



THE WOODLAND

All kinds of creatures make the woods their home – from squirrels and birds in the treetops to scuttling creepy crawlies in the undergrowth.

Look up, look around, look down and look under stones and leaves – go explore and see what you can find!

• PLAY • EXPLORE • LEARN • ENJOY

LOOK UP



- Woodpeckers peck at the bark on trees looking for bugs to eat. Tap, tap, tap!
- Tree creepers are small, active birds that live in trees. You might spot its long, downcurved bill. Its body is speckly brown above and mainly white below.
- You might be lucky enough to spot a red-breasted robin or a wren. Keep your eyes peeled!
- Peer up above the treetops. You might spot crows or birds of prey, such as sparrowhawks or buzzards, soaring in the sky.
- Squirrels love to scramble up and down the trees. Did you know that a squirrel's front teeth never stop growing?
- How many different tree species can you spot in this woodland? You can identify them by their leaf shapes:
 - Ash
 - Beech
 - English Oak
 - Holly
 - Horse chestnut
 - Sycamore
- You might spot the fruits of some of these trees on the ground such as conkers (from horse chestnuts) or acorns (from oak) - if the squirrels haven't buried them!

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LOOK AROUND



In late spring or summer, there will be hundreds of different bugs flying, hopping and crawling around:

- **Butterflies** (e.g. Speckled wood butterfly) Did you know that butterflies start off as caterpillars? They then sleep in a silken cocoon until they come out as beautiful creatures with distinctive markings on their wings
- **Bees** do a very important job in helping to pollinate plants. Did you know that there are more than 250 species of bees in the UK?
- **Wasps** are important plant pollinators too. They have furry black and yellow striped bodies and tails that sting, but they make beautiful paper nests made from chewed wood in old burrows or tree holes
- **Spiders** – look for their webs hanging between branches.



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LOOK DOWN



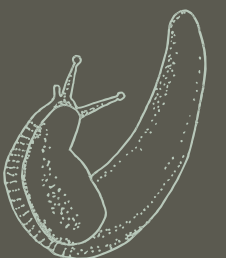
- How many different native flowers are growing in the woodland at the moment? In spring you should see **bluebells, snowdrops** and **primroses**.
- Can you see any other leafy plants growing, perhaps ones that go by the names of **bramble and ivy**?
- Can you find some **lichen**? It's a flat, crusty-feeling, greenish-yellow plant that grows on shady tree trunks and walls.
- **Mushrooms** pop up in woods in spring and late summer. Never touch or pick them as they can be poisonous; they are the fruits of fungi that live underground. They love the shady woodland floor, especially soggy rotten wood and damp tree trunks.

LOOK UNDER



Down low on the leafy woodland floor, bugs and other creatures scuttle, slither, hop or burrow under crumbling rotten wood. Find a stick and carefully lift up a fallen branch to look underneath. Remember to put the log back in its place again. You might be lucky enough to see:

- **Stag beetles** have huge antlers that they use to fight other beetles
- **Woodlice** have 14 legs! And some species roll up into a ball to protect themselves
- **Ants** forage for food on the woodland floor and can carry over 20 times their own body weight, that's the same as you carrying a car!
- **Wiggly worms** eat decomposing roots and leaves
- **Snails** – different types have distinctive markings on their shells
- **Slugs** like damp places and leave a slimy trail behind them when they move! It's called MUCUS
- **Moles** you might see a nose pop up during the day but you are more likely to just see a small pile of earth that a mole has dug out to make a tunnel and to find earth worms to eat. Moles have an amazing sense of smell (like a dog) but cannot see very well.



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WHILE WE'RE ASLEEP



At night the woodland comes alive with a new set of creatures. When you are asleep, many nocturnal animals are just waking up to start their day!

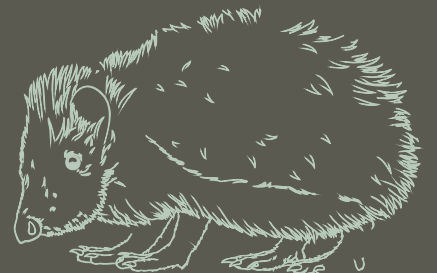
- **Tawny owls** swoop through the trees – you might hear a screech or a 'twit-twoo'. It's the female who calls 'twit' and the male responds with the 'twoo'!



- **Badgers** snuffle around looking for worms and small animals to eat and then return to their underground tunnels which are called setts.



- **Hedgehogs** are sadly becoming very rare but we have left holes in the fencing so that they can roam freely through the woods.



- **Bats** can see in the dark, they sleep during the day upside down and like to nest in boxes or in the tithe barn opposite.



- Can you think of any other nocturnal animals that might live in the woodland?

THE SENSORY GARDEN



Here you will find a selection of native herbs that each have a very strong smell. Rub the leaves gently to sniff the pong! Do you know which one is which?

1. Rosemary

2. Hyssop

3. Lavender

4. Sage

5. Thyme

6. Chives

7. Mint

8. Marjoram

9. Wild garlic

10. Fennel



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