

Incredible Creatures

Activity Booklet

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Get ready to enter a world full of incredible creatures! You don't have to travel far for this adventure, these fascinating animals and magnificent plants are found right here in the UK in gardens, parks and even on our streets.

This activity booklet takes you to explore nature through curious facts, exciting ideas and puzzling challenges.

So, are you ready to learn more about some of the incredible creatures and plants found here in the UK? Turn over to begin your adventure!

Some of the ideas in this book involve getting outside and experiencing nature for yourself. Take an adult that you know and trust with you and make sure that you are both respectful of your surroundings.



The lifecycle of a common frog!

Spawn



In Spring, female frogs lay their eggs in a pond or lake where the water is still. A cluster of eggs is known as frogspawn.

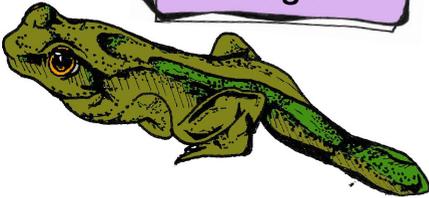
A few weeks later, the eggs hatch. The tadpoles that emerge look quite different from the adult frogs they will grow into. They have a tail and gills, allowing them to swim and breathe underwater.

Tadpole



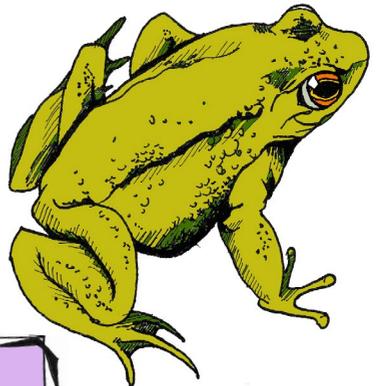
After a few months, tadpoles begin to transform into froglets. Legs develop and their tail becomes shorter. They also develop lungs so they can breathe out of water.

Froglet



Adult frogs live in many different places but need to live close to a pond or lake. They are most active at night and feed on insects. Frogs can live for 5-10 years and begin to breed when they are 2-3 years old.

Adult frog



Froggy features!

Just like other living things, frogs have features that help them to survive in their habitat.

How do you think a frog's features might help it to survive?

Green-brown colour

Think about how a frog moves on land.
What movement do their long legs help them to do?

Long legs

Think about how a frog might hide from predators.
What might the frog's green-brown colour help it to do?

Webbed feet

Think about a frog's habitat.
What do their webbed feet help them to move through?

Frogs live in many different places, including grasslands and woodlands. The place where a frog lives is known as its **habitat**.

