

Nature Curriculum
by Chatty Zebra Curriculum

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This is a year round curriculum which can be covered in any order of interest depending on what is happening around you in nature in your local area.

I have grouped it into categories just as this is easier for putting together the book list and resources, however the Pinterest board dedicated to this curriculum on The Chatty Zebra is split into each of the separate 64 sections. The sections can either be covered in consecutive order together or spread out and covered at different times; which ever works best for you!

My plan is to spend a week per section i.e. feathers and break it down into 5 separate activities throughout the week;

1. Nature walk
2. Science/hands on exploration and experimentation
3. Poem about the subject and copy work
4. Craft relating to the subject
5. Worksheets or written work relating to the subject.

Again these activities could be condensed or expanded as suits you and your family best, your style of learning and also depending on how busy the week is!

Alongside this I am hoping to set up a nature exploration area at the beginning of each week with natural materials (i.e. different types of feathers), books about the subject, posters or art work on the walls with more information and equipment such as magnifying glasses and microscopes, nature journals and pencils for the children to have the freedom to investigate at their own pace throughout the week. I am hoping to source the majority of the worksheets we use from Twinkl or Teachers Pay Teachers, or using nature books to learn and copy diagrams and information.

Birds:

1. Birds
2. Eggs
3. Nests
4. Feathers

Books:

- An Egg is Quiet. Dianna Hutts Aston
- A Nest is Noisy. Dianna Hutts Aston
- RSPB My First Book of Garden Birds
- The Little Book of Garden Bird Songs. Andrea Pinnington
- The Little Book of Woodland Bird Songs. Caz Buckingham
- Birds. Usbourne Spotters Guide
- We're Going On A Bear Hunt Lets Discover Birds
- National Trust Out and About Bird Spotter
- We Build Our Homes: Small Stories of Incredible Animal Architects
- Birds. Carne Lemniscates
- Feathers: Not Just For Flying. Melissa Stewart
- The Real Poop On Pigeons. Kevin McCloskey
- The Burgess Bird Book for Children
- Albert. Donna Jo Napoli
- Tanglebird. Bernard Lodge
- George Flies South. Simon James
- The Birdwatchers. Simon James
- Mama Built a Little Nest. Jennifer Ward

Birds

Nature Walk: go on a bird treasure hunt in a local park or nature reservation and try and tick off as many different birds that you can see. Take a bird identification book or sheets, binoculars, pencil/pen

Science/Hands on: Listen to different types of bird songs and try to identify and match them with the birds. Research why birds can fly.

Poem: A Bird Came Down the Walk by Emily Dickinson

A Bird, came down the Walk
He did not know I saw
He bit an Angle Worm in Halves
And ate the fellow, raw

And then, he drank a dew
From a convenient Grass
And then hopped sidewise to the Wall
To let a Beetle pass

He glanced with rapid eyes
That hurried all abroad
The looked like frightened Beads, I thought
He stirred his Velvet Head

Like one in danger, Cautious
I offered him a crumb,
And he unrolled his feathers,
And rowed him softer Home

Then Oars divide the Ocean
Too silver for a seam
Or butterflies, off Banks of Noon,
Leap, plashless as they swim.

Worksheets: Parts of a bird. Bird wing structure with diagram.

Craft: Create a bird feeder or a bird house.

Discovery area: Illustrated posters or photographs of British birds.

Eggs

Nature Walk: A visit to a museum with an egg collection. Go chicken egg collecting.

Science/Hands on: Matching photographs of eggs to the birds which laid them. Getting to hold and examine different types of birds eggs; comparing the size and colour of the eggs and size of the birds.

Poem: Boy and Egg by Naomi Shihab Nye

Every few minutes, he wants
to march the trail of flattened rye grass
back to the house of muttering
hens. He too could make
a bed in hay. Yesterday the egg so fresh
it felt hot in his hand and he pressed it
to his ear while the other children
laughed and ran with a ball, leaving him,
so little yet, too forgetful in games,
ready to cry if the ball brushed him,
riveted to the secret of birds
caught up inside his fist, not ready to give it over
to the refrigerator
or the rest of the day.

Worksheets: How chickens lay eggs. Parts of an egg. Mindfulness egg colouring page.

Craft: Edible egg birds nests (shredded wheat nests). Paint eggs.

Discovery Area: Posters on different types of eggs, selection of different types of eggs.

