

# Lá na gCrann Tree Day

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# A Woodland

A woodland is a place where trees have been growing together for many years.

As well as trees, there are other plants and animals in a woodland.

There are **four** different **layers** in a woodland.

## The Canopy

The canopy consists of the leafy tops of the trees. These leaves get the most sunlight.

Birds build their nests here. Insects such as caterpillars, greenflies and leafhoppers live on the leaves. Squirrels live on the branches.

## The Shrub Layer

The shrub layer consists of smaller trees and shrubs. These include holly, laurel and rhododendron. Bushes with berries such as hawthorn and blackberries are in this layer. These provide food for blackbirds, thrushes and other birds.

## The Ground Layer

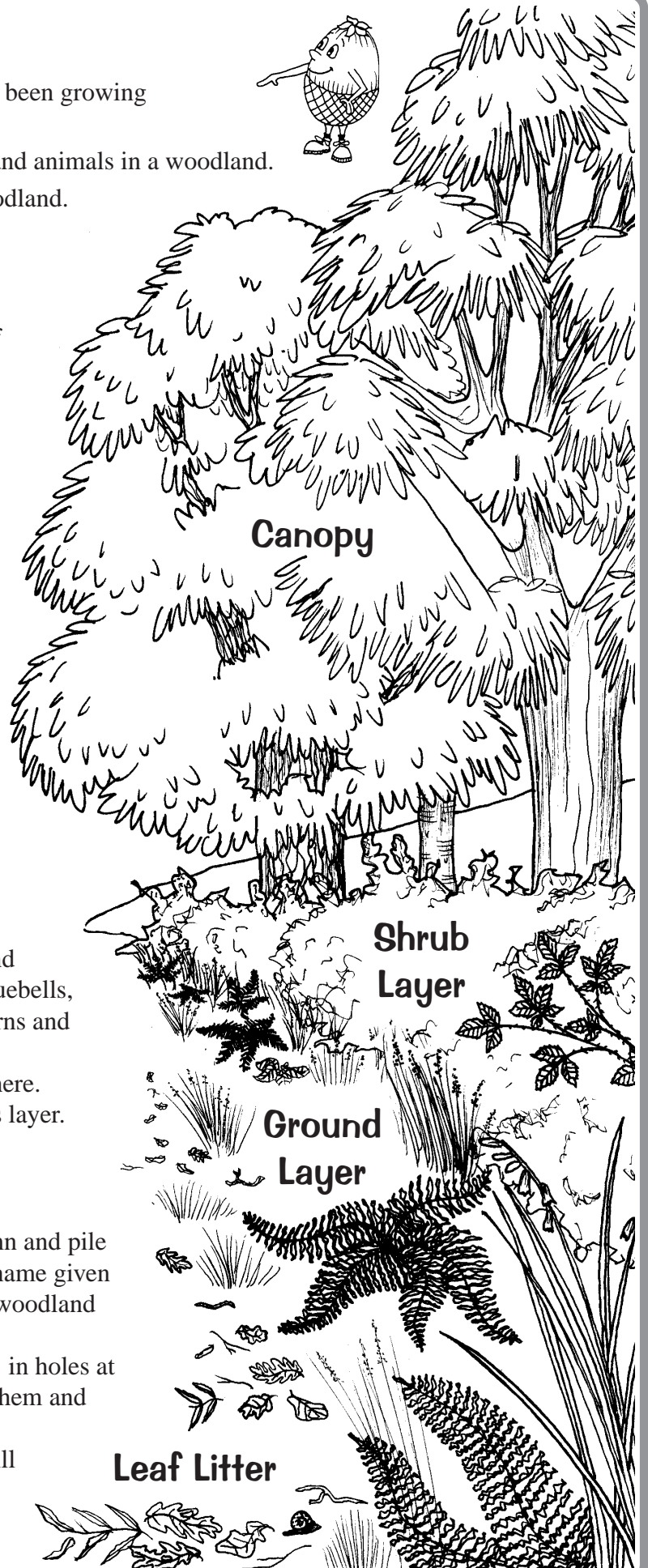
Small flowering plants live in the ground layer. Typical woodland flowers are bluebells, primroses, foxgloves and arum lily. Ferns and ivy also grow on the woodland floor. Animals such as mice and shrews live here. Beetles and ants can also be seen in this layer.

## The Leaf Litter

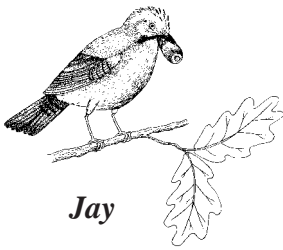
Leaves fall off deciduous trees in autumn and pile up on the ground under the trees. The name given to this collection of dead leaves on the woodland floor is leaf litter.

Hedgehogs gather up bundles of leaves in holes at the bottom of trees. They burrow into them and curl up to hibernate there until spring.

If you turn over heaps of leaves, you will find woodlice, millipedes, centipedes and earthworms underneath.



# The Canopy Layer



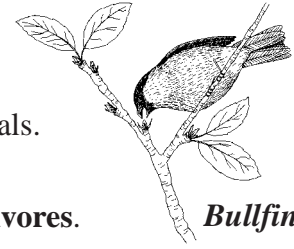
*Jay*

In a woodland, **trees provide food** for **insects, animals and birds**. The leaves, flowers and fruits of trees are food for many different animals.

Animals that eat plants are called **herbivores**.

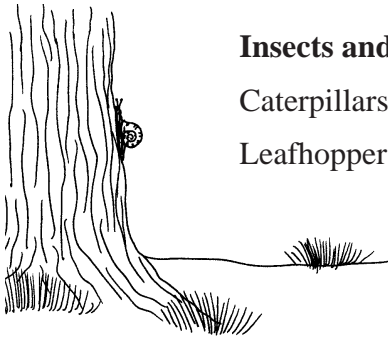
Animals that eat other animals are called **carnivores**.

Each layer of a woodland has herbivores and carnivores.



*Bullfinch*

**Birds** eat flowers, nuts and berries. Bullfinches eat flower buds before they open. Blackbirds and thrushes eat fruit and berries. Jays eat acorns.

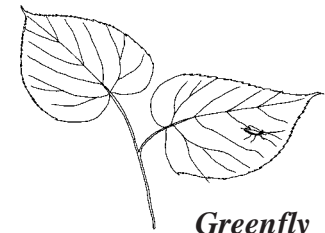


*Snail*

**Insects and other small creatures** eat leaves.

Caterpillars of butterflies and moths live on leaves.

Leafhoppers and greenflies suck the juices of leaves.



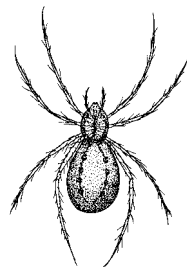
*Greenfly*

**Slugs and snails** climb up the trunks to eat the leaves at night and go back down again during the day.

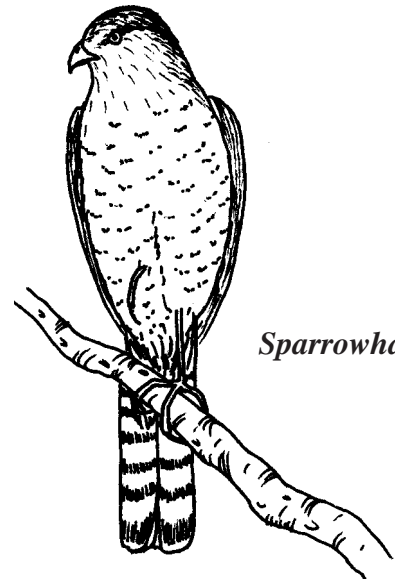
## Carnivores

Here are some carnivores in this layer.

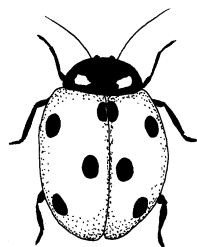
- 1 Ladybirds** eat greenflies.
- 2 Spiders** catch leafhoppers.
- 3 Robins** eat caterpillars.
- 4 Sparrowhawks** eat robins and caterpillars.



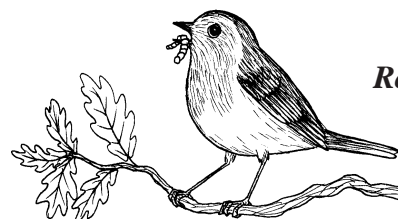
*Spider*



*Sparrowhawk*



*Ladybird*

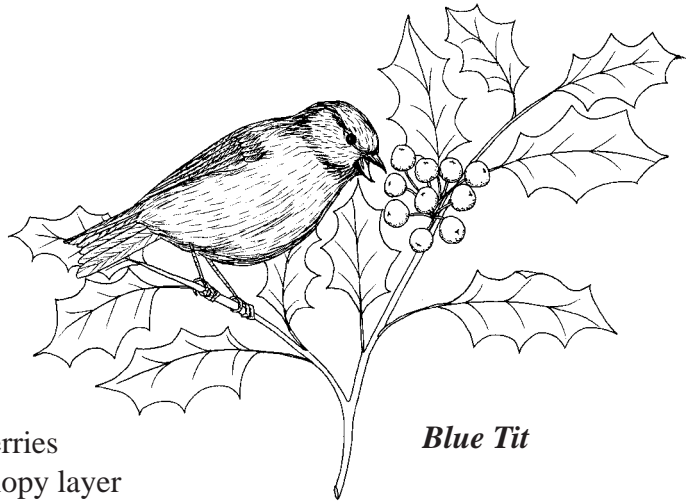


*Robin*

# The Shrub Layer

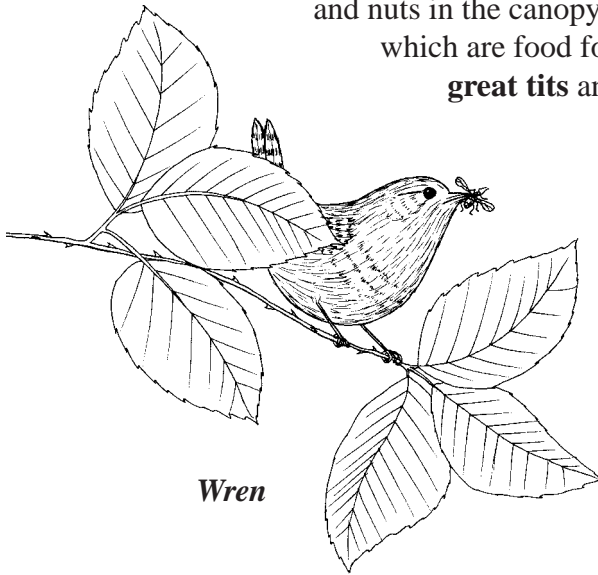
## Finding Food

Many of the leaf-eating creatures in the canopy layer, such as **caterpillars** and **snails**, eat the leaves in the shrub layer as well.



