

Nature Quest

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National
Year of
Reading
2026



Welcome explorers! Are you ready for an exciting Nature Quest? This booklet is your guide to discovering the magic of the outdoors!

Find the characters hidden in this booklet (or on one of our outdoor trails) and collect the letters to spell out a secret woodland creature.



Before you begin

You might want to pack...

- A pencil
- A phone or camera to take some photos
- Something to collect your natural objects in, like a bag or a box
- Picnic snacks to enjoy at the end of your nature quest



Can you find all of these things on your nature trail?
Tick them off as you find them.

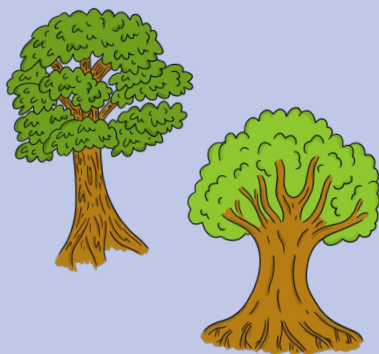
Luscious leaves ☐	Fluffy feathers ☐	Spindly sticks ☐
Pretty petals ☐	Downy dandelion ☐	Dainty daisies ☐
Plenty of pebbles ☐	_____ ☐	DON'T FORGET: only collect things you find on the ground – it's important not to damage any flowers, plants or trees.

Terrific trees

Can you find the tallest tree?
How old do you think the trees
around you are?

You can count the tree rings to find out how old it is! Trees have growth rings inside their trunk. If you count each ring – that is how many years it has been alive for!

Trees can live for thousands of years.



Did you know? Trees in forests communicate with each other through an underground fungal network called mycelium.

Mindful moment

Stop and rest under a tree and close your eyes for a minute. Listen carefully. What can you hear?



Write down some words to describe the sounds, for example, 'buzzing bees' or 'rustling leaves'.

Did you know?

Being around trees is really good for you. It can help us feel calm, relaxed and happier. Which word describes how you feel when you are in nature?

Breathe like a tree

Imagine yourself as a big, tall tree and root your feet firmly into the ground.

Raise your hands and imagine the wind is gently swaying your branches.

Take a deep breath in and stretch on your tip toes towards the sun.

Breathe in slowly and deeply three times to feel relaxed.



Wild Words

Write a nature-themed acrostic poem about your Nature Quest adventure. An acrostic poem is a poem where the first letter of each line spells out the word the poem is about, like this example about a leaf:

Light makes the leaves strong

Every leaf has a stem

Amazing shapes and sizes

Find them on the ground in Autumn

Now write your own
acrostic poem on the
next page using the
word **NATURE**.

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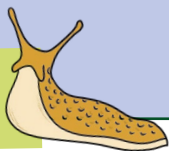
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Minibeasts



Please be kind to minibeasts - they're tiny, and you might seem big and scary! Handle them gently and leave them in their home. Insects help nature by eating pests, pollinating plants, and attracting wildlife like birds.

Did you know?

There are about 25,000 different types of minibeasts living in the UK? **How many can you find?**



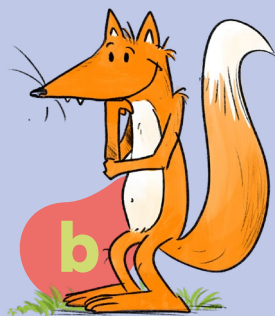
Use some of the natural objects you have found to make a minibeast hotel and help give them a safe place to shelter.

1. Find a sheltered, undisturbed spot
2. Pile up some twigs
3. Fill the gaps between the twigs with leaves and smaller twigs



Make some art!

Find a flat, open space and use natural objects to create a picture of something you've seen today - an animal, tree, flower, or minibeast. Use leaves, twigs, petals, stones, or anything you've collected on your trail!



Amazing animals

You can find thousands of species of animals and birds in parks and woodlands.

Unscramble the letters and draw a line to match the animals with the correct picture.

Did you know?

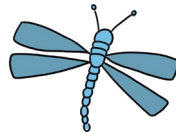
Squirrels can jump up to three metres between trees! How far can you jump?



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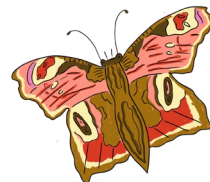
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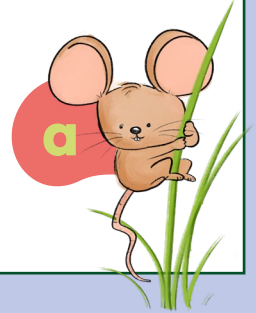
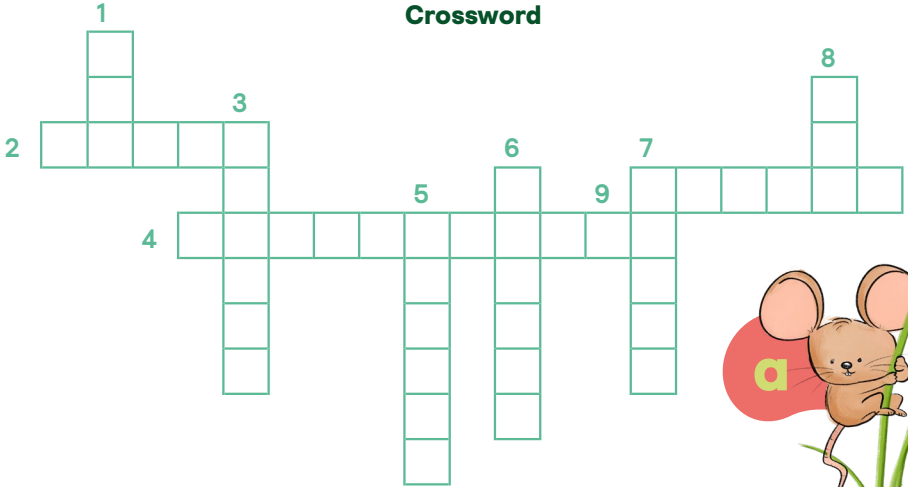
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Circle any animals that you see on your trail.

Crossword



Across

2. A slimy, slow moving creature that carries its home on its back
4. An insect with lots of legs and a long body
9. An outdoor space, attached to a home

Down

1. A bright, yellow, ball in the sky
3. Usually green, they grow on trees and plants
5. A big, grey bird – you might spot them in the park or in the town centre
6. The pretty, colourful part of a plant – you tend to see them in spring and summer
7. Green blades found on the ground
8. Yellow, black, small and buzzy

Bonus Activity

Story Stones

- Collect some stones on your nature quest (flat and smooth ones are best).
- Paint your stones a light colour and leave them to dry.
- Draw or paint a picture on each of your stones- you could choose animals, people, places or magical creatures- anything you like!
- Once they are ready, use your picture stones as prompts to tell a story. You could even do it as a mystery story. Turn all the stones upside down so you can't see the pictures, then turn them over one by one and see where the story takes you!



Answers

Amazing Animals:

Dragonfly 
Bullfinch 
Squirrel 
Butterfly 
Swan 
Kingfisher 

Crossword:

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 1. Sun | 6. Flowers |
| 2. Snail | 7. Grass |
| 3. Leaves | 8. Bee |
| 4. Caterpillar | 9. Garden |
| 5. Pigeon | |

Congratulations explorers, you've completed your quest!
What word did you discover hidden within the booklet or on your outdoor trail?



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