Nests:

Nature Walk: A nature walk around a local park with binoculars to see if you can spy different birds nests.

Science/Hands on: STEM can you build a nest? Weave your own birds nest out of natural materials or build a giant birds nest out of sticks.

Poem: Dame Duck's First Lecture on Education. Anonymous

Old Mother Duck has hatched a brood
Of ducklings, small and callow:
Their little wings are short, their down
I mottled grey and yellow

There is a quiet little stream,
That runs into the moat,
Where tall green sedges spread their leaves,
And water-lillies float.

Close by the margin of the brook,
The old duck made her nest,
Of straw and leaves, and withered grass,
And down from her own breast

And there she sat for four long weeks,
In rainy days and fine,
Until the ducklings all came out -
Four, five, six, seven, eight, nine.

One peeped out from beneath her wing,
One scrambled on her back:
"That's very rude," said old Dame Duck,
"Get off! Quack, quack, quack, quack!"

"Tis close," said Dame Duck, shoving out
The egg shells with her bill,
"Besides, it never suits young ducks
To keep them sitting still."

So, rising from her nest, she said,
“Now, children, look at me:
A well-bred duck should waddle so,
From side to side – d’ye see?”

“Yes,” said the little ones, and then
She went on to explain:
“A well-bred duck turns in its toes
As I do-try again.”

“Yes,” said the ducklings, waddling on:
“That’s better,” said their mother;
“But well-bred ducks walk in a row.
Straight-one behind another.”

“Yes,” said the little ducks again,
All waddling in a row:
“Now to the pond” said old Dame Duck
Splash, splash, and in they go,

“Let me swim first,” said old Dame Duck,
“To this side, now to that;
There snap at those great brown-winged flies
They make young ducklings fat.

“Now, when you reach the poultry-yard
The hen-wife, Molly Head,
Will feed you, with the other fowls
On bran and mashed-up bread;

“The hens will peck and fight, but mind,
I hope that all of you,
Will gobble up the food as fast
As well-bred ducks should do.

“You had better get into the dish,
Unless it is too small;
In that case, I should use my foot
And overturn it all.”

The ducklings did as they were bid,
And found the plan so good,
That, from that day the other fowls
Got hardly any food.

Worksheets: Research what materials birds use to make a nest and why they use those materials. Look at the different types of birds nests.

Craft: Clay birds nest and birds. Colouring in pages. Playdough and materials nest play and exploration

Discovery Area: An abandoned birds nest. Types of materials used of nests. Posters about different types of birds nests

Feathers

Nature Walk: Go on a feather hunt around a bird nature reserve and see how many different types of feathers you can find and collect.

Science/Hands on: Examine different types of feathers; compare size, shape, colours and try matching them to their birds.

Poem: Answer to a Child's Question by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Do you ask what the birds say? The Sparrow, the Dove,
The Linnet and Thrush say, "I love and I love!"
In winter they're silent – the wind is so strong;
What it says, I don't know, but it sings a loud song.
But green leaves, and blossoms, and sunny warm weather,
And singing, and loving – all come back together.
But the Lark is so brimful of gladness and love,
The green fields below him, the blue sky above,
That he sings, and he sings; and for ever sings he -
"I love my Love, and my Love loves me!"

Worksheets: Label different types of feathers and the parts of the feathers. Design your own feathers for if you were a bird.

Craft: Feather printing; use painted feathers to make prints. Make a bird out of junk modeling and feathers. Paint feathers with different designs. Use feathers like a quill to paint, write or draw with. Make a dream catcher.

Discovery Area: Different types of feathers posters. A variety of feathers on display.

Insects

1. Insects
2. Bees
3. Butterflies
4. Spiders
5. Ants
6. Worms
7. Life in a rotten log

Books:

- RSPB My First Book of Garden Bugs
- Ultimate Bugopedia
- The Big Book of Bugs
- The Big Book of Bugs Sticker Book
- Insect Emporium
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt: Lets Discover Bugs
- The Very Busy Spider
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- The Very Quiet Cricket
- Bugs To Spot (Usbourne)
- The Bee Book
- The Book of Bees
- Why Do We Need Bees?
- Bee: Natures Tiny Miracle
- A Butterfly Is Patient
- Ant and Bee
- Superworm
- A Beetle Is Shy
- How To Survive As a Firefly. Kristen Foote
- Cricket in the Thicket: Poems about Bugs. Carol Murray
- James and the Giant Peach. Roald Dahl
- Inch by Inch. Leo Lionni
- Bob and Otto. Robert O. Bruel
- Garden Wigglers: Earthworms in Your Backyard. Nancy Loewen
- Wonderful Worms. Linda Glaser
- Diary of a Spider. Doreen Cronin
- The Big Honey Hunt. Stan & Jan Berenstain
- Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! Bob Barner

