

Hansel and Gretel

Envelope 1

Hansel and Gretel lived near the forest with their dad, a woodcutter and their stepmother. They were very poor. The stepmother did not like Hansel and Gretel and because there was no money she asked the woodcutter to bring the children to the forest and leave them there. Hansel and Gretel overheard the conversation while they were in bed. Hansel had a good idea. He slipped out of bed and went outside to collect pebbles for the next day.

Activity 1: find a suitable stick for a knapsack, which can hold the pebbles ...

Envelope 2

At dawn the woodcutter brought the children into the forest. Hansel left a trail of pebbles behind. When they were very far into the forest, the woodcutter made up an excuse that he had to go back and left the children behind him. It was getting dark.

Activity 2: At night you hear a lot of noises in the forest but you cannot see anything. Everyone is going to be blindfolded and will get an animal noise that they have to make. There are two of each. The idea is to find the other animal of the same kind. For example, if you are a dog, you have to find another dog. Make sure that everybody makes the noise at the same time.

Envelope 3

The next day, Hansel and Gretel followed the trail of pebbles back to their home ...

Activity 3: to find a trail of pebbles that will lead to a box with treats (popcorn and drinks).

Envelope 4

The children return home safely and the stepmother is furious. She demands that the woodcutter brings them back into the forest again. This time she locks all the doors of the house so the children cannot go out to find pebbles. The next day the woodcutter brings the children out into the forest again and instead of using pebbles, Hansel is using bread to leave a trail. However, by the time the woodcutter leaves them all the bread is gone. The birds have eaten it. Hansel and Gretel wait for the night to pass and start to find their way back by daylight. After a long walk they see a little house. When they get closer they see that the house is made out of sweets. (this is quite a long story, the best way to do this is to ask the kids to tell the story, that will keep their attention).

Activity 4: divide the group into two teams of five, or whatever the number , and to make a little house like the witch's with sticks, moss and whatever else they can find in the forest.

Envelope 5

Hansel and Gretel meet the witch. She is nice to them at first but then gets very nasty and locks Hansel up and uses Gretel as her little helper. The witch wants to fatten up Hansel to cook him and have him for dinner. So she feeds him a lot of food. She feels Hansel's finger every time (she has very bad eyesight) to feel if he got any fatter yet. But Hansel sticks out a little stick instead. The witch is getting impatient and decided to heat up the oven to put Hansel into it. When she is checking the oven, Gretel gives her a push and the witch is burnt alive in the oven. Gretel frees Hansel . Before they go they find a treasure with gold in the house.

Activity 5: Find the treasure in the forest.

Envelope 6

Hansel and Gretel are finding their way back home. When they arrive home the woodcutter is so happy to see his children. He gets them a big cake to celebrate. The stepmother is gone. With the gold that they have brought with them, they are no longer poor.

We are also having cake to celebrate.