*Blue Tit*

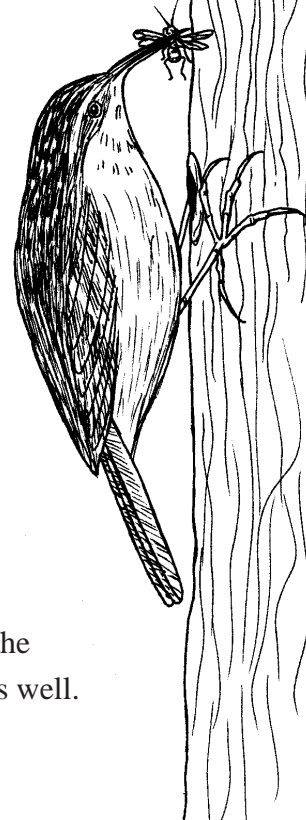
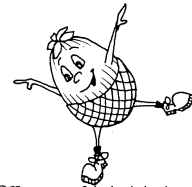
There are often more berries and nuts in the canopy layer which are food for **blus tits**, **great tits** and **chaffinches**.



*Wren*

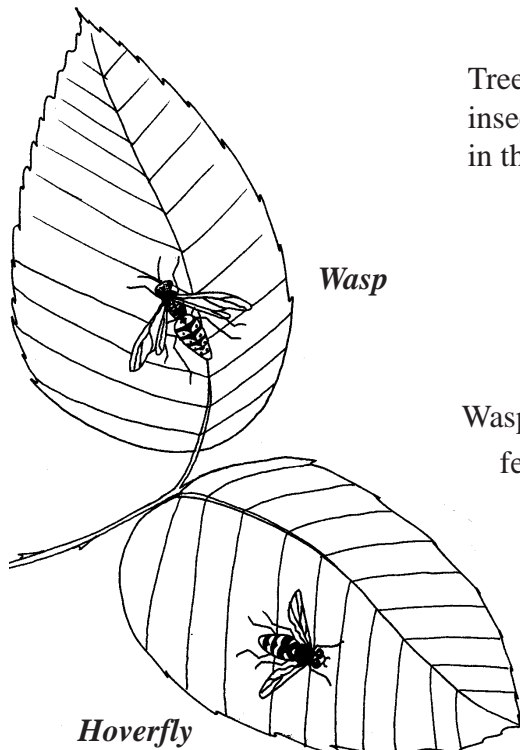
## Insect Eaters

Insect eaters in this layer include **wrens** and **long-tailed tits**.



*Treecreeper*

Treecreepers hunt for insects in the cracks in the bark of trees.



*Wasp*

*Hoverfly*

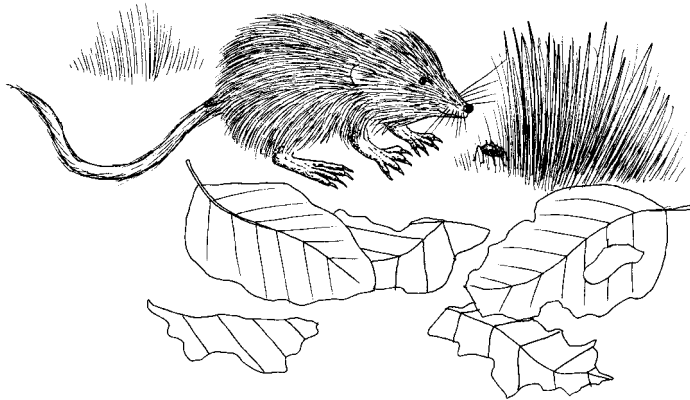
Wasps and hoverflies feed on smaller insects.

They are carnivores.

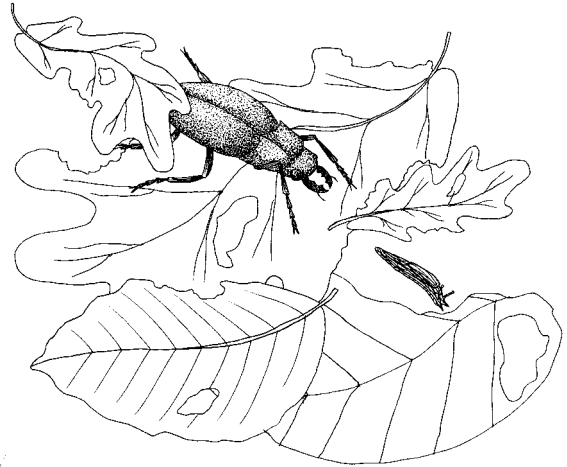
They are found in the shrub layer as well.

# The Ground Layer

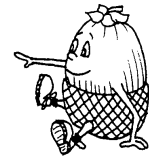
Many animals which live in the ground layer come out at night to find their food.



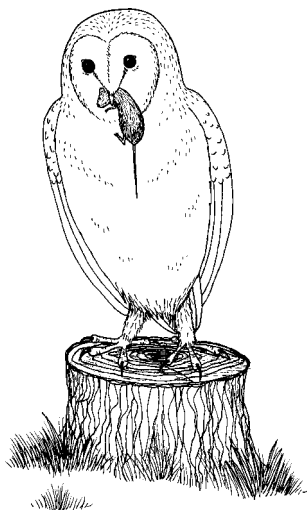
**Pygmy shrews** eat beetles.



Large insects such as **ground beetles** eat smaller creatures.



**Badgers** come into woodlands to eat berries and mushrooms, as well as worms, slugs and snails.

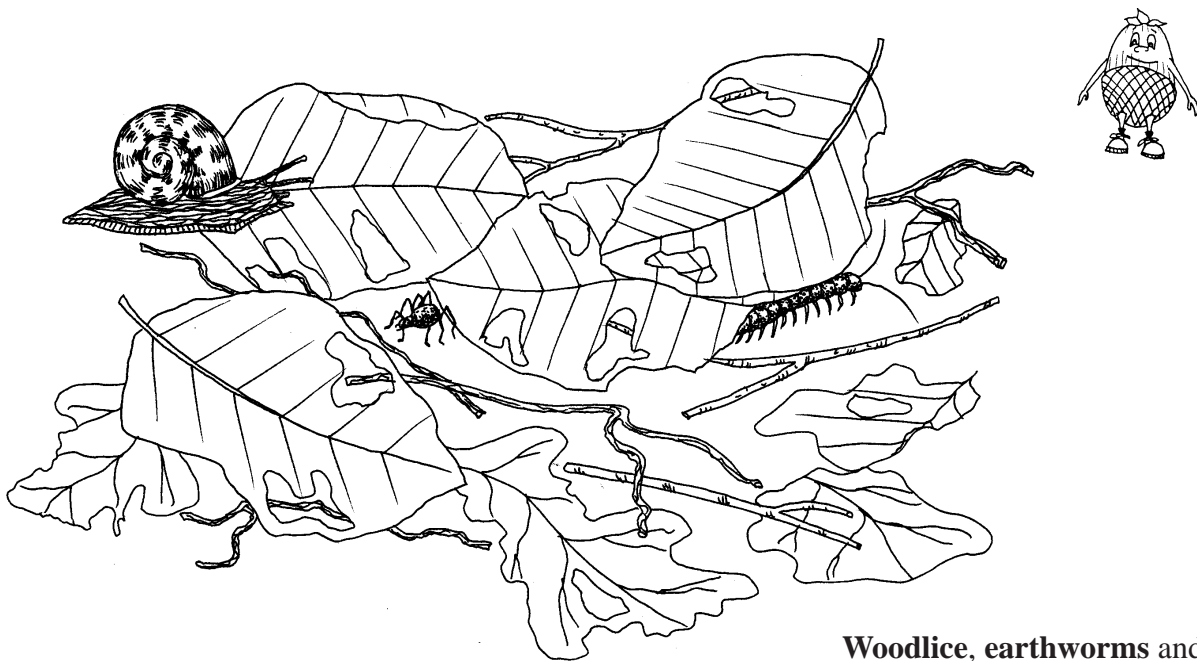


**Barn owls** and long-eared owls hunt mice in woodlands at night.



**Hedgehogs** eat insects and slugs.

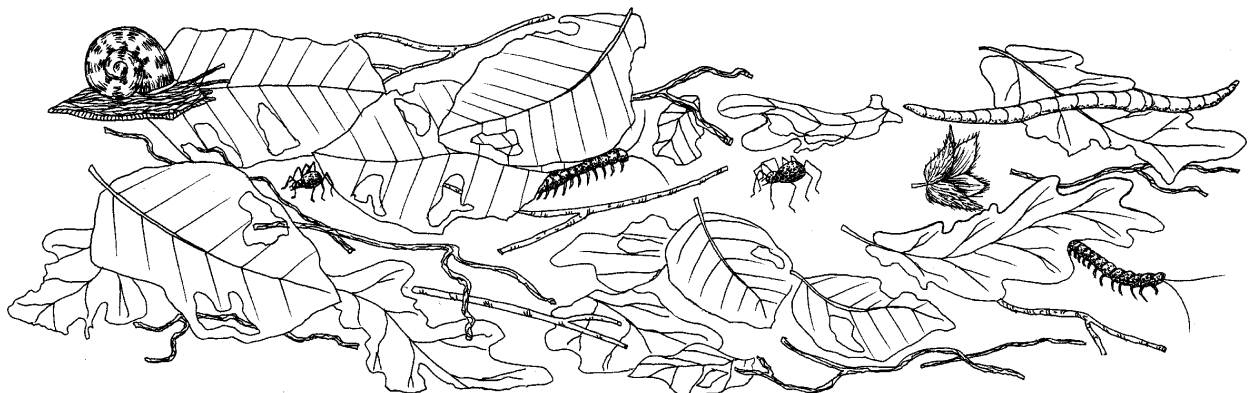
# The Leaf Litter



**Woodlice, earthworms and millipedes**, inhabit this layer and eat dead leaves.

**Centipedes and spiders** are carnivores which feed on woodlice, and millipedes.

They run away very quickly when we turn over leaves to look for them.



# Plants and Animals

This word bank contains the names of some **trees and plants** found in a woodland.

Decide in which layer each tree or plant belongs. Then write its name in the correct box.



## Trees and Plants

oak	primrose
brambles	beech
holly	bluebell
ash	wild garlic
fern	ivy

This word bank contains the names of some **animals** found in a woodland.

Decide in which layer each animal belongs. Then write its name in the correct box.



## Animals

blackbird	squirrel
caterpillar	ladybird
hedgehog	badger
beetle	robin
	wood louse
	mouse



## The Canopy

Plants	Animals

## The Shrub Layer

Plants	Animals

## The Ground Layer

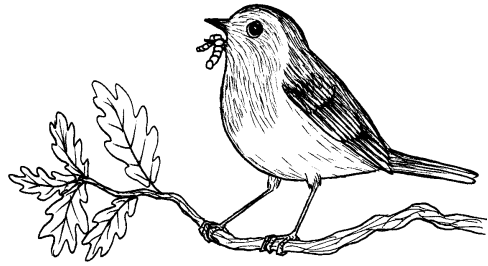
Plants	Animals

## The Leaf Litter

Plants	Animals

# Food Chains

Construct a food chain for each layer in the forest.



