

WOODLAND STORIES

Forests have been written about in lots of stories, because of things like their amazing trees and the plants and animals that live within them. Why not try to write your own story about a woodland or a forest animal?

WHAT TO DO:

Think about what you would like to write about. Do you have a favourite animal? Have you visited a forest recently that you'd like to talk about? Or will you tell a story about your walk through a woodland? You can write about anything that you would like! Here are some questions to help you -

- What animal or forest will you write about?
- What story do you want to tell? Will it be your story or someone else's? Will your story be true or fictional?
- Use descriptive words (e.g. magical or enjoyable)
- Think about what you can see - what are the different colours, textures and items?
- Use your senses - what can you see, smell, touch, taste or hear?
- How do you or your character feel in the story?

When you are writing your story, remember to include these 3 parts:

- A start - in this part, describe who your character is and where they might be. Describe your person or animals looks, feelings and movements. Talk about what your woodland or environment looks like.
- A middle - describe what is happening in the story, such as your journey through the forest or the adventure you are taking. Talk about the things that happen along the way, including what you see and how you feel.
- An end - this should bring your story to an end. An example could be if your animal has reached their home, or if your character has found the item they are looking for.

Here are some sentence starters to help you begin:

It was a beautiful day in....

I woke up this morning feeling...

In the middle of the woods there was...

My journey begins by...

FOREST SCAVENGER HUNT

Forests have lots of things to find, so why not take a walk and see what you can spot! Use the list below to explore a forest and try and find as many things from the list as you can. If you don't live near a forest, go to your garden or a park and find a group of trees. You could write down what you find in a notebook or draw pictures of the things that you see. You can work through the ideas below or add your own ideas to challenge anybody else who is taking your walk with you!

FUN FACT:

Hazel dormice are just 6-9cm long. They're very rare and spend most of their time in trees. You aren't likely to spot any, but keep an eye out for hazelnuts with little round holes in them - they may have been eaten by a dormouse!



WHAT TO DO:

- Twigs and sticks - make different shapes with them
- Spot 3 different birds - what do they look like? Can you hear what sound they are making?
- Make a tally chart of as many bugs as you can
- Find 2 trees that have different types of bark - use paper and crayons to take bark rubbings of them
- Find as many leaves with different patterns, shapes or colours as you can
- Listen out for any noises. Can you tell which ones are caused by people, such as cars or talking? Can you hear any sounds of nature, like the wind or crunchy leaves?
- Can you see any other animals?
- What flowers can you spot?
- How many different colours can you see?

NATURE FACES

Lots of people look at nature and the environment for ideas for their art work! Why not get creative and make your own self-portrait using items you have found in the great outdoors! There are two different ways you can have a go at this activity, which we have explained below.

CLAY FACES:

- 1) Take a small piece of clay and roll it in to a ball
- 2) Use a rolling pin or your hands to flatten your ball of clay in to a circle
- 3) Shape your circle in to the shape of your face
- 4) Find a good tree and stick your clay face to the trunk. The clay should stick well, but you can add a little bit of water to one side to make it more sticky.
- 5) Use natural materials to make a face on your clay - think about what you could use for your eyes, nose, ears, mouth or hair
- 6) If you'd like, take a picture of yourself with your clay face!

CARD FACES:

- 1) Get a piece of card and use a pen to draw a face shape on to the card.
- 2) Ask an adult to help you cut the face shape out with a pair of scissors
- 3) Use glue or tape to stick your items in to the shape of a face! You may want to draw out your face features before you stick your items down.
- 4) If you'd like to, take a picture of yourself with your face!

MATERIALS YOU COULD USE:

- grass or hay for the hair
- acorns or seeds for the eyes
- leaves or flowers for the ears
- twigs or mud for the mouth
- stones or tree bark for the nose



PATTERNS OF NATURE

Nature is full of cool colours and pretty patterns. This activity will help you to learn more about some of the items, such as leaves, twigs and seeds, that have patterns or markings on them. There are 2 fun activities that you can have a go at - find out more below!

FINDING PATTERNS

You can find lots of different patterns in nature, from the lines on a leaf to the spots on a ladybird! Take a look at the list below and see if you can find a different item for each type of pattern. Write down the item you have found, or draw a picture of the way it looks! If you can't find any items with that type of pattern, that's okay!

Can you find...

- something spotty
- something with lines
- something with spirals
- something with squares
- something with squiggly lines
- something with curls
- Something with two or more different colours

NATURE SYMMETRY

Some shapes are symmetrical - this means that if you drew a line down the middle of the shape, it would look the same on both sides. Take a look at some of the items below. We've cut them straight down the middle - why not see if you can complete the object by drawing the other half of it!



BIRD FEEDER

Birds like to eat lots of different things and find their food in lots of different places. You can help to feed the birds by putting out food in your school grounds or garden! We'll show you how to make a super easy bird feeder that will make a tasty treat for your feathered friends.

YOU WILL NEED:

- A pine cone
- Some lard
- Some bird seed

WHAT TO DO:

- 1) In a bowl, mix some lard with some bird seed. There should be plenty of seed, but the mixture should still stick together without being crumbly.
- 2) Once your mixture is ready, grab your pine cone. This part is messy so you may want to wear gloves! Take handfuls of your seed mix and stuff them in to the gaps in the pine cone.
- 3) Once your pine cone is full of seed, place it on a branch or bird table, ready for the birds to enjoy!