



In the Woods

In this activity we want you to explore and discover your local or ancient woods and the animals, insects and plants that live in them.

Take your pick from the list of suggested ideas, which may have come from existing resources (e.g. Roundabouts / Handbooks / Badges / GFIs / Octants and other Girlguiding publications) or choose your own activity. Remember that Growing Up Wild is designed to get our girls outdoors and into their natural environment - so discuss with your girls to decide how many activities they'd like to do!

You can achieve your badge for participating in any activity involving woods.

All Age Activity ideas

- > Follow a trail which has been laid for you through a wood
- > Take part in some conservation work in a woodland area
- > Climb a tree safely
- > Go to an event organised by a local nature organisation
- > Use binoculars
- > Take a photographic log of a walk in the woods
- > Go on a mini beasts hunt and see how many you can identify
- > How many different flowers can you find in your woodland?
Can you identify them?
- > Can you identify 10 different trees?
- > Collect some natural materials and create a collage
- > Build a den and use it
- > Collect different leaves and identify the tree from which they came
- > Hug a tree
- > Choose an interesting tree and make some bark rubbing.
Take it home and turn it in to something useful!
- > Look for signs that animals have visited the wood
- > Spend some time in the wood noting the different smells,
sounds, textures, shapes and colours (Sensory Walk)

Links / Extensions

Roundabouts:
Rainbow
Roundabout p5 -
Rubbing





Rainbow ideas

- > Find some tiny natural items to stick on a leaf shape
- > Choose a tree or shrub and see how many living things you can find on it
- > Make a bird feeder and choose a tree in a wood to fix it on, with permission
- > Take part in a scavenger hunt in a local woods
- > With your friends play I Spy using natural clues
- > Stay still for 10 minutes and look carefully around you in a wood. How many birds can you count and how many do you recognise?
- > Collect a seed e.g. acorn, sycamore, horse chestnut, plant it and when it has become a sturdy sapling take it back to the woodland you found it in and plant it in a suitable area

Links /Extensions

Roundabouts:
Rainbow
Roundabout p5
The World p21



Brownie ideas

- > Make an insect hotel and place it safely ready for new residents
- > Sit quietly in a wood and record what you hear, see, smell, touch
- > Take part in an organised bat walk
- > Stay still for 15 minutes and look carefully around you. How many birds can you count and how many do you recognise? Do they all sound the same?
- > Take part in a scavenger hunt in a local wood
- > With your friends play I Spy using natural clues
- > Collect a seed e.g. acorn, sycamore, horse chestnut, plant it and when it has become a sturdy sapling take it back to the woodland you found it in and plant it in a suitable area
- > Go on a fungi hunt in the autumn and then revisit the wood during another season



Links /Extensions

Badges:
Seasons
Wildlife Explorer



Guide ideas

- > Know what to do if you got lost in a wood
- > Follow a night trail through a wood
- > Make a bat box and/or a nesting box and put it to good use
- > Go out at dusk and badger watch
- > Go for an early morning walk with your local Leader and watch the sun rise through the tree tops
- > Identify trees whose wood is good for burning
- > Be able to identify trees from their outlines
- > Look for evidence of animals and birds.
Make a Plaster of Paris cast of their footprints.
- > Grow a tree from a sapling and when it is strong enough take it back to the woodland you found it in and plant it in a suitable area
- > Make yourself at home by constructing a shelter out of natural materials found on the ground and use it
- > Set a trail for others to follow
- > Take part in an organised bat walk
- > Learn to identify birds from their song
- > Take part in a BioBlitz Survey
- > Identify different lichens and find out how their condition tells you about pollution in the area



Links / Extensions

Go For Its!
Animal Active
gRRReen

The Senior Section ideas

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Websites

How to / Activities

- > www.opalexplornature.org
- > www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
- > www.teachingtrees.org.uk/index.htm

Information Websites

- > www.nhm.ac.uk
- > www.wildlifewatch.org.uk
- > www.field-studies-council.org
- > www.discoverwildlife.com
- > www.gardenbioblitz.org/
- > www.rspb.org.uk
- > www.ypte.org
- > www.rfs.org.uk/learning/woodland-discovery
- > www.forestry.gov.uk/england



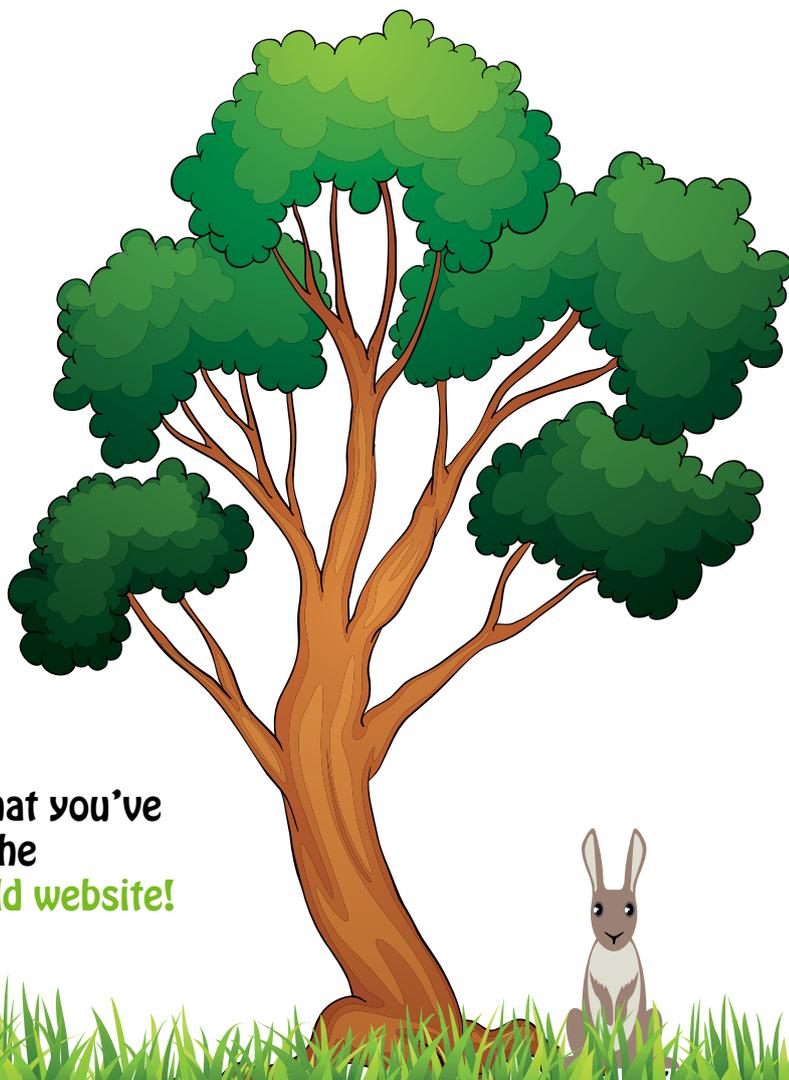
APPS

- > Birdid
- > Bugs Count
- > Wild Tlme



Other resources

- > All Section resources
- > The Woodland Book for Guides and Brownies
Brenda Morton (out of Print)
- > Scholastic Books Bright Ideas series
e.g. Seasonal Activities
- > The Dirty Hands and Muddy Boots Challenge -
Girlguiding Surrey West



Let us know what you've
been up to on the
Growing Up Wild website!