## The Canopy

Three empty rounded rectangular boxes with a small tab on the left side, intended for writing a food chain for the canopy layer.

## The Shrub Layer

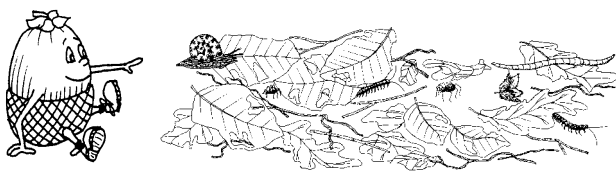
Three empty rounded rectangular boxes with a small tab on the left side, intended for writing a food chain for the shrub layer.

## The Ground Layer

Three empty rounded rectangular boxes with a small tab on the left side, intended for writing a food chain for the ground layer.

## The Leaf Litter

Three empty rounded rectangular boxes with a small tab on the left side, intended for writing a food chain for the leaf litter layer.





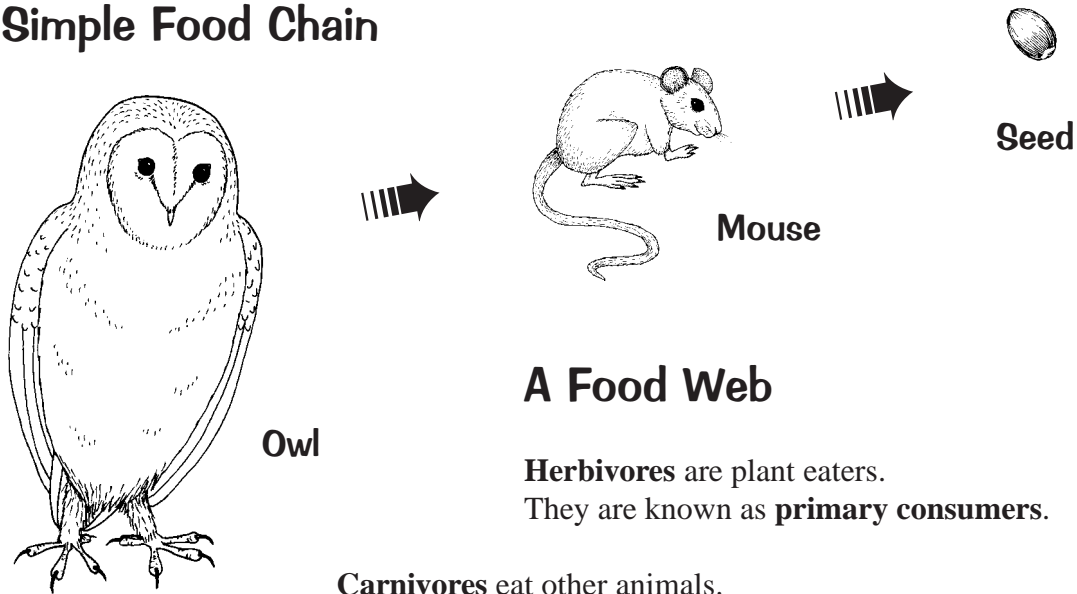
# Food Webs

Every living thing is part of a food chain.

Some animals eat a varied diet and form parts of different food chains.

Food chains linked in this way are called food webs.

## A Simple Food Chain



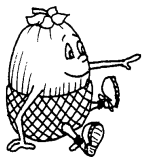
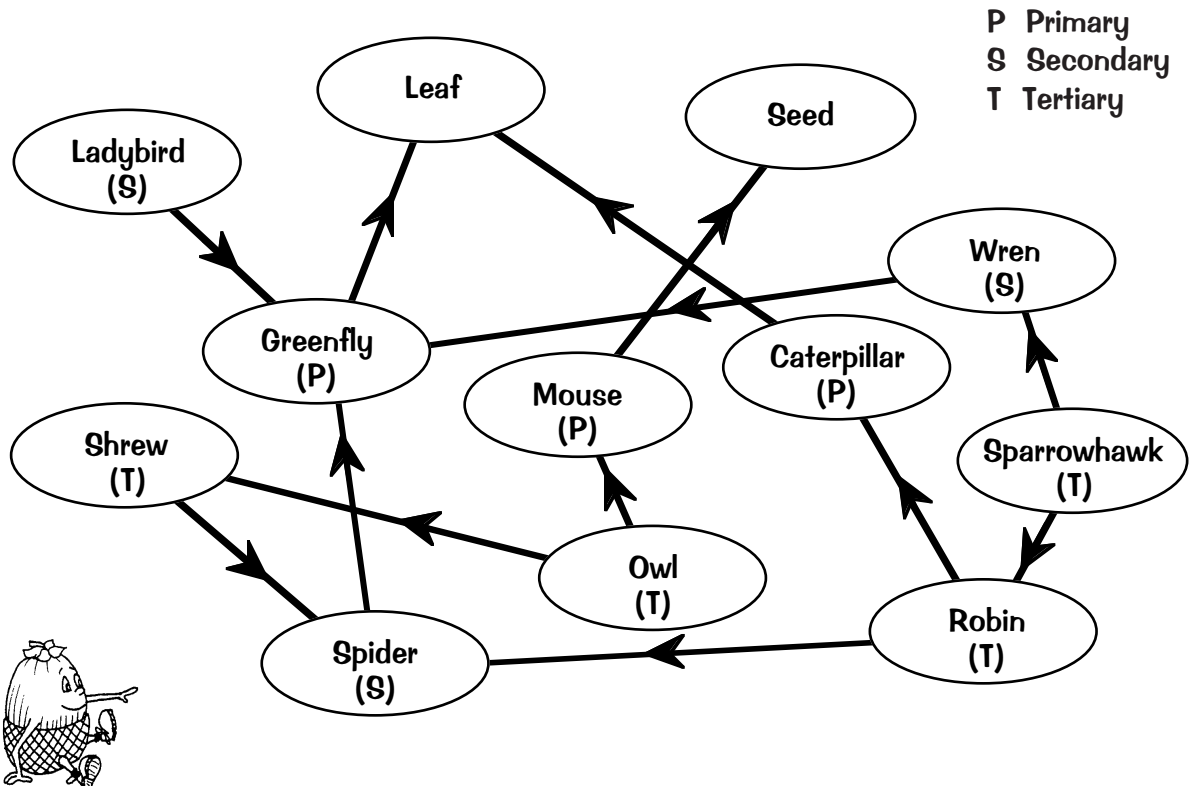
## A Food Web

**Herbivores** are plant eaters.  
They are known as **primary consumers**.

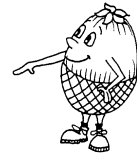
**Carnivores** eat other animals.  
They may eat more than one type of herbivore and are called **secondary** or **tertiary consumers**.

**Secondary consumers** eat **primary consumers**.

**Tertiary consumers** eat both **primary** and **secondary consumers**.



# Food Webs



## Who eats what?

Draw your own food web on this page.

Use what you have learnt about the foods which birds and animals eat.

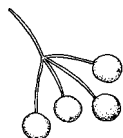
## Remember

**Herbivores** – plant eaters – are primary consumers.

**Carnivores** eat other animals. They can be either **secondary** or **tertiary** consumers.

Secondary consumers eat primary consumers.

Tertiary consumers eat both primary and secondary consumers.

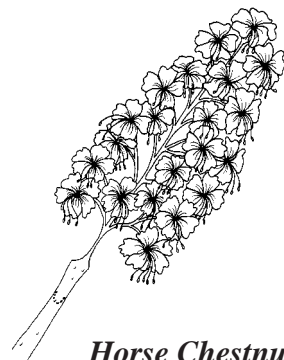


# Pollination

Trees must produce **flowers in spring** so that they can make **seeds in autumn**.

Flowers contain **pollen** which is a very fine powder.

Pollen must be transferred from the male part of one flower to the female part of another flower so that seeds can form.



*Horse Chestnut*

## Types of flowers

There are two types of flowers: **blossoms** (flowers with petals) and **catkins**.



*Hawthorn*

### Blossoms

Blossoms attract insects such as bees and butterflies which visit these flowers to collect **nectar** (flower juice). While doing this they become dusted with pollen.

When they move on, the pollen they have picked up from one flower rubs off on the next flower. In this way, bees are very important in helping new seeds to develop and grow.



*Bee on Hawthorn*

Horse chestnut, cherry, hawthorn, apple and mountain ash trees have flowers which are pollinated by insects.

### Catkins

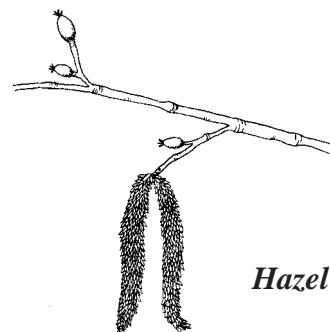
Some trees use the wind to blow pollen from one flower to flower. Some trees have long catkins. As the catkins shake in the wind, the pollen is blown from tree to tree.

These trees don't need blossoms.



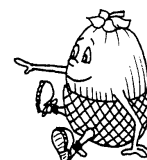
*Oak*

Instead, their flowers are long **catkins** which are easily shaken by the wind.

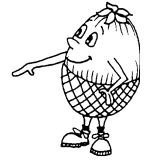


*Hazel*

Hazel, birch, alder and oak trees have catkins.



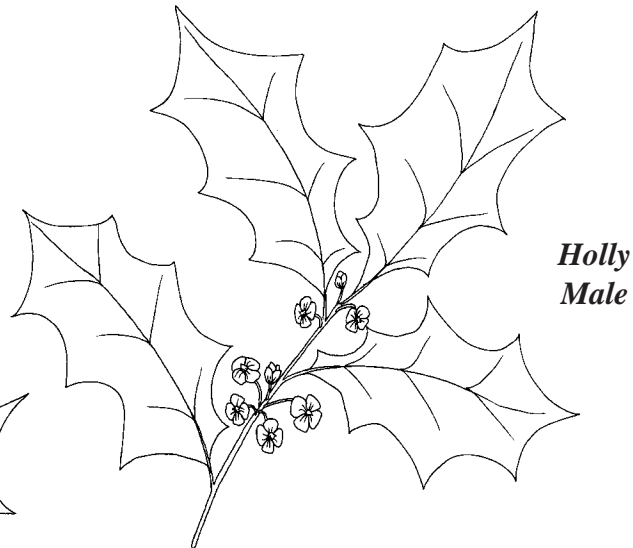
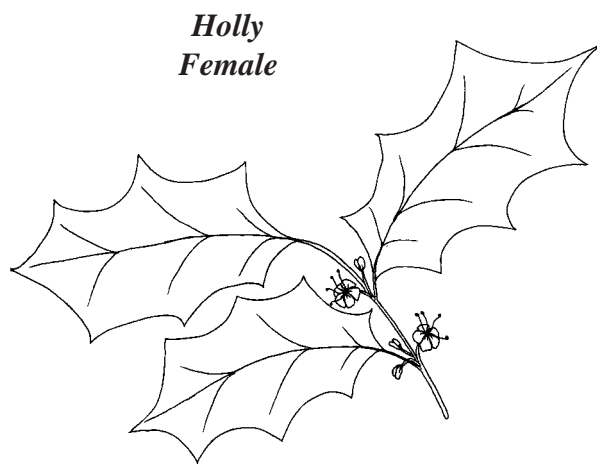
# Pollination



## Male and female flowers

The flowers described so far have male and female parts in the same flower.

