

Winter Wonderland

Suitable for Years 1 and 2, December - February.

Children go on a welly walk to find out what plants and animals are around in winter. as they can. Find out what animals need to live and how they survive through the winter. They look at the lifecycle of trees and how the lifecycles of woodland animals are connected through food chains. Build a home for a badger and learn about the properties of different natural materials.

Key Concepts

Seasons, Winter, habitats, parts of a plant, seed/leaf identification, lifecycles of plants and animals, migration, hibernation, insulation.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the programme, students should be able to:

- Recognise signs of seasonal change.
- Identify plants and animals found in woodlands.
- Talk about some of the animals that live in woodlands, their lifecycles and how they have adapted to living in a woodland habitat in winter.
- Learn about the properties of some natural materials and select natural materials for a specific task.

Before you come

Q How do we know it is Winter?

Programme Outline

Learning Objectives	Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children use their senses to explore the woodland habitat. • To identify animals by the tracks they make. 	<p>Welly Walk</p> <p>Children go on a welly walk to find out which plants and animals are around in winter. Children look for tracks and signs of animals.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To learn about the different ways that animals survive in winter – migration, hibernation. 	<p>Where have all the animals gone?</p> <p>Children talk about the animals they think might be around in winter from the evidence they have collected. Discuss how animals survive in winter.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how squirrels survive winter. 	<p>Hide a nut</p> <p>Children pretend to be squirrels and hide a nut to be found at the end of the session.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn how badgers are adapted to live in woodland. Learn which natural materials are good for building a shelter. 	<p><i>Build a Badger home</i> Children select natural materials to create a home for a badger. They will then carry out an experiment to see which home keeps the badger warmest.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To learn the importance of trees as habitats. 	<p><i>Disappearing trees game</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To find out which natural materials are good insulators. 	<p><i>Badger home challenge</i> Children measure the temperature of their badgers to find out which home was the warmest.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To find out how squirrels survive Winter. 	<p><i>Find a nut</i> Children see if they can find their nut.</p>

Complementary Programmes

Why not have a led day by adding a second, shorter programme to complement Winter Wonderland. E.g. Woodland Art/Sculpture.

Self-guided trails

To complement this half-day programme, we recommend the Forestry Commission's [Seasonal Play Booklet - Winter](#) and the [Seasonal Explorers backpack](#).

National Curriculum links

Plants

- Year 1 – identify and name a variety of common wild plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees

Animals

- Year 1 – identify and name a variety of common animals.
- Year 1 – describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals.
- Year 2 – find out about and describe the basic needs of animals for survival.

Everyday materials

- Year 1 – identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood.
- Year 1 – describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials.
- Year 1 – compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties.
- Year 2 – identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood for particular uses.

Seasonal changes

- Year 1 – observe changes across the four seasons
- Year 1 – observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies.

Living things and their habitats (Year 2)

- Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants.
- Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitat.
- Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.