Insects

Nature Walk: Go on a bug hunt in a park or even in the garden. Take a magnifying glass and a bug hunt kit and see what you can find; make sure to check under logs, in grass and bark and under leaves. Take a spotters sheet to tick off the ones you find and you could keep a tally of how many of each bug you see and create a graph from the results.

Science/Hands on: Look at what makes a bug fit the insect categorization. Compare different types of insects and sort them into categories such as winged/not winged. Research the benefits of insects and the impact they have on the ecosystem,

Poem: Insects by John Clare

These tiny loiterers on the barley's beard,
And happy units of a numerous herd
Of playfellows, the laughing Summer brings,
Mocking the sunshine on their glittering wings,
How merrily they creep, and run, and fly!
No kin they bear to labour's drudgery,
Smoothing the velvet of the pale hedge-rose;
And where they fly for dinner no one knows -
The dew – drops feed them not – they love the shine
Of noon, whose suns may bring them golden wine
All day they're playing in their Sunday dress -
When night reposes, for they can do no less:
Then, to the heath – bell's purple hood they fly,
And like to princes in their slumbers lie,
Secure from rain, and dropping dews, and all,
In silken beds and roomy painted hall,
So merrily they spend their summer – day,
Now in the corn – fields, now in the new – mown hay
One almost fancies that such happy things,
With coloured hoods and richly burnished wings,
Are fairy folk, in splendid masquerade
Disguised, as if of mortal folk afraid,
Keeping their joyous pranks a mystery still,
Lest glaring day should do their secrets ill.

Worksheets: Look at insect fact cards and choose your favourite insect to draw and describe its characteristics. Design your own insect.

Craft: Paint an A4 sized Insect. Make an insect hat. Colouring in sheets. Paint leaves to look like different insects. An invitation to create: collage insects.

Discovery Area: Taxidermy Bug collection display. Posters

Bees

Nature Walk: Visit a Bee Farm or a wildlife center which has hives to watch bees in action. Visit a public garden such as a National Trust garden during the summer to see if you can spot different types of bees.

Science/Hands on: Make a bee habitat for your garden. Hands on learning on how bees help flowers with pollination. Bee Keeper dramatic role play center. Taste test different types of honey and compare.

Poem: How Doth the Little Busy Bee by Isaac Watts

How doth the little busy bee
Improve each shining hour,
And gather honey all the day
From every opening flower!

How skillfully she builds her cell!
How neat she spreads the wax!
And labours hard to store it well
With the sweet food she makes.

In books, or work, or healthful play,
Let my first years be passed,
That I may give for every day
Some good account at last.

Worksheets: Parts of a bee. Different types of bees. Learn about the Hierarchy of bees. Research and record honey bee facts. Create a poster advocating saving the bees and why their important.

Craft: Paint a flower pot to look like a bee and stick on googly eyes and plant a bee friendly plant inside. Make an easy bee corner bookmark. Make golden honey slime.

Discovery Area: Illustrated poster showing different types of bees. Fact cards about bees. A poster showing what plants are good for bees, and why bees are important.

Butterflies

Nature Walk: Visit a butterfly house (London zoo and Hornimans museum have them) and take time to sit and watch all the different types of butterflies. Take a walk around a park or public garden and see if you can spot any butterflies. During late spring/early summer investigate what signs of butterflies you can find (eggs and caterpillars under leaves).

Science/Hands on: Get a butterfly hatching kit and observe the butterfly life cycle from eggs to butterfly release. Plant a butterfly friendly space (in the garden or in planters).

Poem: The Bee and the Butterfly by Mary Darby Robinson

UPON a garden's perfum'd bed
With various gaudy colours spread,
Beneath the shelter of a ROSE
A BUTTERFLY had sought repose;
Faint, with the sultry beams of day,
Supine the beauteous insect lay.