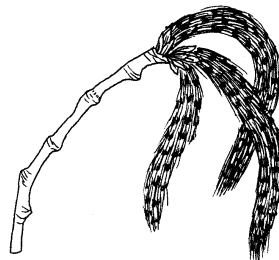
The male part produces the **pollen** and the female part makes the **berry** or **seed**.



Some trees have **male flowers only** on one tree and **female flowers only** on another tree.

Holly, willow and poplar have separate trees for male and female flowers.

The pollen from the male flowers is **blown by the wind** to the female flowers.



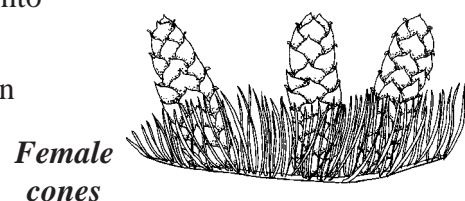
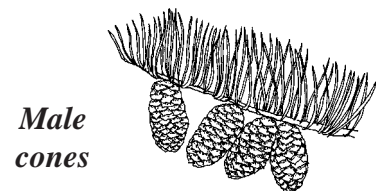
## Coniferous flowers

Coniferous trees do not have flowers with petals.

Their flowers are **cones**.

The small male cones have the pollen. The larger female cones are **on the same tree**. The wind blows the pollen onto the female cones which is where the seeds develop.

It is easy to identify male and female cones in spring when the pollen is ripe and it is blown by the wind.



# Pollination

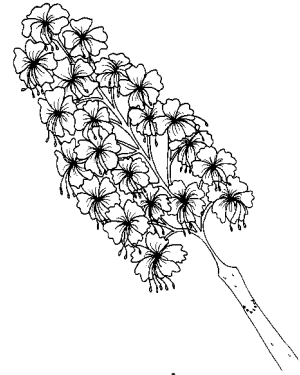
## To Do

**1** Collect some flowers in spring.

Then look up tree flowers in a reference book on **Trees**.

\* White flowers grow on \_\_\_\_\_ .

\* Pink flowers grow on \_\_\_\_\_ .



**2** Collect some catkins. *Beware of this activity if you suffer from allergies!*

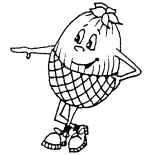
Put the catkins in a vase. Put the vase on a sheet of white paper.

The pollen will drop out onto the paper.

★ Name the tree from which you collected the catkins?

\_\_\_\_\_

★ What colour is the pollen? \_\_\_\_\_



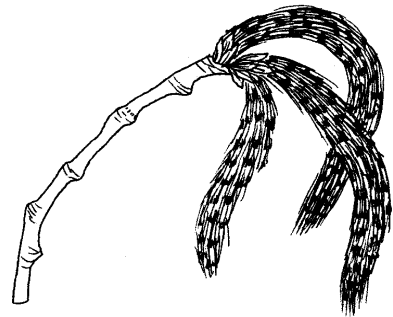
**3** Some trees develop their leaves first, then their flowers.

Some trees develop their flowers first, then their leaves.

What have you observed?

★ \_\_\_\_\_ develops its flowers **before** its leaves.

★ \_\_\_\_\_ develops its flowers **after** its leaves.



# How Trees Work

Trees need **light, air, heat** and **water** in order to grow.

They need **sunlight** to make **food** and **oxygen**.

Humans need oxygen to live. We get it from trees and other plants.

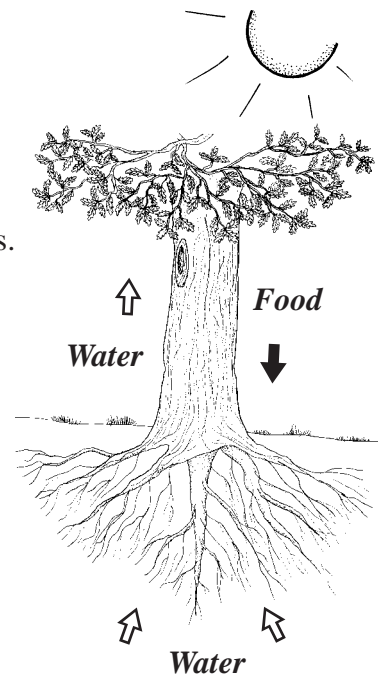
Making food and giving off oxygen is called **photosynthesis**.

The oxygen is given off into the air by the leaves.

The food is sent down through the bark of the tree to the roots.

The bark is a very important part of a tree. If it is damaged, the tree may die.

Leaves need **water** for photosynthesis. The water comes from rainfall. Trees need a lot of rain to grow and they cannot live in deserts. Water comes up from the roots, through the trunk of the tree under the bark, to the leaves.

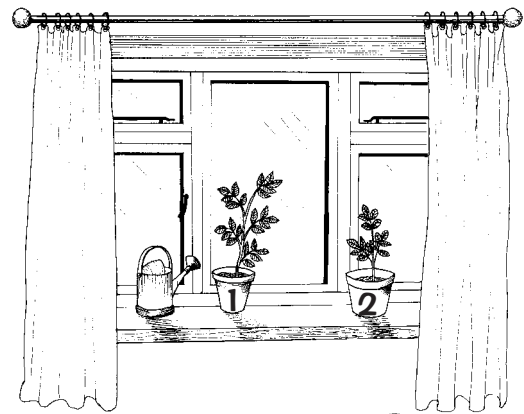
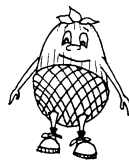


## Photosynthesis experiments

- ✓ Plants need **light**. Energy for photosynthesis comes from sunlight.
- ✓ Plants need **air**. Plants take **carbon dioxide** from the air and give off **oxygen**.
- ✓ Plants need **heat**. Plants cannot grow at very low temperatures.
- ✓ Plants need **water**. They take it in through their roots.

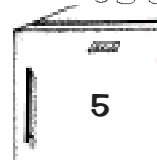
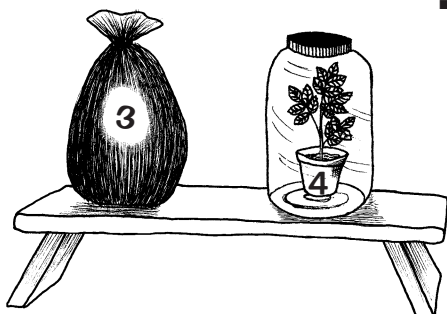
## You will need...

- \* Five healthy potato plants in pots. Label the plants 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- \* A black plastic bag
- \* A large, clear jar with a screw lid
- \* Access to a fridge



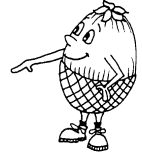
## What you do...

- ➔ Place Plant 1 on a window sill in full light. Water it as required.
- ➔ Place Plant 2 on a window sill. Do not water it at all.
- ➔ Water Plant 3 and place it in the black plastic bag. Seal the bag.
- ➔ Put Plant 4 in the jar. Water it and then screw on the lid tightly.
- ➔ Water Plant 5. Then put it into the fridge.



This experiment is carried out over two weeks. Examine the plants at the end of each week.

# Results: Week 1



## Examine the plants at the end of Week 1.

### Plant 1

Q What has happened to this plant?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Plant 2

Q What has happened to this plant?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Plant 3

Q What has happened to this plant?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Plant 4

Q What has happened to this plant?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Plant 5

Q What has happened to this plant?

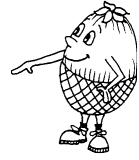
\_\_\_\_\_

Q Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

# Results: Week 2

## Examine the plants at the end of Week 2.



### Plant 1

Q What has happened to this plant?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Plant 2

Q What has happened to this plant?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Plant 3

Q What has happened to this plant?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Plant 4

Q What has happened to this plant?

\_\_\_\_\_

Q Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Plant 5

Q What has happened to this plant?

\_\_\_\_\_

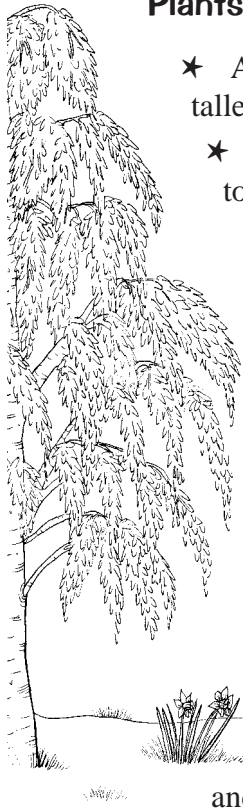
Q Why?

\_\_\_\_\_



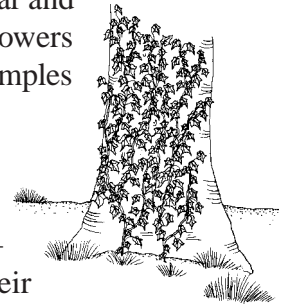
# Competing and Adapting

**Plants and animals have to adapt to compete for food and light.**



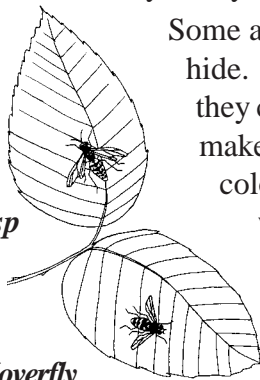
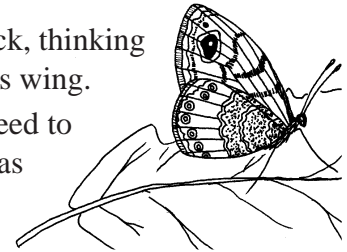
- ★ All plants in a woodland need light to grow. Trees **compete** for light and the tallest trees get the most. So the fastest growing trees do best.
- ★ Some plants are specially suited to growing in a woodland. They are **adapted** to make the most of the light they get.
- ★ Ground flowers, such as primroses and bluebells, flower early in the year before the leaves come on the trees. More light gets through to the woodland floor at this time and there is enough light for these plants to flower.
- ★ Some plants are adapted to climb up towards the light using other plants as props. They then have light all the year and do not have to flower as early. Honeysuckle, which flowers in August and ivy, which flowers in November, are examples of these plants.
- ★ Animals also compete and adapt in a woodland.

