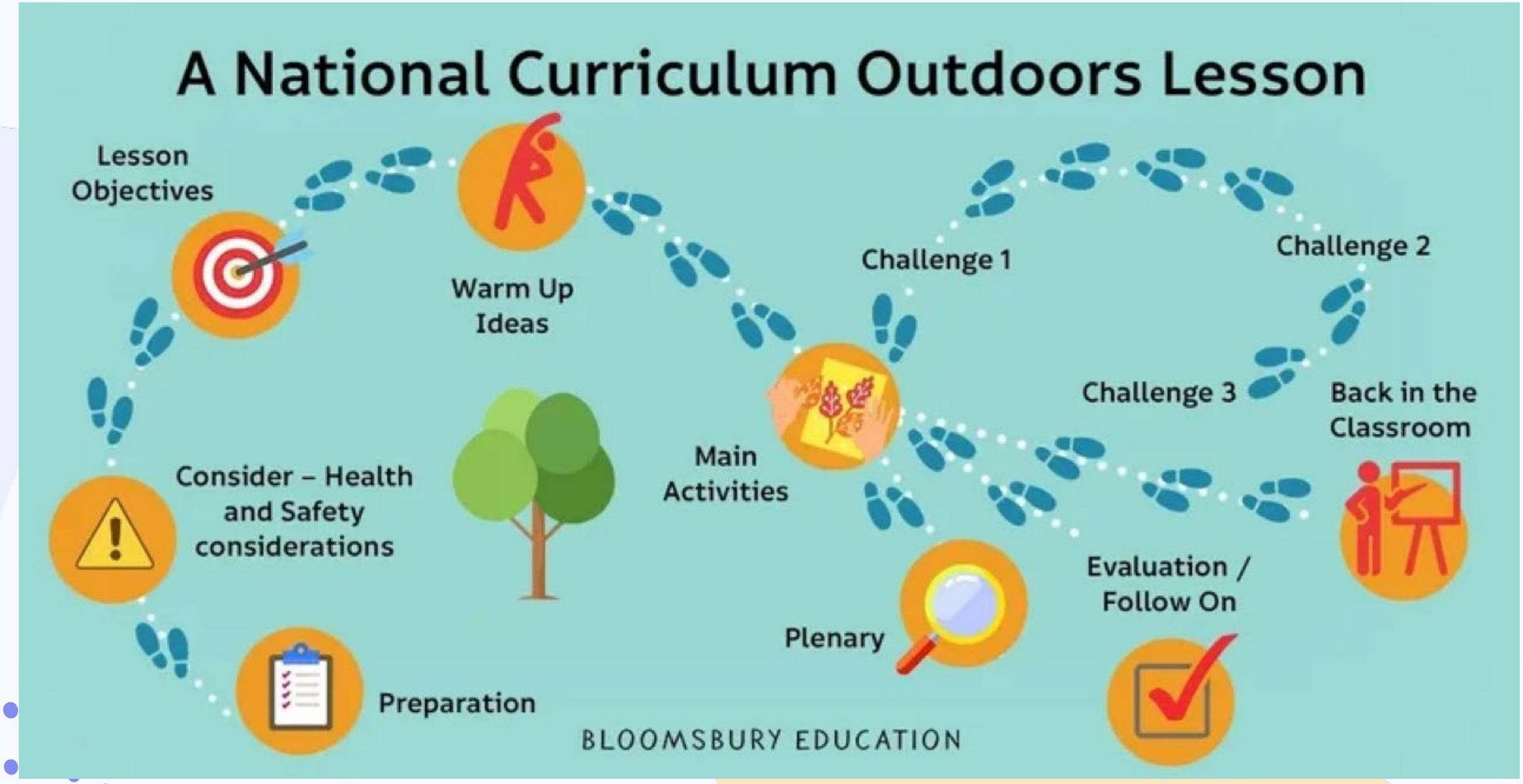

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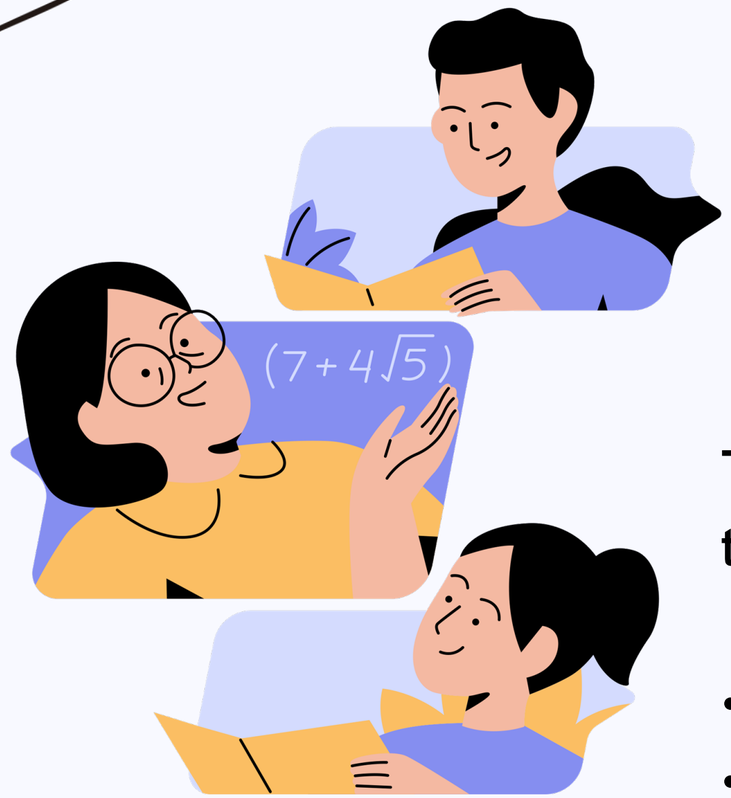

How to start outdoor teaching

Teaching outdoors starts from the learning outcomes and themes of the subject.

- Use exercises familiar to you .
- Use exercises where the teacher`s role is more passive.
- Start small.
- Once per specific topic.

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Practical tips to start outdoor teaching

- Get to know your students first.
- Take advantage of nearby open spaces.
- Laminate and reuse your materials.
- Make resources multipurpose.
- Don’t invent the wheel twice!

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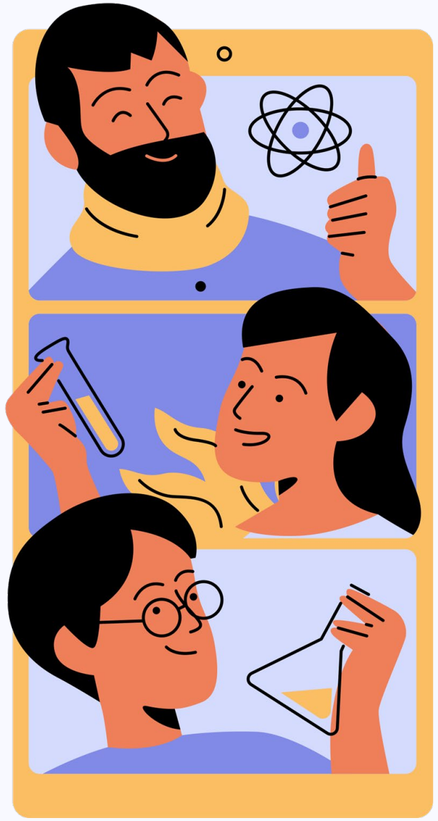

Phenomenon -Based Learning

Holistic real -world phenomena is the **starting point** of learning.

Rather than just solving a problem (like in PBL) we try to **understand** why something happens or **how** the world around us is operating, current events, people, and situations.

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Outdoor Classroom

Outdoor reading, nature walks, field trips, community mapping…

Digital Learning

Using digital tools to games and challenges for students. QR - reading, treasure hunts, digital journaling, video - and audio - making.

IDEAS

School Garden

Students can learn about plant life - cycles, gardening techniques and environmental stewardship. Any space can serve as a valuable learning space.

Use school grounds

Even small outdoor areas, such as courtyards, playgrounds, or rooftops can be transformed into valuable learning spaces.

