

Editorial

In February the Education Training Inspectorate (ETI) produced a report “An evaluation of the implementation of the world around us in Primary Schools”. It found that a child learns best when

- a) It is hands on and is learning by doing
- b) It involves creativity and art
- c) They contribute to the planning and get to make choices and ask questions
- d) They detect the teacher’s enjoyment and enthusiasm
- e) The learning is flexible and responsive to their suggestions and interests
- f) Able to work in groups, negotiate and take responsibility for their own actions

They are basically describing a typical Forest School session. Make your World Around Us lessons “Outstanding” by using Forest School activities.



Education Training Inspectorate



Edel McGuckin, Mullabuoy Primary School

Forest School Leader Accreditation

Congratulations go to Edel McGuckin, Primary 1 & 2 teacher at Mullabuoy Primary School in the North West. Edel uses the small wooded area in her own school grounds to bring the pupils out on a regular basis.

Edel’s sessions looked at ordering objects according to largest and smallest, adding up to 10, nest building, animal shelters and leaf rubbings.



Resources

The Woodland Trust's Nature Detectives site - <http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/>



A website that gives great ideas and supplies excellent resources to back up their activities.

Mini beasts

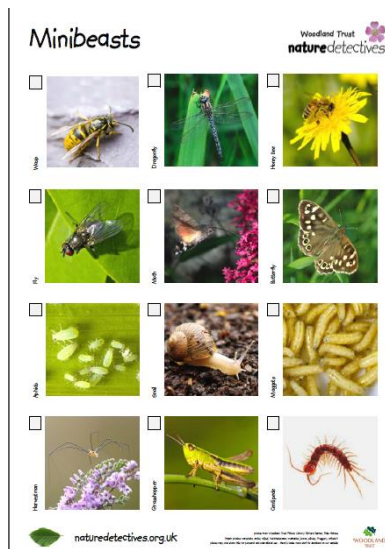
http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/download/hunt_minibeasts.htm

Bug hunting

Printable ticklists of common creepy crawlies, great for bug hunts!

Go on a minibeast hunt in the woods, your garden or school grounds to see what you can find. They tend to like dark, damp places so investigate leaf piles, under logs and tiny nooks and crannies, as well as flowers and plants.

Be careful not to disturb them too much and remember to leave their homes as you find them.



Spring activities

<http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/spring/>



It's a brilliant time to explore the woods, as the natural world bursts into life - fresh, green leaves; bluebells blooming; bees buzzing and butterflies fluttering.

Get stuck in with **free ideas and downloads.**

Tree coat of arms

Many years ago, knights used coats of arms on their armour and clothes to identify themselves. The objects on their coats of arms were chosen carefully to represent their character.

Nowadays many schools, football teams and clubs use coats of arms too.

Find a tree that you think is special and design a coat of arms for it. Use mud to make a shield on the tree's trunk and add items on it, or make the coat of arms at the tree's roots.

What characteristics will you choose to represent your tree? Here are some common meanings that have been linked to some trees:

Oak = bravery	Hazel = playfulness
Holly = truth	Apple = health
Willow = depression	Ash = wisdom

More FREE activity booklets and outdoor ideas at: naturedetectives.org.uk

Woodland Trust naturedetectives WESTONBIRT THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM

This booklet was made by staff at the Woodland Trust and Westonbirt Arboretum. The Woodland Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (204916) and Scotland (SC045174). Westonbirt Arboretum is a registered charity in England and Wales (204916) and Scotland (SC045174). Images: Woodland Trust and Westonbirt Arboretum. Illustrations: Illustrations by David Haddock.

Create

Woodland adventure booklet

Whatever you like!

Want to build something else? Got a different idea? Build it!

Let your imagination run wild. In most woods you'll have all sorts of natural building materials available:

- Sticks
- Moss
- Leaves
- Bark
- Feathers
- Logs
- Lichen
- Seeds
- Mud
- Stones
- Earth
- Flower petals

What else can you find to build with...?

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Build

Woodland adventure booklet

Off the beaten track

Sometimes the best adventures happen when you make your own path. Next time you play in the woods, go exploring and see where your feet lead you. You might make an amazing discovery no-one else has found!

Look up high and down low
Crane your neck and look up into the tree canopy. Crouch on the ground and take a closer look at what's under your feet. What do you see?

Follow your nose
Sniff things - lichen on branches, wet leaves, flowers and bare earth.

Close a sound
Close your eyes, stand still and listen carefully. What can you hear?

Creep and crawl
Peep under bushes, peep into tree roots, crawl through long grass and lie on the ground to see the woods from a bug's perspective.

Take a breather
Stop and sit still for five minutes. What new things do you see, hear, smell and feel?

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Discover

Woodland adventure booklet