**Herbivores** that feed on leaves cannot move very fast to escape from their enemies. They use **camouflage** – being the same colour as their food – to hide from their enemies and they stay very still. Some caterpillars are green and can't be seen easily on green leaves. Other caterpillars are brown and look like twigs.



Some butterflies have eye spots on their wings which birds peck, thinking they are eyes, and the butterfly escapes with just a hole in its wing.

Some animals have an unpleasant taste so they don't need to hide. Ladybirds are red to warn birds not to eat them as they contain acid. Bees and wasps have stings which make them dangerous to eat. Their yellow and black colours also warn off birds. Hoverflies are the same colours as bees and wasps. Although they do not have stings, birds are afraid to eat them.



*Wasp*

*Hoverfly*

- ★ Many woodland animals feed at night. Snails and slugs feed at night because they would get dried up in the heat of the sun during the day. Beetles and spiders hunt at night so they won't be seen by birds. Bats catch moths in woodlands at night. They have developed a **sonar system** which allows them to fly and locate their prey without crashing into trees.

Like owls, bats are able to see in very dim light.

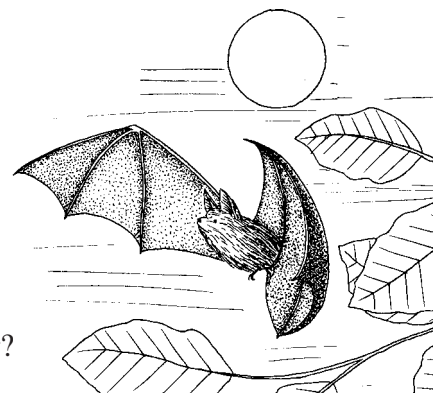
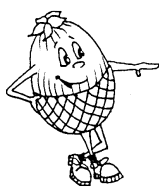
## To Do

What is a sonar system? Can you find out?  
(Clue: sound waves – very high pitch.)

What is an echo?

Discuss 'as blind as a bat'.

Is it likely that bats would fly into people's hair?



# Recycling



When we walk through a woodland in October and November, we can kick through great mounds of leaves.

When we walk through a woodland in June, the mounds of leaves have gone.

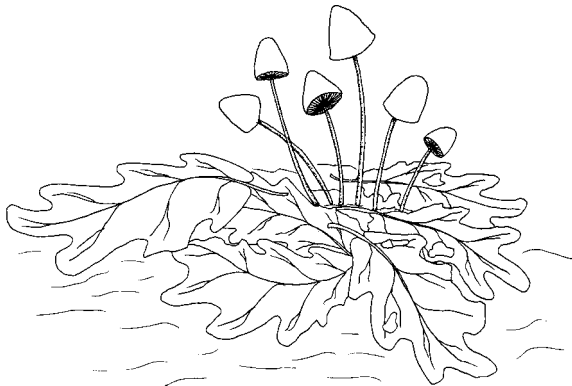
What happens to the leaves?  
Where do they go?

Dead leaves provide food for special kinds of plants and animals called **decomposers**.

There are both **plant** and **animal** decomposers.

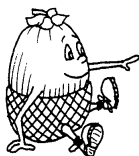
## Plant Decomposers

**Plant decomposers are fungi.**



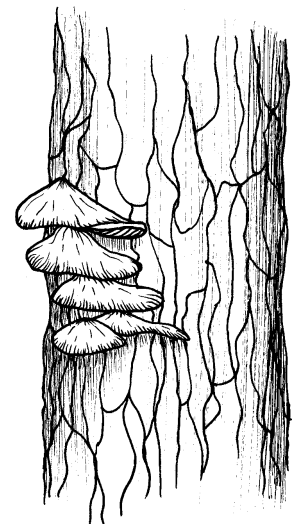
Fungi are mushroom-like plants that grow on the dead leaves. They are not green, so they cannot make their own food. Instead, they use the dead leaves as food. In doing so, they cause the leaves to decompose and disappear.

Fungi grow among the dead leaves all year.  
In autumn time, they fruit and send up mushroom-like caps.



There are many different varieties of fungi and autumn is a good time to see them.

Fungi also grow on dead logs and under dead bark.

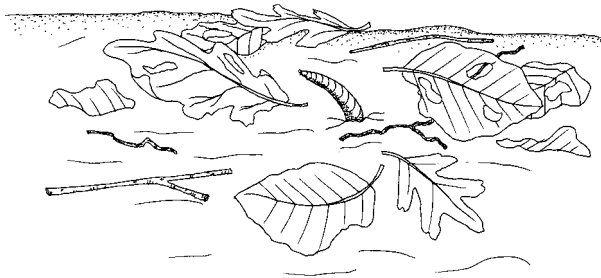
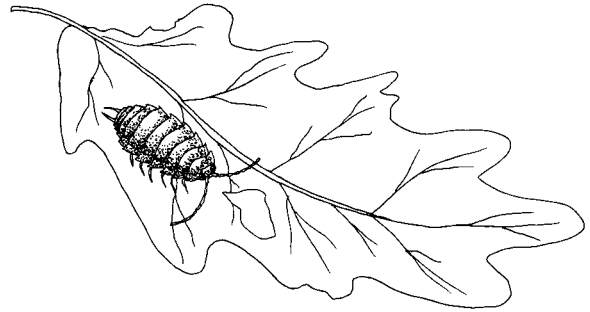


# Material Recycling

## Animal Decomposers

**Animal decomposers** are also hard at work in the leaf litter.

**Woodlice** and **millipedes** get all their food from dead leaves and dead timber.



**Earthworms** pull leaves down into the soil and eat them underneath the surface.

If you collect a handful of soil and dead leaves, you will see these animals at work.

**Animal decomposers** and **fungi** break leaves down completely.

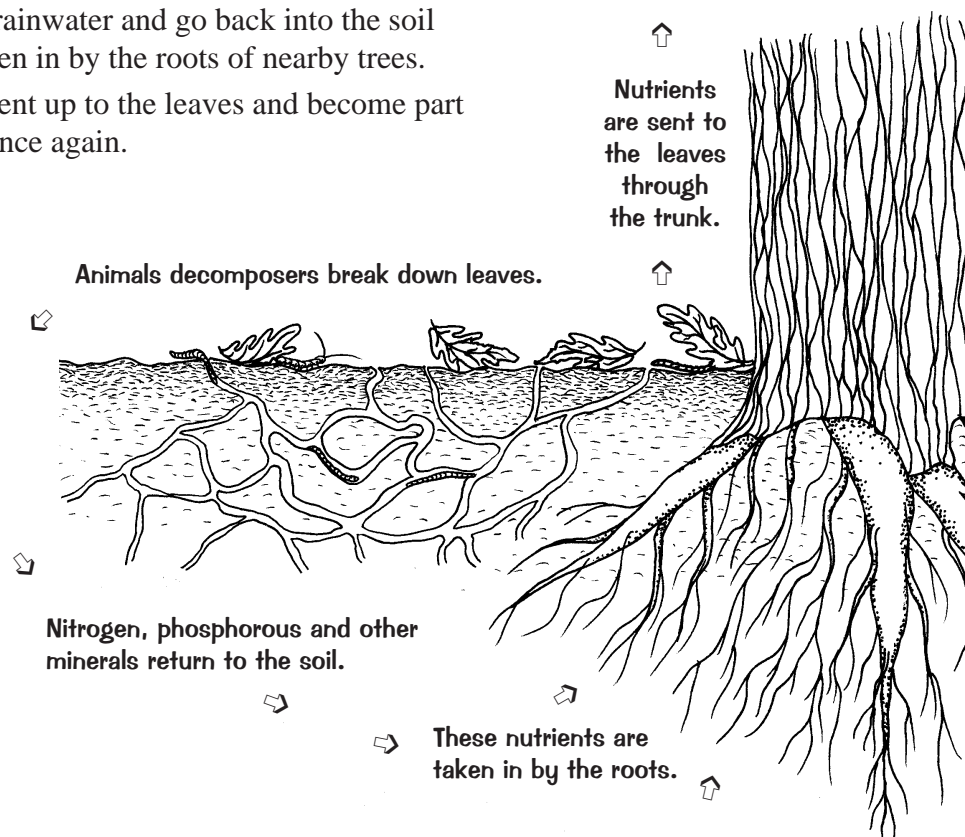
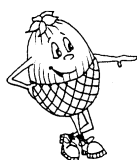
## The Cycle of Life

The food made by living leaves is used up by the decomposers. Leaves also contain nitrogen, phosphorous and other minerals.

These dissolve in rainwater and go back into the soil where they are taken in by the roots of nearby trees.

The minerals are sent up to the leaves and become part of the living tree once again.

Decomposers are very important in the woodland's **Cycle of Life**.



# To Do

**Mushrooms and toadstools** are common names for **fungi**.

These plants do not have flowers. They grow from spores that fall from the fruiting cap.

You can make a spore print from a cap you have collected.

## You will need...

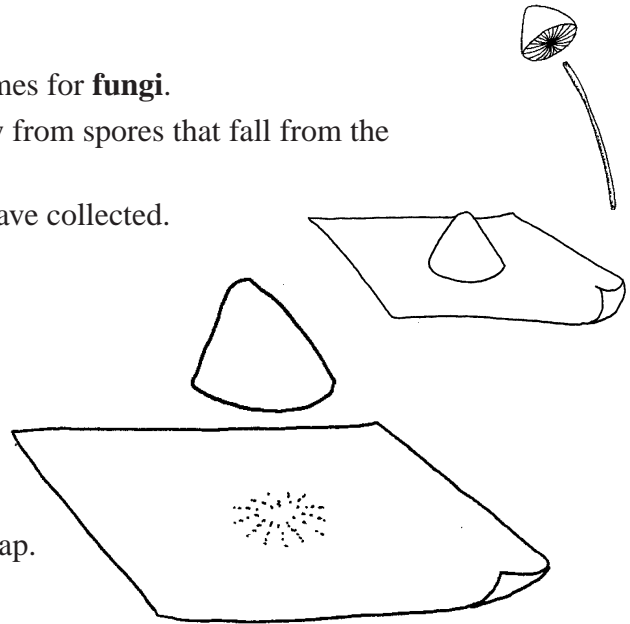
A mushroom-type fungus

A page of white or coloured paper

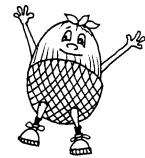
## What you do...

- ★ Carefully remove the stalk from the cap.
- ★ Put the cap on your page.
- ★ Leave for two days.

