

The Enchanted Woodland

Woodlands

A woodland is a large area of land covered in trees. There are many types of woodland in the United Kingdom.



As well as trees, woodlands are habitats for a wide range of animals and plants. The woodland habitat provides everything the animals and plants need to survive, including water, air, food and shelter. Woodlands are also important to people as they provide clean air, building materials and a place to spend leisure time.

Trees

Trees can be identified from their bark, leaves, flowers, fruit and seeds.



oak bark



silver birch bark



yew berries



elderberries



sycamore seeds



lime seeds

Types of trees

Trees that lose their leaves in the autumn are called deciduous trees. Deciduous trees normally have wide, flat leaves. Examples include oak, beech and rowan.



Trees that keep their leaves all year round are called evergreen trees. Evergreen trees normally have thin, needle-like leaves. Examples include holly and pine.



Woodland plants

There are many types of flowering plant that grow in woodlands. Some grow from bulbs, such as snowdrops and bluebells.



snowdrops



bluebells

Others grow from seeds, such as foxgloves and wood anemones.



foxgloves



wood anemones

Don't forget! Never eat anything you find in the woodland.

Woodland animals

Lots of different animals live in woodlands. These include mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates.



Red foxes and grey squirrels are mammals.



Blackbirds and tawny owls are birds.



Common toads and smooth newts are amphibians.



Grass snakes and slow worms are reptiles.



Ground beetles and garden snails are invertebrates.

Food

Woodlands provide food for lots of different animals. Carnivores eat other animals, herbivores eat plants and omnivores eat animals and plants.



Carnivore

Tawny owls are carnivores. They are predators that hunt, kill and eat mice, birds and frogs.



Omnivore

Badgers are omnivores. They catch and eat worms and eat berries and fruit.



Herbivore

Rabbits are herbivores. They eat grass and leaves. They are also prey for foxes.

Glossary

amphibian Cold-blooded animals that live on land and in water but must lay their eggs in water.

bark The hard covering of a tree.

bird Warm-blooded animals that have wings and can normally fly.

mammal Warm-blooded animals that feed milk to their young.

invertebrate Animals, such as insects, without a backbone or bony skeleton. Vertebrates have a backbone or bony skeleton.

leaf The flat, green part of a plant that joins to a stem or branch at one end. Leaves make food for the plant.

reptile Cold-blooded animals that usually have scales and lay eggs on land.

predator Animals that hunt, kill and eat other animals.

prey Animals that are hunted, killed and eaten by other animals.

Did you know?

- There are two types of woodland: coniferous woodland is mostly made up of evergreen trees with needle-like leaves, while deciduous woodland is home to trees with broad, flat leaves.
- The age of some trees can be estimated by how many adults it takes to hug them!
- The Major Oak in Sherwood Forest is believed to have been a hiding place for Robin Hood and his Merry Men!
- A Christmas tree is traditionally an evergreen fir.
- Yew trees can live for over a thousand years!
- Generations of badger families can live in the same sett for up to 100 years.
- Woodpeckers sound out hollows in trees with their long bills and catch insects with a long sticky tongue!
- The grass snake is the largest species of snake to be found in Britain: it grows up to two metres long. They like damp woodland homes, often hibernating in abandoned rabbit warrens.
- Fairies love fresh flowers and laughter, but most of all, fairies love music!
- The beautiful red fox, with its bushy tail and dog-like face is a crepuscular creature. This means it sleeps during the day and comes out at twilight.
- A fox only uses an underground den when raising new pups.
- Did you know that as well as whiskery faces, foxes have whiskers on their legs which help them find their way around?
- The oldest tree in the UK (and perhaps in Europe) is believed to be the Fortingall Yew near Aberfeldy in Scotland. It is thought to be between 2000–3000 years old.
- Leaf litter makes a great hiding place for animals and insects who also love to feast on fallen pine cones, seeds, nuts and toadstools!