A BEE, impatient to devour
The nectar sweets of ev'ry flow'r
Returning to her golden store,
A weight of fragent treasure bore;
With envious eye, she mark'd the shade,
Where the poor BUTTERFLY was laid,
Ans resting on the bending spray,
Thus murmur'd forth the drony lay:

“Thou empty thing, whose merit lies
In the vain boast of orient dies;
Whose glittering form the slightest breath
Robs of its gloss, and fades to death;
Who idly rov'st the summer day,
Flutt'ring a transient life away,
Unmindful of the chilling hour,
The nipping frost, the drenching show'r;
Who heedless of “to-morrow's fare,”
Mak'st present bliss the only care;
Is it for THEE, the damask ROSE

With such transcendent lustre glows?
Is it for such a giddy thing
Nature unveils the blushing spring?
Hench, from thy lurking place, and know,
‘Tis not for THEE her beauties glow.”

The BUTTERFLY, with decent pride,
In gentle accents, thus reply’d:
“‘Tis true, I flutter life away
In pastime, innocent and gay;
The SUN that decks the blushing spring
Gives lustre to my painted wing;
‘Tis NATURE bids every colour vie,
With rainbow tints of varying die;
I boast no skill, no subtle pow’r
To steal the balm from ev’ry flow’r;
The ROSE, that only shelter’d ME,
Has pour’d a load of sweets on THEE;
Of merit wee have both our share,
Heav’n gave thee ART, and made me FAIR;
And tho’ thy cunning can despise
The humble worth of harmless flies;
Remember, envious, busy thing,
Thy honey ‘d form conceals a sting;
Enjoy thy garden, while I rove
The sunny hill, the woodbine grove,
And far remov’d from care and THEE,
Embrace my humble destiny;
While in some lone sequester’d bow’r,
I’ll live content beyond thy pow’r;
For where ILL – NATURE holds her reign
TASTE, WORTH, and BEAUTY, plead in vain;
e’en GENIUS must to PRIDE submit
when ENVY wings the shaft of WIT.

Worksheets: The life cycle of a butterfly. Parts of a butterfly. Written description of metamorphosis.

Craft: Create a butterfly feeder for your garden. Make coffee filter butterflies. Paper craft butterflies.

Discovery Area: Butterfly hatching kit observation space. Posters showing different types of butterflies. Fact cards explaining metamorphosis and the butterfly life cycle and other butterfly facts.

Spiders

Nature Walk: Go on a spider hunt in a nature spot and see how many webs and spiders you can find

Science/Hands on: What makes the strongest web & Spider web vibration experiments (on Spider pinterest board on The Chatty Zebra profile)

Poem: The Spider and the Fly by Mary Howitt

“Will you walk into my parlour, said a Spider to a Fly;
‘Tis the prettiest little parlour that ever you did spy.
The way into my parlour is up a winding stair,
And I have many pretty things to shew when you get there.
Oh, no, no! Said the little Fly; to ask me is in vain:
For who goes up that winding stair shall ne’er come down again.

Said the adorable Spider to the Fly, Dear friend, what can I do
To prove the warmth affection I have ever felt for you?
I have within my parlour great store of all that’s nice:
I’m sure you’re very welcome; will you please to take a slice”
Oh no, no! Said the little Fly; kind miss, that cannot be;
For I know what’s in your pantry, and I do not wish to see.

Sweet creature, said the Spider, you’re witty and you’re wise;
How handsome are your gaudy wings, how brilliant your eyes!
I have a little looking – glass upon my parlour – shelf;
If you’ll step in one moment, sir, your shall behold yourself.
Oh, thank you, gentle miss, he said, for what you’re pleased to say;
And wishing you good morning now, I’ll call another day.

The Spider turn’d her round again, and went into her den,
For well she knew that cunning Fly would soon come back again.
And then she wore a tiny web, in a little corner sly,
And set her table ready for to dine upon the Fly;
And went out to her door again, and merrily did sing;
Come hither, pretty little Fly, with the gold and silver wing.

Alas, alas! How very soon this cunning little Fly,
Hearing her wily flattering words, came slowly fluttering by,

With humming wings he hung aloft, then nearer and nearer drew.
Thinking only of his crested head and gold and purple hue:
Thinking only of his brilliant wings, poor foolish thing! At last,
Up jump'd the hungry little Spider, and firmly held her fast!
She dragged him up her winding stair, into her dismal den,
Within her little parlour; but he ne'er came down again.
And now, my pretty maidens, who may this story hear,
To silly, idle, flattering words, I pray you ne'er give ear;
Unto a beautiful lady, close hear, and ear, and eye
And learn a lesson from this tale of the Spider and the Fly

Worksheets: Create a lift flap book; spiders can, spiders are, spiders have OR a leaflet about spider facts and why we need spiders.