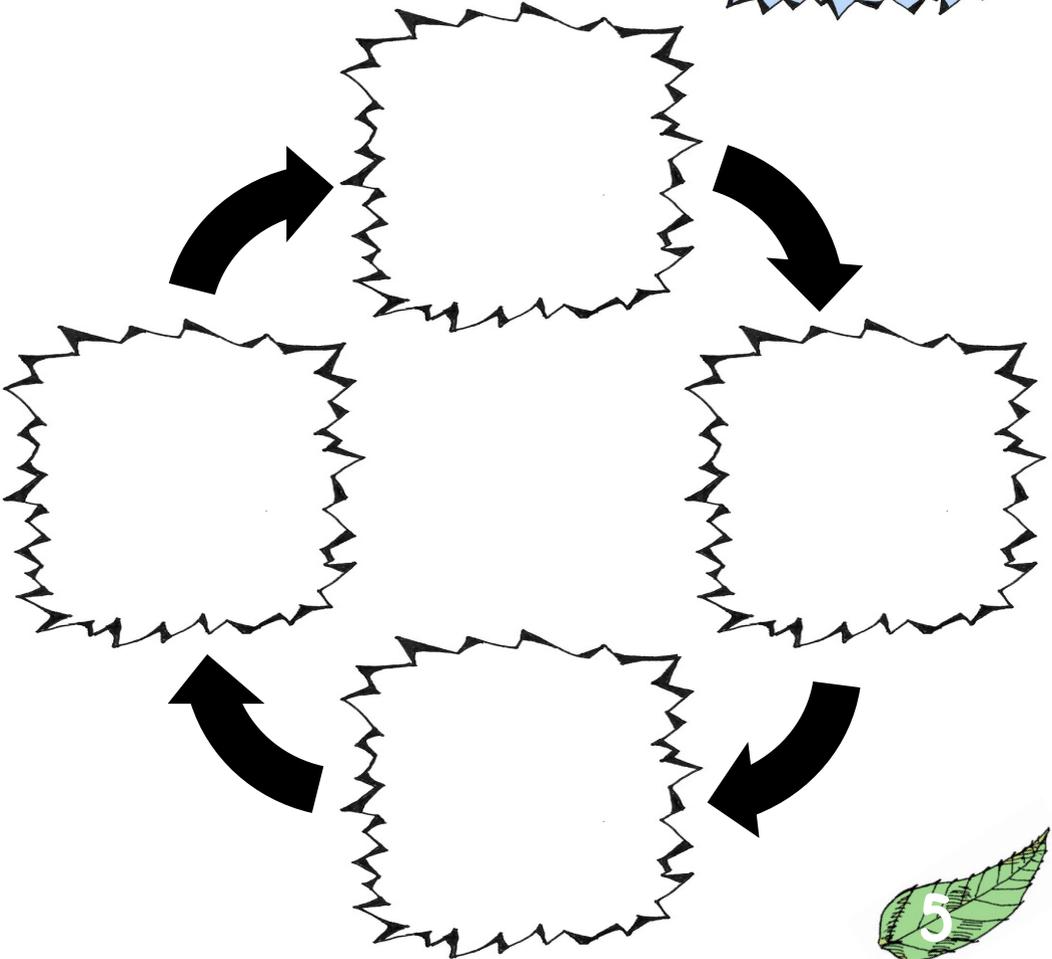
Frogs are **amphibians**, just like toads and newts. Amphibians start their life in water. Many, like frogs, will undergo a change and then live on land.



What Can you remember?

Now that you have learnt about the lifecycle of a common frog, can you remember the 4 main stages and the order that they go in?

Draw a picture of each stage in the boxes.
Challenge yourself to do this without looking back!



Let's go on an adventure!

Don't go alone

Every adventurer needs someone to keep them company. Ask an adult that you know and trust to join you.

Pick your destination

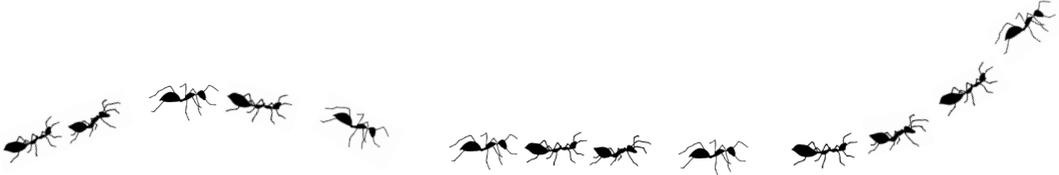
Do you have a garden to explore? Or maybe a nearby park or common? Anywhere outdoors will do, no matter how big or small – you can find nature everywhere.



Pack some important equipment

Look at the images for some ideas of what you might want to take with you. You don't need everything, a simple notepad and pen will do!

You've chosen your destination, you have an adventure buddy and your equipment is packed – you're almost ready to set off!
Before you begin exploring, there are some important things to remember to keep you and nature safe:



Take care

If you are handling animals or plants, remember they are living creatures! Take care as some things sting or bite.



Be gentle and respectful

If you lift any stones or leaves, do this carefully – you might be peering into an animal's home! Don't forget to put them back where you found them.

Don't leave any trace of your visit
Make sure you bring home all your equipment and any rubbish.



Nature diary!

Why not write about your adventure?

There really is no right or wrong way to do this. You can make some notes about what you found, or you can draw something that you saw. It really is up to you!

Date :

Writing ideas!

What animals did you see?

What could you hear?



Looking for leaves!



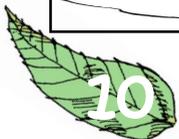
Draw a leaf

Can you find a leaf that has fallen from a tree? Bring it home and draw a picture of it below.

My leaf is from a _____ tree.

Does your leaf look like any of those on the next page?

If your leaf is different, find out which tree it has come from! Ask an adult to help you look it up on the internet, or they might have a book that shows the different types of trees found in the UK.



Whose leaf is it anyway?

