

50 things to do before you're 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ - Snail Race

Find your snails

You can find snails hiding under leafy green plants or in trees. Snails like the cool and wet, so you won't often find them in the sunshine, so if you can remember that when you race them then they'll be happier.

Mark out the track

Snails move super slowly, so don't make your track too long or you'll have to watch for hours while they race.

If you're having trouble telling your racing snails apart then you could stick small stickers on their shells, but remember to take the stickers off after the race. A snail's shell is its home and helps protect it from harm.

Look after your snails

Just like top athletes have their favourite conditions for a race, snails do too! So, keep the track wet, don't leave the snails racing in full sun light.. Once the race has been run/crawled then please pop your snail racers back where you found them so they can go home and tell their family how they've done.



50 things to do before you're 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ - Go on a wintry adventure

Just because it's cold outside it does not mean you can't get out and have wintry adventures! In fact, lots of things look different and even more incredible during the winter months so it's a great time to explore.

For example, if you're looking for wild animal clues, you will notice that a spider's web is even more beautiful when it's covered in frost. It can also be easier to see animal tracks when the ground is bare in winter.

Will you make some wild art? Frost-covered leaves and grass have very interesting textures. Consider taking a small bottle of food colouring along and making frozen ice paint to give your art added colour.

Or perhaps you can make a home for a wild animal - they need a safe, cosy and warm spot in winter more than ever.



50 things to do before you're 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ - Find some funky fungi

Mushrooms (or toadstools) can be found almost anywhere, but they love to grow in damp, dark and murky places best. Look for them in damp spots at the bottom of your garden.

You could help fungi to grow by leaving logs and branches to rot in a shady corner outside. Beetles and other little creatures will love you for it - they'd happily munch on mushrooms all day and the old logs will make a cosy home for them too.

When out on a fungi hunt, you will hopefully come across some really cool varieties with spectacular colours and unusual shapes. Will you find the jazzy yellow Lemon Disco, the Brain Mushroom (you can guess what that looks like), or the white and spiky Bearded Tooth fungus? There's so many strange and interesting varieties out there.

Make sure you check with an adult before you set off on your adventures, and please don't touch fungi you find in the wild!

http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_autumn_fungi_spotter_sheet.pdf

Ice Sculptures

Check the weather forecast and choose the coldest night of the week in order to make an overnight ice sculpture.

Find a container and fill it with leaves, sticks, berries and other things you can find outside. You could also add some string into the water so that you can hang it from a tree once it has frozen. Then fill it with water and decide where you think the best place to leave it outside overnight will be if you want to make sure it freezes. Is it in the middle of your garden? Next to your front door? In the garage? Perhaps you could fill up a few containers and see where in your garden works best!

In the morning check all your containers to see if any have frozen. You could then find the best place in your garden to melt them the fastest. Where was it and why?



Winter Season Spotter

Go on a Winter walk - how many of these things can you find?

- Ice
- Icy Spider Web
- Rough Bark
- Evergreen Tree
- Berries
- A stick longer than your arm
- Catkin
- Birds Nest
- Moss
- Lichen covered twig
- Your breath
- A smooth pebble
- A leaf bigger than your hand

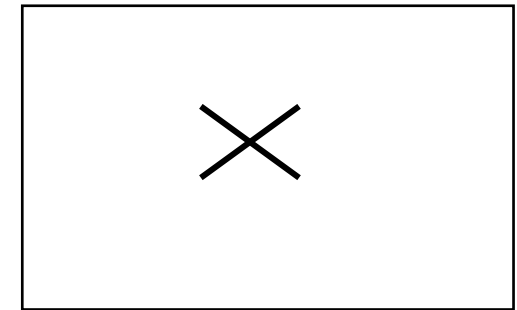
Can you see any signs of Spring on your walk? Look for buds on trees, or flowers emerging from the ground.

Perhaps you can create your own winter scavenger hunt list complete with pictures to take with you on your journey; then you can tick your findings along the way!

Mindfulness Minutes - Make a sound map

The idea of this activity is to sit somewhere and be absolutely still and silent, noticing the sounds around you and where the sound is coming from.

Get a piece of paper and make an X in the centre. The X is you! Anytime you hear a sound, make a symbol on the paper in the place you hear it, to represent the sound.



Make sure you wrap up warm before you go outside, and if it is too cold to sit still and listen trying walking softly around as you create your map.

RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Every year the RSPB conduct the world's biggest wildlife survey. Results are used to help spot problems. But, more importantly, they are the first step towards putting things right.

This year the survey is taking place between the 29th - 31st January. You can sit and watch the birds in your garden, from a window or even in your local area at any point over the weekend and record your findings and submit them online.

To sign up for a free pack, head here:

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>

Before you go take part in the survey you could spend some time brushing up on your bird identification skills.

Why not research some of the birds you have spotted in your garden? You could create fact files with pictures and super interesting information about the birds you are likely to see. That way, when it comes to recording your Birdwatch results you'll be able to identify all the birds you see!



Make a Bird Feeder

To encourage more birds to visit your garden (perhaps in preparation for your big garden birdwatch) you could make them their very own cake! During the winter there is very little food for our birds, so we need to help them as much as we can.

Ideal ingredients

- sunflower hearts
- peanut pieces and other bird seed mixes
- dried fruits softened with water
- crumbled or grated cheese
- cooked rice and other leftovers
- breadcrumbs

Method

- Combine your chosen ingredients in a bowl and add softened lard or dripping
- Mix together into a firm paste. For best results you'll need to get your hands in there - a great activity for kids, if a bit messy!
- Pierce the bottom of a clean yoghurt pot and poke a length of string through
- Knot securely on the inside of the pot so that it hangs upside down like a bell
- Fill with the fat mixture and hang outside

Perhaps you could research some other bird feeder recipes or projects and try them out!