The spores will fall down onto the page in the same arrangement as they were in the cap. Remove the cap and you will see the spore print.



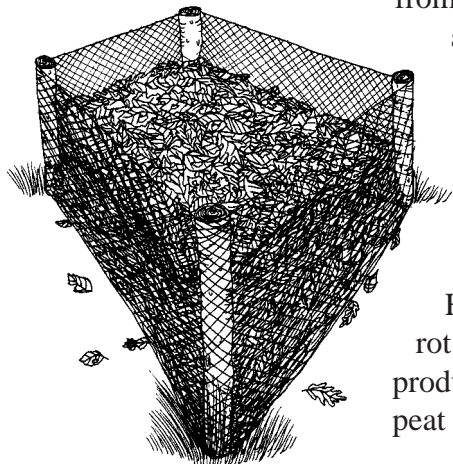
What colour were the spores? \_\_\_\_\_



## Make your own Leaf Mould

Leaf mould makes excellent peat-free compost. It's free and easy to make and use. You can use it to improve the soil in your garden and as a seed compost.

- ★ Hammer four posts into the ground. Make a cage by stretching a length of chicken wire mesh or plastic garden mesh around the four posts.
- ★ You may also use a large black plastic bag, with a few holes in the bottom to drain away excess water.
- ★ Fill the container with soggy leaves (collected after a rain shower). Push them down firmly to compact them. You may use leaves from any deciduous tree. Leaves from conifers and other evergreens acidify the leaf mould. This is an advantage if you have acid-loving plants.



- ★ Add some grass clippings (not more than a quarter).
- ★ Shred the leaves if you wish to speed up decomposition.

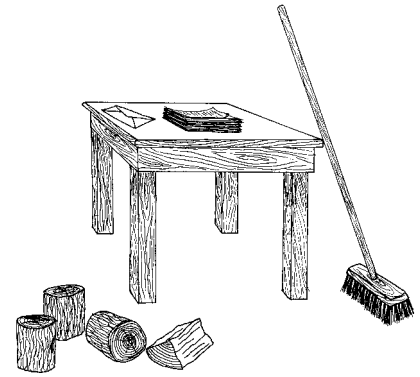
After a year, your pile will have sunk down considerably and the leaves will be partially rotted. This could be dug into the soil as it is.

However, it is recommended that you leave the leaf mould to rot or decompose for another year. You will have a much finer product. You can use your own home-made compost instead of peat compost. You are now actively helping to conserve our bogs!

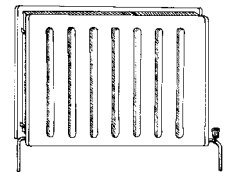
# Conservation

It is important to **conserve** our woodlands. They are important in our lives for several reasons. If trees are needed for timber and firewood, they should be replanted so that new trees will take their place and the woodland will continue.

- \* Trees are a source of **timber** for **furniture** and **building**. They also provide the raw material for paper, cardboard, fibreboard and wood chip. In order to have a good supply of timber, forests of fast-growing trees are planted in Ireland. These are evergreen conifers such as sitka spruce, fir and pine.



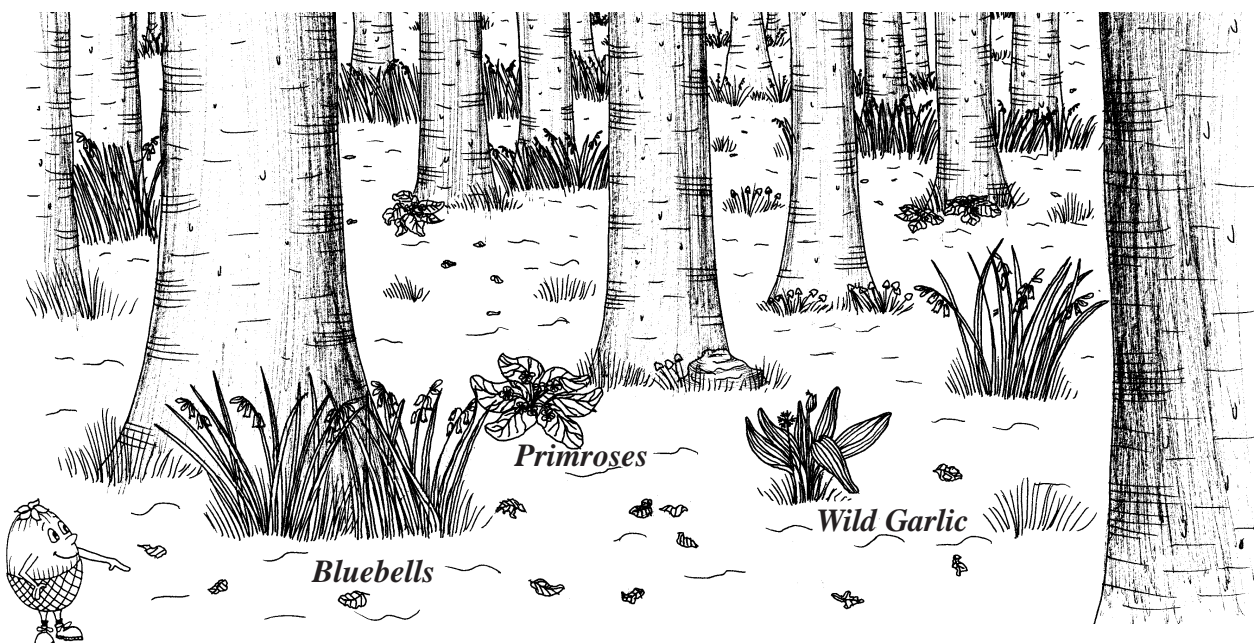
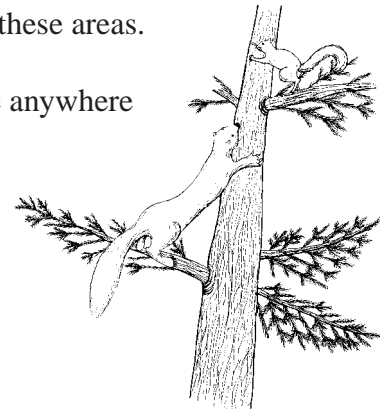
- \* Trees are a source of **firewood**. People use firewood to keep warm and to cook. We do not use much timber in this way in Ireland. We use electricity instead, which is made from oil, coal, and water power, or we use natural gas.



In many countries, people use timber for cooking as they have no other fuel. In Africa, Asia and South America, forests are being cut down for firewood and forests are very scarce around cities and towns. They are not being replanted in these areas.

- \* Woodlands are homes for **plants** and **animals** that cannot live anywhere else. In Ireland, squirrels, pine martens, jays, treecreepers and purple hairstreak butterflies live in woodlands only.

Many plants such as wild garlic, primroses and bluebells are woodland plants. In order to keep these plants and animals in Ireland, we must have woodlands.



# Conservation

## To Do

The following is a list of the best and most important woodlands in Ireland.

They are mostly **deciduous** woods except for one which is **mixed**.

They are important because they are on sites that have been wooded since the Ice Age.

Animals and plants in these woods are typical of a native woodland.

## Can you mark them on the map?

Use a detailed map of Ireland to find the exact location of each wood.

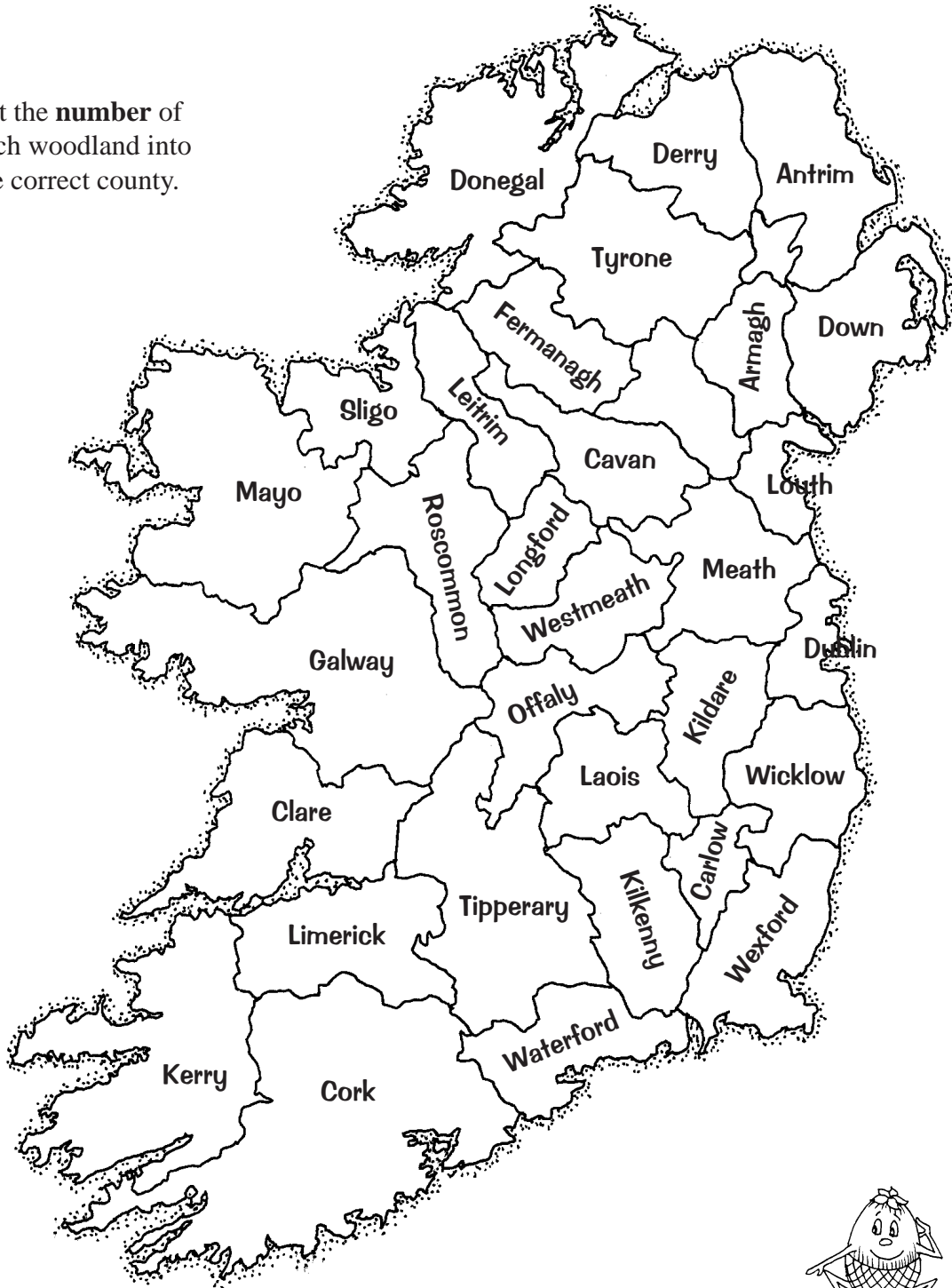
Put the number of each woodland into the correct county on Worksheet 22.