Here are some pictures of leaves from trees that are commonly found in the UK.

Horse chestnut



Conkers are the seeds of horse chestnut trees.
Have you ever collected conkers in autumn?

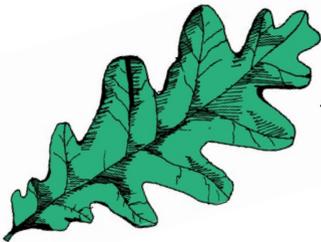
Ash

How many ash leaves can you count?
This is actually just one leaf! It is made up of small leaflets. The leaf shown here has 9 leaflets.



English Oak

This is the most common tree in the UK! Oak trees can grow up to 40 metres tall and they provide a favourite food for squirrels – acorns.



Sycamore

You might be familiar with the sycamore's 'helicopter' seeds that you can throw into the air and watch as they spiral back down to the ground.



Amazing ants!

Ants are insects. Like other insects, they have 6 legs and their body is divided into 3 main parts.

There are over **13,000 types** of ants found around the world! Here in the UK, we have over 30 types of ants. They can be found in lots of different places from grassy or rocky areas, to even the pavement beneath your feet.

Ants live in large groups called colonies, where each ant has a job to carry out. Some find food whilst others defend the nest. Each ant carrying out its own job means that together the whole colony survives.

Did you know? Despite their small size, some ants can live for up to 20 years!

Aphids are like the cows of the ant world. They produce a tasty honeydew liquid and sometimes ants eat aphids for protein.

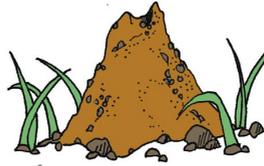
Don't forget to respect nature
Ants will become defensive if you try to get into their home.

Help me find my way home!

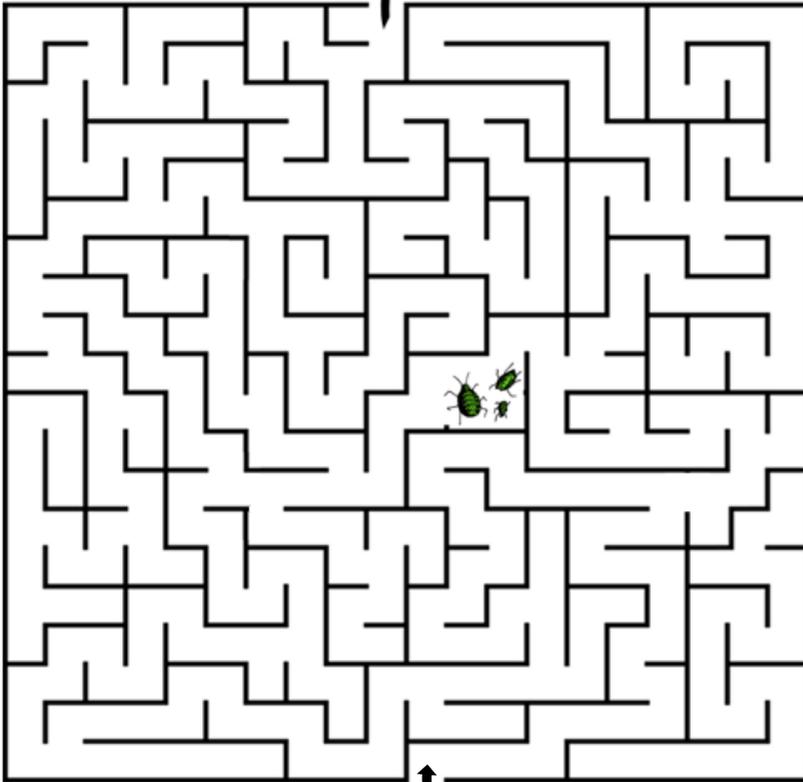


Can you help me find my way back to my ant hill?

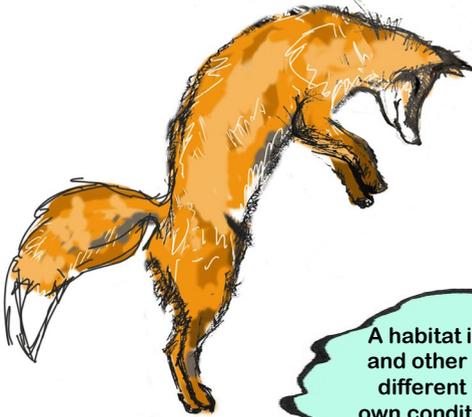
Trace your way through the maze to find a path I can use without getting stuck.