Craft: Spider web art painting white or using chalks to draw spider webs on black card, colour in the spaces between the webs. Make white foamy spider slime.

Discovery Area: Spiders shed their skins, or rather their exoskeletons as they get larger. If possible (and not too scary) see if you can get hold of some old tarantula skins to investigate (we were lucky to have a friend send us some of hers!). Posters on different types of spiders. Fact cards on spiders.

Ants

Nature Walk: Go on an ant hunt in the garden; try leaving a plate with fruit or bread with honey or jam out on the floor and watch and the ants come to collect it.

Science/Hands on: Create an ant farm (or buy a kit one) and watch how the ants make tunnels. Research what ants need to survive.

Poem: Ants! Ants! Ants! Lyrics by Ron Brown

No time for fun, no time to play
We're the ants, we're the ants
And we work all day.

Building rooms and tunnels deep underground
It's a happy little home
In our dirt – filled town.

We're a busy little city with much to do
And we never stop working
Till the day is through.

Ants, ants, ants!

No time from fun no time to play
We're the ants, we're the ants
And we work all day.

Working hard together, we're strong for our size
We're social insects
That colonize.

We're a busy little city with much to do
And we never stop working
Till the day is through

Ants, ants ants!

No time for fun, no time to play
We're the ants, we're the ants

And we work all day.

Ants, ants ants!

Worksheets: Life cycle of an ant. Anatomy of an ant. Look at the ant hierarchy

Craft: Finger print ant painting picture

Discovery Area: Ant farm, fact cards on ants.

Worms

Nature Walk: Go on a worm expedition in the garden; move flower pots or heavy rocks and see if there are any worms underneath. See how far down you have to dig in the mud before you find some wiggly worms!

Science/Hands on: Make (or buy) a worm farm and research what materials worms need for composting and which materials you need to avoid! Research how worms turn rubbish into compost and are good for the soil.

Poem: There's a Worm at the Bottom of the Garden by Ian J Watts and Pete Bradbury

There's a worm at the
Bottom of my garden,
And his name is Wiggly Woo.
There's a worm at the
Bottom of the garden,
And all that he can do
Is wiggle all night
The neighbours say
What a terrible fright!
There's a worm at the
Bottom of my garden,
And his name is Wiggly Woo

Worksheets: Make a poster telling people about worms and composting. Keep an observation diary of what the worms in the worm farm are doing and the changes each day.

Craft: Make cheerio worms

Discovery Area: The worm farm. Fact cards on worm facts.

Life in a Rotten Log

Nature Walk: Go on a nature walk to some woodlands and look for a large (but moveable) log; move the log and see what is living underneath it/in it but be prepared some of the bugs may move FAST!

Science/Hands on: Collect a small part of the log with some bugs and keep in a see through box for a day to observe what is happening.

Poem: The Firewood Poem by Celia Congreve

Beechwood fires are bright and clear
If the logs are kept a year,
Chestnut's only good they say,
If for logs 'tis laid away.
Make a fire of Elder tree,
Death within your house will be;
But ash new or ash old,
Is fit for a queen with crown of gold

Birch and fir logs burn too fast
Blaze up bright and do not last,
It is by the Irish said
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.
Elm wood burns like churchyard mould,
E'en the very flames are cold
But ash green or ash brown
Is fit for a queen with golden crown

Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke,
Apple wood will scent your room
Pear wood smells like flowers in bloom
Oaken logs, if dry and old
Keep away the winter's cold
But ash wet or ash dry
a king shall warm his slippers by.