- 1 Glenomera Woods, The Burren, Co. Clare
- 2 Glengarriff Woods, Co. Cork
- 3 Glenveagh Woods, Co. Donegal
- 4 Ardnamona Wood, near Lough Eske, Co. Donegal
- 5 Derryclare Wood, Co. Galway
- 6 Killarney Woodlands, Co. Kerry
- 7 Uragh Woods, Co. Kerry
- 8 Corballis Woods, Co. Kildare
- 9 Abbeyleix Woods, Co. Laois
- 10 Lough Gill Woods, Co. Leitrim
- 11 Old Head Woodland, Co. Mayo
- 12 Rahugh Ridge Woods, Co. Offaly/Westmeath
- 13 Charleville Woods, Co. Offaly
- 14 St. John's Wood, Co. Roscommon.
- 15 Bonet Wood, Co. Sligo
- 16 Union Wood, Co. Sligo
- 17 Cornalack Wood, Co. Tipperary (**mixed**)
- 18 Knockasteen Wood, Co. Tipperary
- 19 Portlaw Woods, Co. Waterford
- 20 Nire Valley Woods, Co. Waterford
- 21 Crookedwood, Co. Westmeath
- 22 Long Hill Wood, Co. Westmeath
- 23 Killoughrim Forest, Co. Wexford
- 24 Glendalough, Co. Wicklow
- 25 The Glen of the Downs, Co. Wicklow
- 26 Powerscourt, Co. Wicklow
- 27 Rathdrum Woods, Co. Wicklow



# Woodlands

Put the **number** of each woodland into the correct county.



How many of the woodlands are in

Leinster?  Ulster?  Munster?  Connacht?

How many counties have no important woodlands left?

# Rain Forests

Trees are not just important as homes for wildlife. Forests are also very important to this whole planet.

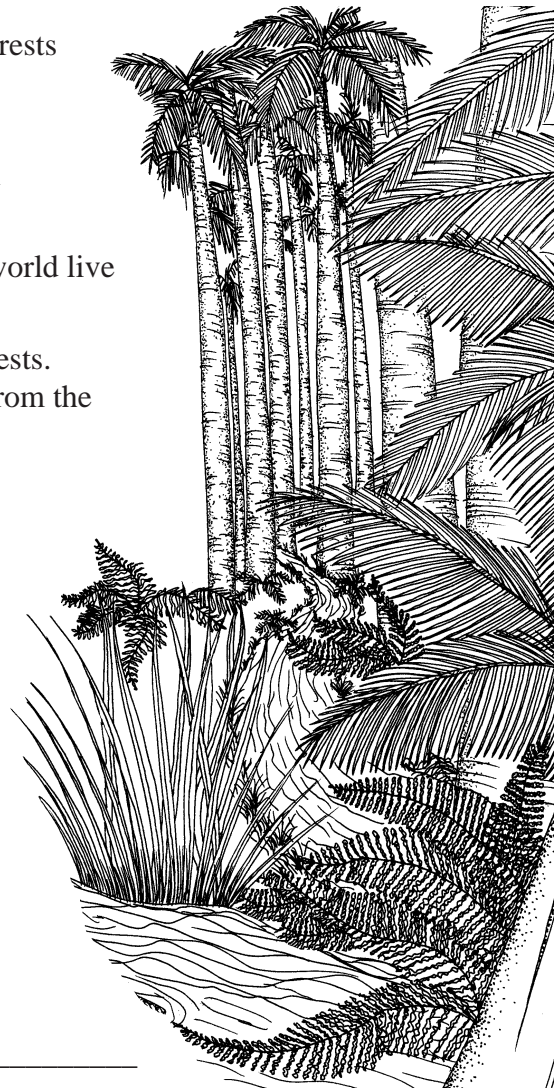
The most important area of forest in the world is the **tropical rain forest**. Rain Forests occurs in a belt all around the world at the Equator.

Half of all the species of **animals and plants** in the world live in the rain forests.

The **climate** of the world is affected by these rain forests. During photosynthesis, trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air and release oxygen.

Great amounts of **carbon dioxide** are stored in the trees of a tropical rain forest. If these trees are cut down and burned, the carbon dioxide goes back into the atmosphere.

An increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere causes the **greenhouse effect**.



## To Do

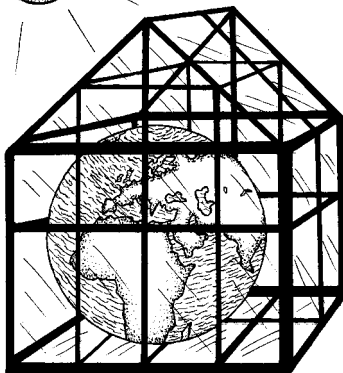
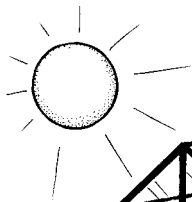
Rain forests occur in South America, West Africa and Asia. Find them on a globe or in an atlas.

**Q** Name one country in each of these continents where rain forests occur.

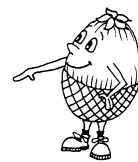
**South America** \_\_\_\_\_

**Africa** \_\_\_\_\_

**Asia** \_\_\_\_\_



## The Greenhouse Effect



Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere acts like a great **greenhouse** around the planet.

It absorbs the heat that comes from the sun and traps it, so that it cannot be reflected back into space.

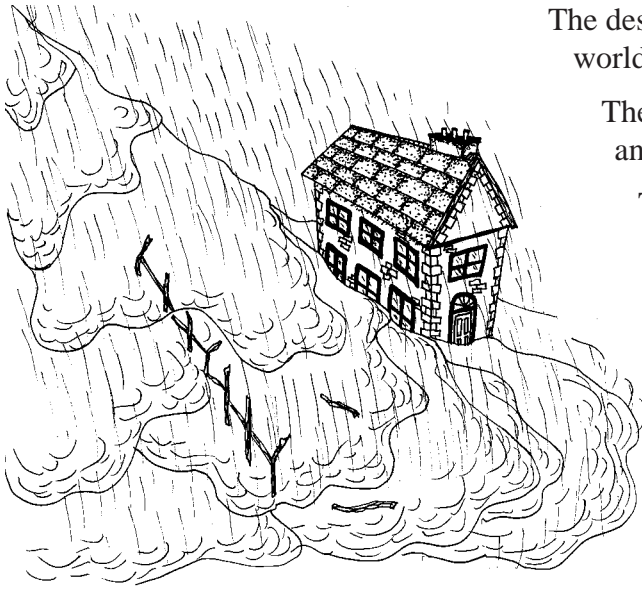
The more carbon dioxide there is in the atmosphere, the warmer the earth will become.

As this happens the climate of the world will change, the polar ice-caps will melt around the edges, and sea levels will rise causing flooding in coastal areas.

Tropical forests should **not** be cut down and burnt.



# Trees and Climate



The destruction of tropical rain forests affects the world's climate in another way.

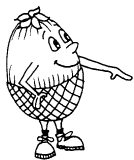
The areas where rain forests occur are very hot and very wet because they are along the equator.

The heavy rainfall trickles gently through the thick, leafy canopy and falls lightly on the forest floor.

When the forests are removed, the heavy rain falls directly on to the ground and washes away the soil.

This causes **flooding** and **landslides** and makes surrounding areas unsafe for people to live in.

**Half** of the world's rain forests have already been destroyed. Further destruction of rain forests must stop if these bad climatic effects are to be halted.



## Conservation

People who wish to conserve rain forests should not buy mahogany or teak unless it comes from areas where replanting is taking place.

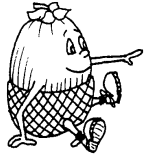
The governments of the countries where the rain forests occur should be asked to set up nature reserves in tropical rain forests. This is happening in Brazil in South America.

Dublin Zoo is breeding Golden Lion Tamarin monkeys for reintroduction into these reserves.



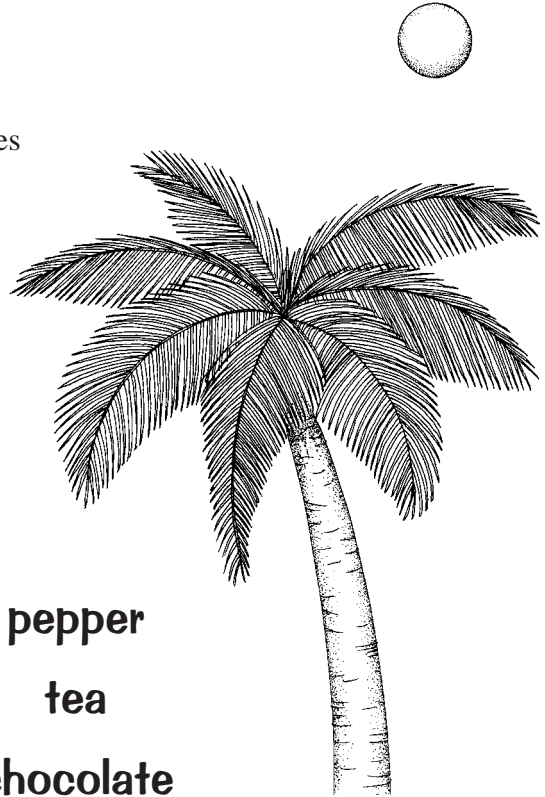
# Food from Plants

## Word Search



The Word Search contains the names of food and drinks that come from plants.

Can you find them all?



pineapple

banana

orange

lemon

bean

avocado

peanut

coconut

pepper

nutmeg

chewing gum

tea

coffee

cocoa

chocolate

c	o	c	o	a	v	o	c	a	d	o	b	b
c	h	i	l	e	c	c	o	m	f	r	a	e
a	c	e	p	t	o	h	f	e	f	a	n	a
e	h	l	w	o	f	i	f	s	s	n	p	c
l	o	i	n	i	e	l	e	t	t	g	g	o
p	c	m	e	e	n	i	e	o	h	e	v	c
p	o	t	b	e	r	g	r	p	m	v	o	o
a	l	o	p	e	l	v	g	t	i	l	n	n
e	a	t	p	i	a	a	u	u	l	o	i	u
n	t	p	m	a	e	n	m	t	m	i	h	t
i	e	b	a	n	a	n	a	e	a	o	h	c
p	e	a	n	u	t	m	l	o	n	u	t	c

# Tree Planting

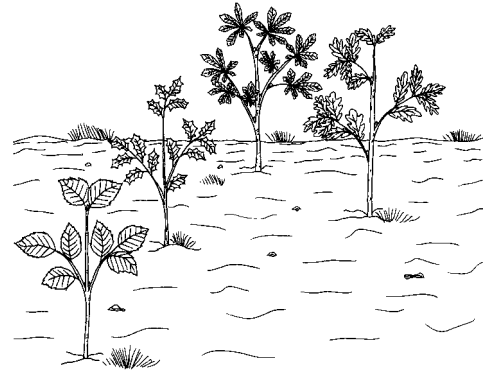
**Trees** are living plants – they mature, get old and die, even without human interference.

