

# 'Moss' Relay Race

**Timescale:** 10 – 15 minutes **Location:** Woods / School yard

**Equipment:** 2 buckets for each team / Water / Wash sponge / Measuring stick / Stop-watch

**Aim:** Understand that moss can hold a large amount of water

**Subject:**

Science and  
Technology

**Skills:**

Oracy / numeracy

## You will need to:

- Explain that moss can hold up to 10 times its weight in water, and that you are going to play a fun game to see which team can carry the largest amount of water from one bucket into another using the wash sponge to represent moss
- Divide the group into teams.
- Prepare for the race by placing one water filled bucket at the starting line, the empty bucket about 5m away, with each team's bucket placed in a row.
- The person must absorb water from the bucket with their moss/washing sponge, run to the empty bucket and squeeze all the water out of it, before running back to the starting line so that the next person can do the same.
- At the end of the 2 minutes, the leader will go around every team with a measuring stick and will measure how much water they have successfully carried to the bucket. The team that has carried most water wins.



## Key questions

- Did the sponge absorb the water easily?
- Did the sponge hold as much water as a moss could?



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## Adaptations for different abilities, needs and Key Stage 2

- Vary the distance of the buckets from the start line
- Change the size of the sponge so it absorbs more or less water at a time

## Extension task:

- Measure how much water the moss can absorb
- Weigh the dry moss compared to when it has absorbed water
- What is the difference in weight?
- Can the sponge hold 10 times its weight of water?



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