Worksheets: Research decomposition of logs and the life it sustains

Craft: Make a habitat scene collage of a log in woodland and then stick on different materials for different bugs

Trees

1. Trees
2. Bark
3. Leaves

Books:

- Stickman. Julia Donaldson
- The Magic and Mystery of Trees
- The Faraway Tree Series. Enid Blyton
- What on earth? Trees
- RSPB First Book Of Trees
- Tree Seasons Come Seasons Go
- A Little Guide To Trees (Eden Project)
- Botanicum (Welcome to the Museum)
- Tree A Peek – Through Picture Book
- Starting With Nature Tree Book. Pamela Hickman
- Be a Friend to Trees. Patricia Lauber
- I Can Name 50 Trees Today! All About Trees. Bonnie Worth
- Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf. Lois Ehlert
- A Tree Is Nice. Janice May Udry
- The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rainforest
- The Busy Tree. Jennifer Ward
- Our Tree Named Steve. Alan Zweibel
- Tell Me, Tree. All About Trees For Kids. Gail Gibbons
- A Tree is a Plant. Clyde Robert Bulla
- The Little Tree Muon Van
- The Tree in the Ancient Forest. Carol Reed-Jones
- The Old Tree. Ruth Brown
- Big Tree Down! Laurie Lawlor
- Planting the Trees of Kenya: The Story of Wangari Maathai. Claire A.Nivola
- Seeds of Change: Wangari's Gift to the World. Jen Cullerton Johnson
- The Lorax. Dr Suess
- Gus is a Tree. Claire Babin
- We Planted a Tree. Diane Muldrow
- There Was a Tree. Rachel Isadora
- This Tree Counts! Alison Formento

Trees

Nature Walk: Go on a nature walk to a local park or National Trust gardens and see how many different types of trees you can spot using a spotters guide or tick sheet. Wakehurst Place or Kew Gardens contain seed banks and trees from all different regions of the world so good places to see a variety of trees and may be good to compare to a park with local native trees.

Science/Hands on: Find a cut/fallen down tree and count the rings to determine how old the tree was. See if you can learn to tell the characteristics of different types of trees .i.e. Oaks, willows, Ash, Birch.

Poem: Trees by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem as lovely as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

Worksheets: Label the different parts of a tree. Research photosynthesis and write out the process. Watch the film The Lorax and write a letter of persuasion to O'Hare explaining why trees are so important for us and the air we breathe.

Craft: Paint a panel of a tree in the different seasons, or use tissue paper to make a collage of what the tree looks like in the different seasons. For example pink for blossoms in spring, green for leaves in summer, orange and yellows for leaves in autumn and white for snow on the branches in winter. Or paint a silhouette sunset tree scene.

Discovery Area: Posters showing different native to your country trees. Tree fact cards. Branches from different trees to explore the difference in their appearance.

Bark

Nature Walk: Go on a nature walk in a woodland and look at the different types of bark. See if you can identify the different trees by their bark.

Science/Hands on: Do bark rubbings of trees. Explore the different textures of the bark by rubbing it with your hand and peeling a bit off to see what it looks like underneath and comparing it with other tree's bark. Take a close look at the bark on the tree; are there any insects or other animals living within it, are there any lichen or moss growing on it?

Poem: Romancing the Bark of a Tree by Lawrence S. Pertillar

Romancing the bark of a tree.
Covering the many rings of its existence.
Touch one with a thankfulness to let it know,
You too have a skin others try to get under.

And just as mysterious as that tree touched,
One realises those they know have not come close.
And this activity will begin to establish an understanding.
One would never suspect would connect to humanity.

A comprehension long overdue would develop from it
A stability of its patience many neglect to appreciate,
Becomes a sudden remainder of how one's breath is taken,
And what is need to supply the continuance of it!

Worksheets: Research why trees have bark and what it does. Find out what uses for humans bark can have. Write a short story about the life of a tree.

Craft: Paint designs on strips of bark. Make a nature collage out of bark, sticks and leaves. Make edible chocolate bark to eat.

Discovery Area: Posters of different types of bark matching with their trees. Have different types of bark to view and look at under the microscope.

Leaves

Nature Walk: Go on a nature walk in a woodland and collect different leaves. Try and identify trees by their leaves or which leaves belong to which tree.

Science/Hands on: 8 Easy Science Experiments Leaves (found on pinterest board). Use leaf identification flash cards to learn the features of different tree leaves; play snap or memory with the flashcards. Make leaf rubbings using paper and crayons.

Poem: Scarlet Leaf by Scarlett Treat

The tiny scarlet leaf,
Drifting down...down...
Down at my feet...

Caused me to lift
My eyes and see...
The tree...still full

Of the beauty of
Autumn's glory,
Those Scarlet Leaves...

And they reminded me
That I am one
Of God's chosen ones,

Because I am blessed
Just like this tree....
My life is full of friends.