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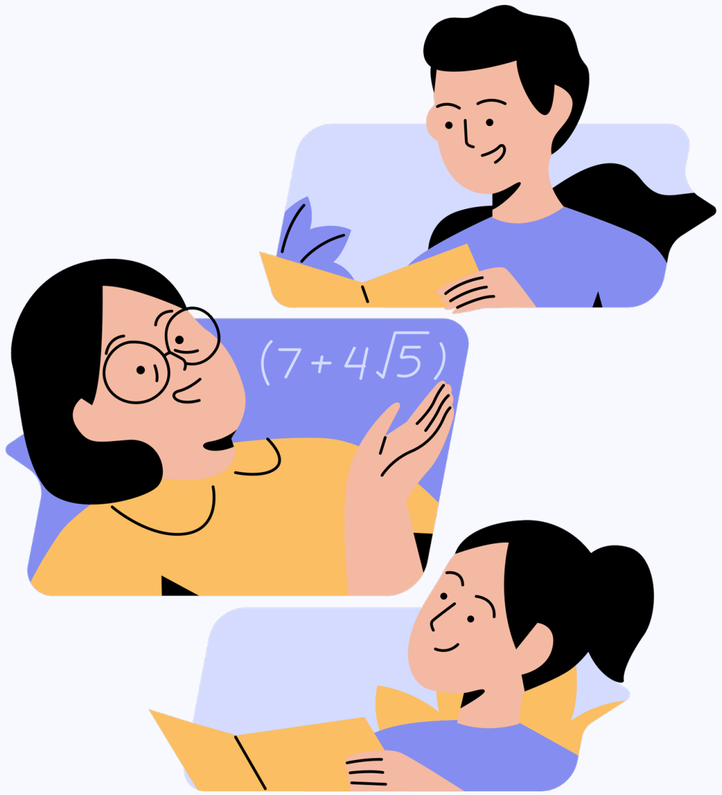

Let`s move outside!

Divide yourself into groups of five.

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Discussion Time!

Discuss the quote about outdoor learning that you have put together

with your groupmates.

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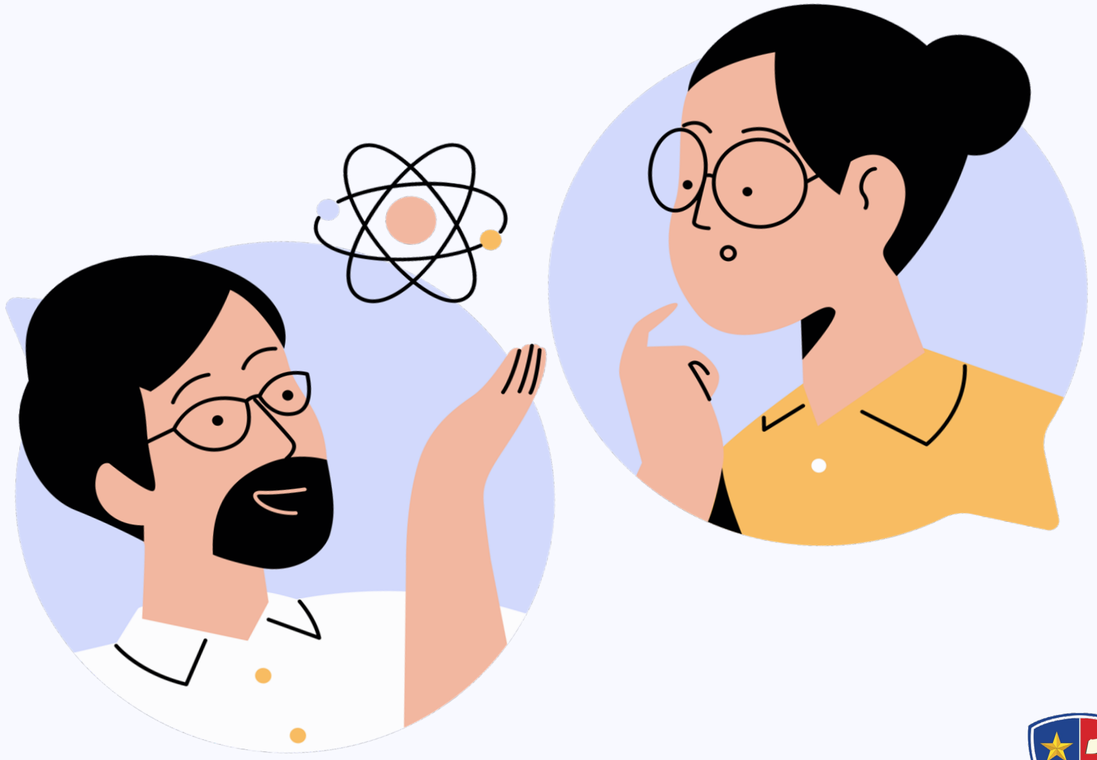
Thank you for listening!

Any questions?