**Lesson Title:** Nature’s Mirror: Exploring Symmetry Outdoors

**Age Group:** Primary 4 (Ages 7–8)

**Curriculum Links (NI Curriculum):**

* Mathematics and Numeracy: Shape and Space – Symmetry
* The World Around Us: Interdependence, Place
* Art and Design: Using natural materials creatively
* Personal Development and Mutual Understanding: Working with others, appreciation of nature

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the session, pupils will be able to:

* Understand the concept of symmetry through hands-on exploration.
* Create symmetrical patterns using natural materials.
* Work cooperatively and respectfully in a natural environment.
* Reflect on the beauty and balance found in nature.

**Materials Needed:**

* Natural materials (leaves, sticks, stones, petals, pinecones, etc.)
* String or chalk to mark a line of symmetry
* iPad to photograph finished work (optional)

**Lesson Outline (Approx. 1 Hour):**

**1. Introduction (10 mins)**

Gather in a circle and discuss: “What is symmetry?”

Show examples of symmetrical objects in nature (e.g., butterfly wings, leaves).

Explain the activity: pupils will create symmetrical pictures using natural materials.

**2. Exploration and Collection (15 mins)**

Pupils explore the area in pairs or small groups to collect natural materials.

**Encourage respect for nature: only collect fallen items, no picking live plants.**

**3. Creating Symmetrical Art (20 mins)**

Pupils use a stick or string to mark a line of symmetry on the ground.

Arrange materials on either side to create a symmetrical design.

Adults or peers can help check for symmetry and offer feedback.

**4. Gallery Walk and Reflection (10 mins)**

Walk around to view each other’s creations.

Discuss: “What did you notice about your design?” “Was it easy or tricky to make it symmetrical?”

**5. Wrap-Up (5 mins)**

Reflect on what symmetry means and how it appears in nature.

Optional: Take photos of the artwork for a class display or digital portfolio.

**Extension Ideas:**

Create a class collage of symmetrical photos.

Link to maths by folding paper and drawing symmetrical shapes.

Use mirrors to explore symmetry in natural objects.