

Winter solstice

Midwinter or the winter solstice marks the shortest day of the year. (ie: the day with the least amount of daylight hours)

To celebrate, can you find the smallest/shortest things in the Wyre Forest eg:

The shortest grass blade?

The smallest leaf?

The smallest beetle?

Who has the shortest tail?

Which bird has the shortest beak?

Which is the shortest trail you can walk round?

Who has the shortest legs in your family?



How many other "shortest/smallest" things can you find?



Winter

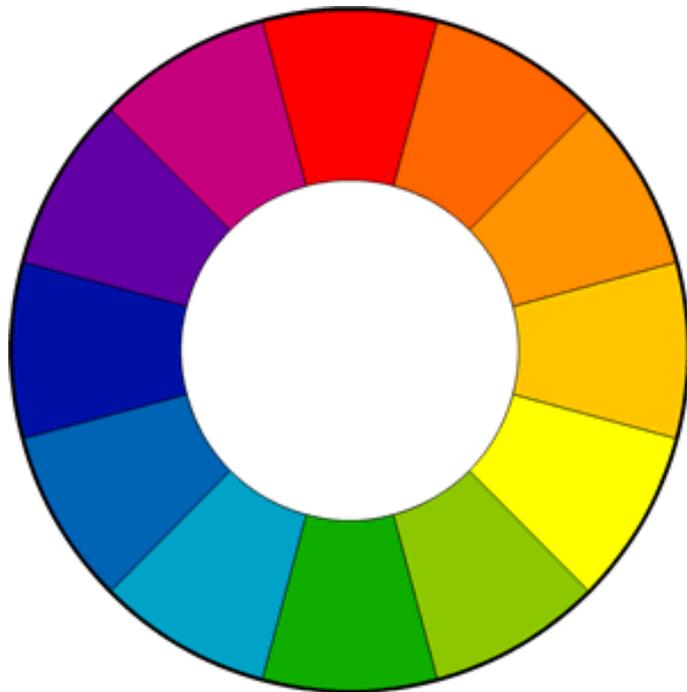


Winter colours

Look out of your window at your garden or take a walk in your local park with your friends or family.

Use the colour wheel to choose colours that best match the winter landscape. Take a piece of card and write the title "WINTER" at the top. Now try to paint at least 10 splodges of paint that you think represent winter. Don't try to paint a picture - just big splodges of colours.

Now collect natural objects and materials that match these colours and fix them to the same piece of card.



Snow shapes

The snow is like a big white canvas. Use a stick to draw different shapes. Take your inspiration from the nature all around you.



You can work small . . .



. . . or large!!!

Nature's clues

Follow nature's signs and clues this winter.

If it has snowed you can always use your own footprints to navigate your way back - so long as it doesn't snow again and fill them all in!

Look out for animal footprints in the snow. [Use our animal clues guide to find out who's left them.](#)

All the leaves will have fallen off the deciduous trees making it easy to tell them from the conifers. Can you tell one species from another purely by looking at the bark? [Use our tree species downloads to help you](#)

At this time of year the sun is much lower in the sky which means it casts really long shadows. These shadows can help you to navigate or tell what time of day it is. At midday the sun is in the south, at daybreak the sun is in the east and as it sets in the evening it is in the west.

[See our navigation activities for more tips.](#)

Look for the winter nests (called "dreys") of Grey Squirrels. They are balls of twigs with the leaves still on them and wedged tightly next to a tree trunk so that they aren't shaken out by winter storms

Other ideas

[For more activities go to www.tlc.howstuffworks.com/](http://www.tlc.howstuffworks.com/)

Learn how to examine icicles

Find out how to take snow's temperature

Make your own ice-cream treat

Is every snowflake different?

Make your own avalanche

Find north by making your own compass

Frozen bubbles - create your own icicles

Make a rain gauge

Windchill factor - how to measure it

Measure amount of hail

Games - follow my leader and Eskimo game

[For survival tips in the snow download our survival activities](#)

