

Year 1 Topic

## Mysterious Woodlands



If you go down to the woods today, you're sure of a big surprise!

In this learning project, we'll visit a woodland, observe the wildlife, collect natural objects and take beautiful pictures of the things we see. After our woodland adventure, we'll write about our experiences and learn all about trees. We'll use information books to investigate woodland creatures and make mini books of our own. Throughout the project, we will find out how to recognise different plants and animals and create detailed, observational drawings of them. The tale of Hansel and Gretel will inspire us to write our own stories with a woodland theme. We'll build miniature dens, create woodland works of art and construct mini woodlands from twigs, sticks, pinecones and leaves.

At the end of our project, we'll have so much to share with you. We'll read our stories aloud, create a woodland art gallery, plant seedlings in the school grounds and present a special, woodland-themed assembly.

### Help your child prepare for their project

Woodlands are interesting places. Why not take a woodland walk and see which plants and creatures you can find? Simple spotting books or apps will help you to identify unknown species. Alternatively, visit the local library and borrow information and storybooks about woodland creatures to read together. You could also collect twigs, leaves, seed cases and flowers to make natural art together outside. Remember to take photos before the wind blows your artwork away!

## What will you choose to do?

- Plant some daisies, poppies, or other wild flowers. Draw and write a flower diary about the changes you see each week. Take photographs or draw pictures to show your flowers as they grow and change.
- Take your family for a woodland walk near your home. Take photographs of interesting flowers or trees to show your friends at school.
- Search the web for images and facts about amazing woodlands or forests around the world. Make a scrapbook showing the best ones.
- Go on a tree hunt. Can you show an adult, an evergreen and deciduous tree? Tell your family what the words 'evergreen' and 'deciduous' mean.
- Make patterns and sculptures using natural materials in your garden. Take photographs of your artwork.
- Find out about famous artists who use the woodland for inspiration.
- Have fun building a den with your family or friends! Draw a picture or take a photograph of it to show at school. Write about how you made your den and the materials you used.
- Make miniature homes and gardens for fairies and pixies from natural materials such as bark, pebbles, twigs, leaves and pine cones.
- Write a 'Who am I?' riddle for family and friends to solve. Write clues about a woodland animal, plant or tree.
- Write a letter to Mr Fox telling him what you have been doing at school and at home. He'd love to hear about your adventures!
- Measure the length or height of small trees or bushes, sticks, twigs and leaves found in your garden, local park or woodland.

