



KS2 Habitats Package

The leader will take the group on an investigation of the woodland habitat. We'll first look at the definition of the word, establishing what the children already know, and dispelling the commonly held idea that a habitat is a home, meaning where a creature goes to sleep at night, but is rather *all* the places you will find a particular creature. We underline this by asking what is *your* habitat, and discover that humans have a wide range! We also ask what a creature gets from its habitat – food, water, and shelter or protection.

Then it's off round the wood, usually with collecting bags, finding examples of habitats, and comparing characteristics of different habitats found within the woodland habitat. We look at anything from birds nests, mole holes and squirrely areas to the rabbit field, pond and even the micro-habitat of the holly leaf-mining moth fly larva. At each point we'll examine the clues to the animal, what it might be doing, and how it gets food, water and shelter. We'll also ask which other animals it might interact with (eat or be eaten by!). All hands-on exploration, with use of identification keys where appropriate.

We can collect things along the way, through a challenges given by leader to the children in small groups or if they find a woodland treasure, if we have time make our own habitat home for a animal in small groups.



Shelter building

One of the most popular activities we run at the wood. The group is taken into the woods, about 5 minutes' walk from the Barn, to construct shelters from natural materials. We talk of how creatures use the materials around them to make their own shelters, and they need them to protect against the weather, and perhaps predators. The group is given full safety instructions and is carefully supervised to build shelters. Make sure your accompanying adults know that they will be expected to help supervise and assist.

We can spend some time looking at each others' shelters and take photos before finishing the activity.