When trees that die, they are replaced naturally by trees that grow from seeds in the woodland.

If we want to use trees for timber, furniture, firewood and other things, we must plant trees to replace the ones we have felled. As we have so little woodland in Ireland (only 7%), we should plant far more trees than we cut down.

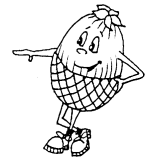
**Deciduous trees** – trees that lose their leaves in winter – are our **native trees**.

If we plant these, we will be providing more homes and food for the birds, animals and insects that already live here.



## To Do

- 1 Survey your school grounds to see if it would be possible to plant trees.
- 2 Collect seeds from native trees in the autumn.
- 3 Plant the seeds in milk cartons and look after them for a year.
- 4 Plant out the young trees in the chosen place.



A **hedge** planted with ash, hazel and hawthorn is much more valuable to Irish wild-life than a hedge of Leyland cypress, privet or box.

Growing native trees is very easy. Seeds should be collected in autumn and either kept moist over the winter for planting in spring or planted indoors immediately. One-litre milk cartons are good containers for tree seeds. They are **biodegradable** and can be inserted directly into the soil.

When the trees in the pots are one year old, plant them out in the place where they are to grow. The milk carton will break down when it is placed in the soil and the tree will spread its roots. You can plant your classroom trees all together in the school grounds to form a woodland or in a line to form a hedge.

## After Care

Young trees must be kept free from weeds and watered well during their first year in the soil.

# Woodland Field Trip

There are **four layers** in a woodland. Identify and name four plants in each layer.

## The Canopy

Four trees

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_

## The Shrub Layer

Four shrubs or smaller trees

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_

## The Ground Layer

Flowers or small plants

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_

## The Leaf Litter

Identify some of the leaves on the ground.

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_



# Woodland Field Trip

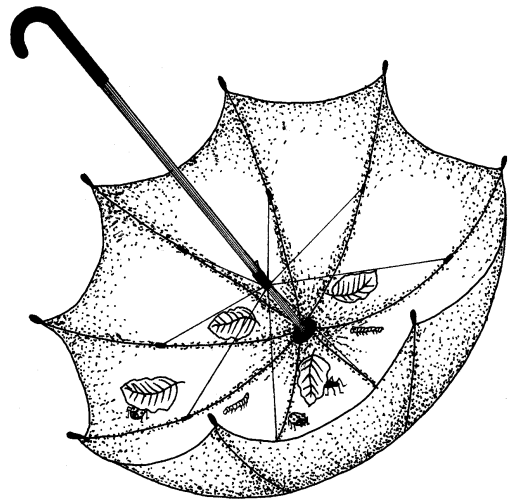
## Finding Animals

### Canopy Beating

Do this to find the small animals that live on the leaves of a tree.

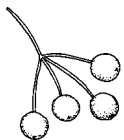
### You will need...

an open umbrella



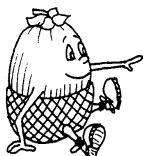
### What to do...

- ➡ Two people should hold the umbrella by the edges, upside-down under the tree.
- ➡ A third person then firmly shakes the branches over the umbrella.
- ➡ The insects and small creatures living on the leaves will fall into the umbrella.
- ➡ Take the umbrella away and look at what's in it!



### What you will see

- ★ There will be leaves and twigs in the umbrella as well as animals.
- ★ The carnivores that live by catching other animals will run under the leaves. They include spiders and ladybirds.
- ★ Herbivores such as caterpillars, greenfly and leaf hoppers won't move.
- ★ Flies and bees that were just resting on the leaves will fly away.



### Observation

To see larger animals such as birds, divide into groups of two and stay quiet for at least 10 minutes. Note what you see and hear.

Examine the trunk closely to see if there are any animals in the cracks in the bark. A torch could help for this task.

# Woodland Field Trip

## Finding Animals

### Pitfall Traps

These are traps set in the ground to catch animals that move over the ground at night.

### What to do...

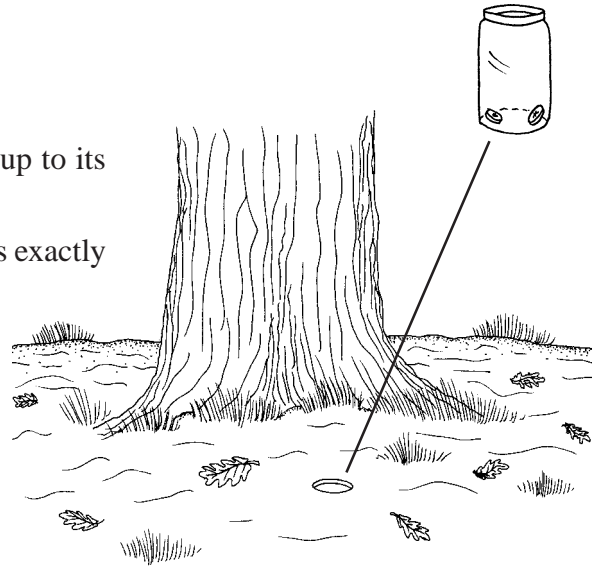
You will need a jar and a trowel.

- ★ Dig a hole under the tree. Put the jar right up to its neck in the hole.
- ★ Smooth off the soil so that the open jam jar is exactly flush with the level of the soil.

Small animals moving over the ground at night will fall in and won't be able to get out again because of the smooth sides.

You can catch **ground beetles** in this way.

Try baiting your pitfall traps with bits of meat or banana to see if your catch varies.



*Return all creatures to the wild after observing them!*

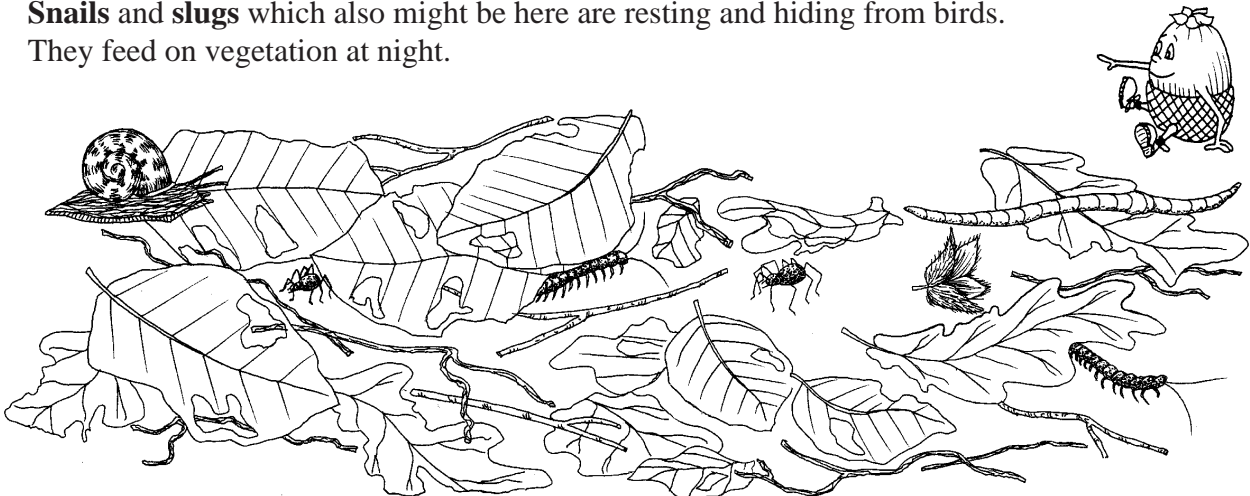
## Leaf Litter

If you look under leaves and under big stones or rotting timber, you will find animals that break down dead leaves (decomposers).

Look out for **woodlice**, **millipedes** and **earthworms**.

Faster moving animals such as **centipedes** and **spiders** are carnivores. They eat the decomposers.

**Snails** and **slugs** which also might be here are resting and hiding from birds. They feed on vegetation at night.

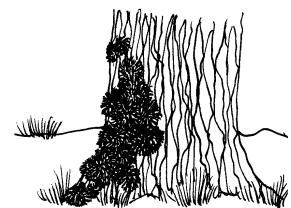
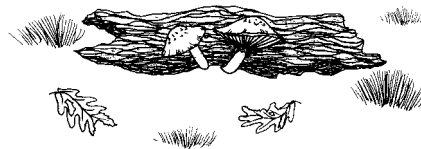
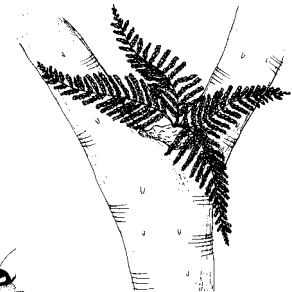
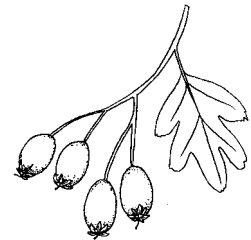


# Scavenger Hunt

Take this list with you on a field trip. Identify all the things that are listed below.

You may be able to collect some items if you find them on the ground.

- 1 A hawthorn leaf
- 2 A berry
- 3 A wind-dispersed seed
- 4 An animal from the bark of a tree
- 5 A herbivore
- 6 A feather
- 7 Three pieces of litter
- 8 A fungus
- 9 A lichen from the trunk of a tree
- 10 A leaf that is not green
- 11 A carnivore
- 12 A wild flower
- 13 A nut
- 14 A fern
- 15 Something unusual

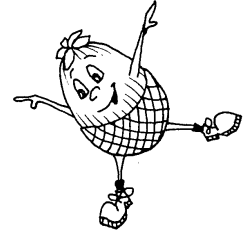


Notes



# A Nature Trail

## Make a Nature Trail



Nature trails are made by people who know lots about the area.

Make a nature trail in a wood that your class or a younger class will enjoy.

### What To Do

- ✓ Decide on a number of stops on the trail, perhaps six.
- ✓ Identify something interesting at each stop.
- ✓ Draw a map and mark down where each stop is located.
- ✓ Make field notes for the nature trail.

Stop One



Stop Two



Stop Three



Stop Four



Stop Five



Stop Six

### Use Graphics

Include graphics to illustrate the nature trail.



**Eyes** when you are asked to look at things.

**Ears** when you have to listen.



**A Pen or Pencil** when you are to write things down.

**Footsteps** when you walk from one place to another.



**A Hand** to feel things.

**A Nose** when there is an interesting smell.



and so on...