

## Memory game

Collect 20 leaves. Use a marker pen to write the numbers 1-10 on one side of each leaf. Do this twice so that all the leaves have numbers on.

Now mix them up and spread them out on the floor with their numbers face down.

The aim is to turn over pairs of numbers. Take it in turns to have a go. If you get a matching pair put it to one side and then you get another go. If you get it wrong place the leaf back down where you found it.

The person with the most pairs at the end of the game is the winner.



# Autumn



## Hungry ants

What kinds of food do ants like? Complete the hungry ants activity to find the answer.

Find a Wood Ant nest in the Wyre Forest. Make sure it's in use by looking for signs of activity. Once you've found an active anthill, plan a test to find out what different types of foods the ants enjoy eating.

You will need:

- Ant hill
- Jar of honey
- Leaves or grass
- Bread crumbs
- Sugar
- Piece of lettuce
- Small amount of tuna fish
- Spoon



Step 1: Spread some honey on a couple of leaves or blades of grass, lay out some small bread crumbs, spread out a little sugar, tear up lettuce into tiny pieces, and spoon out a bit of tuna fish.

Make sure the different foods are at least a few centimetres apart and that they're an equal distance from the ant colony.

Step 2: Come back a few minutes after you've put the food out to see what the ants are taking and what they're leaving. What do the foods the ants take have in common? What about the foods they don't want?

Treat the ants with respect - if you make them angry they may bite you or spray formic acid at you! (This activity may be better to do in summer when ants are more active).

## The Great Minibeast Search

The Great Minibeast Search gets kids learning about nature at home. Suggest they go on a Great Minibeast Search in the backyard, and find out where minibeasts such as insects, worms and spiders like to make their homes. See how much information you can gather!



- You will need:
- White Fabric
  - Stick
  - Notepad
  - Pencil
  - Magnifying Glass

Step One: To discover secret places where insects make their homes, spread a piece of white fabric on the ground beneath a low-hanging branch. With a stick, give the branch a short, sharp rap.

Step Two: In your notepad, write down the number and kinds of minibeasts that come tumbling down onto the fabric. Use the magnifying glass to examine them closely. Be quick as some may fly away!

Step Three: If you don't know the minibeast, draw a picture of it in your notepad and go to the library for a bit of minibeast sleuthing! After you've written down all the minibeasts, let them go without harming them.

Step Four: Now roll over a rotting log, and see what you find (probably slow-moving woodlice, slugs, snails, and earthworms, among others). Do you see any tiny seedlings, mosses and lichens, or the white threads of fungi?

Step Five: Again, use your magnifying glass to examine the objects clearly. Write down whatever you see, **then roll the log back in place.** (You wouldn't want someone coming along and moving your house, would you?)

How much information did you learn about minibeasts?

## Autumn equinox

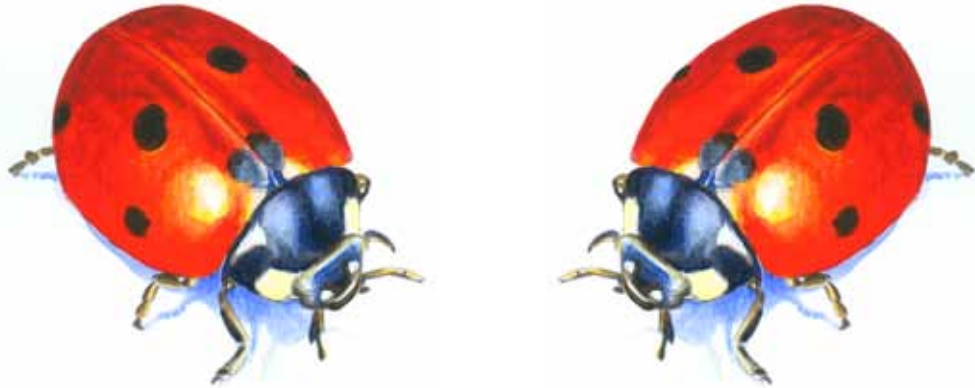
At the autumn equinox the day and night are of equal length with 12 hours in each.

To celebrate, can you find anything grouped in 12s eg:

Petals on a flower

Leaves on a stem

2 insects (6 legs on each!)



Or can you make up a poem about autumn with 12 lines, just 12 words, or even 12 syllables?

Or look at these two images on the opposite page of a daytime scene and a nighttime scene in the Wyre Forest. Can you find 12 animals in each? Which animals might you see both during the day and at night?