Identifying Winter Trees

Trees in Winter are much trickier to identify because most trees have lost all their leaves. It means that in order to identify which tree we are looking at we have to look very closely at their bark and branches, and see if there is anything else growing on them that can help us.

Take a walk around your garden or your local area and look very closely at the trees you spot. Are you able to name any of the trees you find? You could take some bark rubbings or sketch the things you see and then come home and see if you can discover the trees you have found.

http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/activities/pdfs/pdf_twig_spotter_sheet.pdf

Look out for buds on the twigs, as well as seeds and berries as these will help you to identify your tree.



Frosty spellings

Are there any words you need to practise and are finding a little tricky to remember? Writing things in lots of different ways helps us to remember.

Wrap up warm, take yourself outside on a frosty morning and write those tricky words in the frost! Maybe you could practice word walls or your 100 words, or even any words related to any of your home learning.

Where is the best place to write them? Do you have a shed that you can write them on using your finger? Or maybe you could write giant words on grass using your feet!

My First Word Wall

I	a	the	and	to	was
it	he	we	in	went	
my	they	on	said	is	of
she	you	me	up	for	
day	go	all	at	like	are
get	mum	big	dad	can	
going	dog	see	come	no	away
yes	this	play	am	cat	look

Mindfulness Minutes - "I wonder..."

Choose 3 'I wonder...' challenges to complete.

I wonder... how many colours of the rainbow I can find in nature.

I wonder... what I can create using 15 sticks I have collected.

I wonder... how many rocks I can stack before they fall over.

I wonder... what pictures I can see in the clouds today.

I wonder... what is under that log.

I wonder... which way the wind is blowing today.
How could I find out?

I wonder... if different things of different colours feel different temperatures in the sunshine. Find something light in colour and dark in colour and feel both. Is one warmer than the other?

I wonder... if I can find my shadow and then make it disappear.

Which was your favourite challenge? Can you create any of your own "I wonder" challenges?

Maybe you could add them to your blog so others can have a go!

Winter Leaf Hunt

Can you find all the different leaves shown in the hunt below? How do you think this hunt would be different if you completed it during a Summer month? What about Autumn?

Leaf Hunt

Can you find a leaf that....



looks like a Human Hand 	has MONSTER Teeth 	is Decomposing 	is smaller than your nose 
is Bigger than your head 	has MORE than 2 colors 	looks like a Star 	has PATTERNS (stripes, polka dots, etc.) 
looks like a Heart 	looks like a Animal's Footprint 	is a Compound leaf 	is your most FAVORITE leaf found 

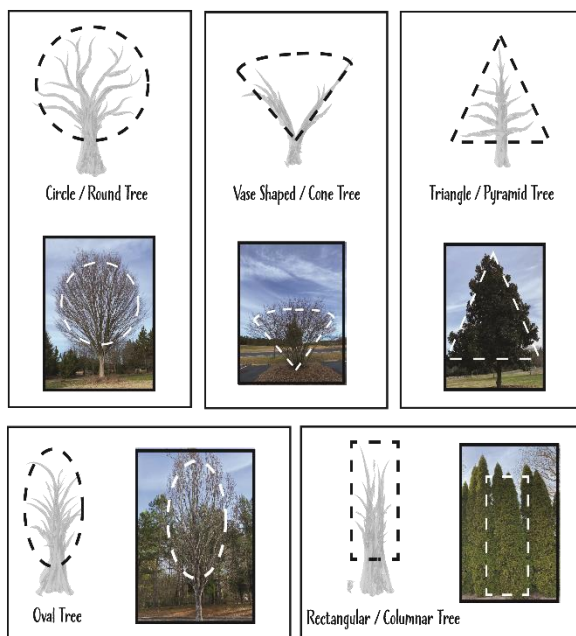
Perhaps once you have collected them all you could use them to make some art. Can you create a bird from the leaves you have collected? Or a self-portrait?

Tree Shapes

Once the leaves have fallen from the trees in Winter, their shape is revealed. Take a walk around you garden or local area and note the different shapes you can see.

TREE SHAPES

When the leaves have fallen off the tree, you can clearly see the tree's shape.



Can YOU find any other shapes in trees?



Which shape was the most common?
Are all the trees of the same species the same shape?
Why? Why not?
Do you think the age of a tree effects its shape?

Hunt the Alphabet

Take a walk in your garden or local area.
Are you able to find something that starts with every letter of the alphabet?

Names: _____ Dates: _____

Alphabet Scavenger Hunt

A	N
B	O
C	P
D	Q
E	R
F	S
G	T
H	U
I	V
J	W
K	X
L	Y
M	Z

You could set yourself a challenge by only writing down things that are natural and not man-made. Or perhaps only writing down species of trees or animal.

Leaf Chases

Wait for a windy day.
Find a leaf that you think will travel well in the wind. Let go of your leaf in the wind and see how far it travels.

- Can you catch it again?
- Does it matter which direction you are facing? Why?
- Does the size of the leaf matter?
- Does it matter what species of tree the leaf came from?
- If you are racing others, whose leaf travels the furthest? Why might this be?
- Can you measure the distance your leaf has travelled?
- Try another leaf. Does it travel further than your first? Why might this be?