For extra points, find a path through the maze that will let me pick up the aphids on my way. The aphids make tasty honeydew to give me the energy I need to get home.



A healthy home?



A habitat is a place where plants, animals and other creatures live. There are lots of different types of habitats, each with its own conditions. Some examples of habitats are deserts, woodlands, and even cities.

Creatures and plants should be able to find everything they need to survive in a habitat. They need food, water and shelter, but sometimes habitats can become unhealthy due to things like rubbish and pollution.

Find the pollution in nature!
Circle all the things in the habitats on the next page that make them unhealthy.



Pollution is something people put in the environment that's harmful to creatures and plants.
What pollution have you seen in nature?

What could we do to stop habitats like these from becoming unhealthy?



Draw a habitat!

In the space below,
design your own happy
home for nature.



A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a habitat.

What animals live in
your habitat?

Is it hot or cold?
Dry or wet?

What challenges
might creatures
face living here?





Write a rhyme about
your nature time!

Why not write a poem about nature?
You can use this as a way to record something you have
seen or an adventure that you went on.
Check out some rhyming words below for some inspiration.

Tree

Bee

See

Butterfly

Sky

Bird

Heard

Green

Seen



What does that beak eat?

Draw a line to match the bird and its beak to the food that it eats.

Look at the images of the bird beaks below. Do you notice how different they are?

Some birds eat seeds, others might eat fruit and some even eat fish! The shape of a bird's beak is suited to the food that it eats.

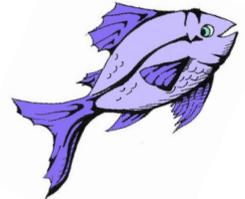
Wren

A thin beak is good for picking out small prey.



Red kite

A sharp, curved beak is needed when eating meat.



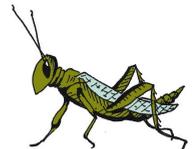
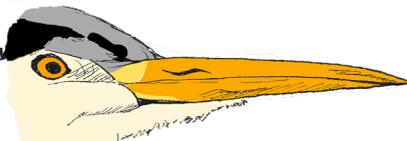
Goldfinch

A thick beak is best for crushing and cracking.



Heron

A long beak helps when prey is out of reach.



Have you seen or heard any of these garden birds?

Tweet tweet!

Next time you head outside, take the time to listen to nature. What does it sound like? Can you hear any birds singing?

Great tit



If you have a bird feeder, it might be visited by a great tit. These bright birds like to feed on seeds, nuts and insects.

Blackbird



Although called a blackbird, females are actually brown! It is only the males that have black feathers.

Pigeon



These should be easy to find! This type of pigeon can be found in almost all towns and cities across the UK. Not all pigeons are the same colour. Some are very dark blue whilst some are grey or white.

Did you know?

Just like people, some types of birds have different accents depending on where they are from!

Robin



Robins are well known in the UK for their red breast, but young robins don't develop this red colouring until they are a few months old.

Resources!

Now that you have learnt lots about incredible creatures and plants in the UK, are you interested in discovering more?

Ask an adult to help you go online to read more from the following organisations:

Froglife

Find out about how to support your local wildlife, such as supporting community gardens, wildlife spotting, and even advice on creating your own pond.

www.froglife.org

Royal Entomological Society (RES)

Identify insects you find by sending a photo to experts.

www.royensoc.co.uk

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Learn about birdwatching, how to create a home for nature, and tips on growing flowers.

www.rspb.org.uk

Woodland Trust

Discover more about trees and their importance to wildlife. There are lots of ideas for activities to do in your local woods.

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

The Wildlife Trusts

Find information on your local Wildlife Trusts branch, where you can learn more about UK wildlife and how you can help it out.

www.wildlifetrusts.org



The BES is a society for ecologists around the world. Ecologists study how living things interact with one another and with their surroundings. This allows us to understand nature as it is now and how it may change in the future.

We are working towards a world in which nature and people can thrive together.



*To find out more about the BES and what we do,
visit: www.britishecologicalsociety.org*



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