Worksheets: Label the different parts of a leaf. Choose your favourite type of leaves and compare how they look to each other; size, shape, texture, colour.

Craft: Leaf printing on paper or painted rocks. Make a tree display using sticks and cinnamon salt dough leaves. Make leaf bowls out of clay or salt dough and paint when dry. Make Leaf sun catchers to stick on the window.

Discovery Area: Have different leaves on display to investigate with the microscope

Plants

1. Plants
2. Seeds
3. Flowers
4. Mushrooms
5. Daffodils
6. Dandelion life cycle
7. Ferns
8. Lichen and Moss

Books:

- A Seed Is Sleepy. Dianna Aston
- The Complete Tales of the Flower Faeries
- Flower Fairies One Hundred Postcards
- A Little Guide to Wild Flowers (Eden)
- RSPB First Book of Flowers
- Fundamental Science Key Stage 1 Roots, Stems, Leaves and Flowers
- I Spy Wild Flowers
- The Tiny Seed
- Kew Lift and Look Flowers and Plants
- The Dandelion Seed. Joseph Anthony
- Seed to Plant. National Geographic Kids
- Oh Say Can You Say Seed? Bonnie Worth
- From Seed to Plant. Gail Gibbons
- How a Seed Grows. Helene Jordan
- The Tiny Seed. Eric Carle
- Flip Flop Fly: Seeds On the Move. JoAnn Macken
- Jack's Garden. Henry Cole
- My Garden. Kevin Henkes
- Lola Plants a Garden
- Flower Garden. Eve Bunting
- Garden to Table. Katherine Hengel
- One Bean. Anne Rockwell
- Planting a Rainbow. Lois Ehlert
- Sunflower House. Eve Bunting
- Up in the Garden and Down in the Dirt. Kate Messner

Plants

Nature Walk: Take a nature walk in a public garden to see a variety of different plants; take photographs to print off later to display at home in your nature area.

Science/Hands on: Experiment by planting seedlings/seeds in different types of soil, or in different light conditions to explore what plants need to grow and thrive. Make a prediction of what conditions will be best for the plants to grow and then a diary recording what happens.

Poem: A Spike of Green by Barbara Baker

When I went out
The sun was hot,
It shone upon
My flower pot.

And there I saw
A spike of green
That no one else
Had ever seen!

On other days
The things I see
Are mostly old
Except for me.

But this green spike
So new and small
Had never yet
Been seen by all!

Worksheets: Label different parts of a plant. Write out what a plant needs to survive and thrive. Research Venus Fly Traps and draw what they look like and what they do. Write out the plant life cycle.

Craft: Grow some grass or cress heads decorating to look like faces

Discovery Area: Have several different types of plants on display to investigate and compare.

Seeds

Nature Walk: Visit a seed bank; Wakehurst Place has one with all different types of seeds you can view. Or go for a walk during autumn to collect different types of seeds and compare the features they have that help them disperse.

Science/Hands on: Conduct a seed germination experiment to see what a seed needs to successfully germinate. Grow a bean plant from a seed (its fast growing) and record an observation diary of the changes the seed makes until it becomes a plant. Plant sunflower seeds and watch them grow!

Poem: Putting in the Seed by Robert Frost

You come to fetch me from my work tonight
When supper's on the table, and we'll see
If I can leave off burying the white
Soft petals fallen from the apple tree
(Soft petals, yes but not so bareen quite,
Mingled with these smooth bean and wrinkled pea):
And go along with you ere you lose sight
Of what you came for and become like me,
Slave to a Springtime passion for the earth.
How Love burns through the Putting in the Seed
On through the watching for that early birth
When, just as the soil tarnishes with weed,
The sturdy seedling with arched body comes
Shouldering its way and shedding the earth crumbs.

Worksheets: Write out the process of a seed germinating, Write out the different ways seeds disperse and sort different seeds into the categories .i.e. dandelion seed disperses airbourne.

Craft: Make DIY seed bombs for the garden, or plant a vegetable or fruit pot/garden/bed.

Discovery Area: Use Egg cartons or ice tray to separate different seeds to view and examine. Cut a part different fruits to look at the different seeds we eat. Make felt bean life cycle display with detachable labels.

Flowers

Nature Walk: Take a sketch book or paper to a public gardens or park and draw or water paint the flowers you can see. Look at the different shape and size of the petals, the vibrancy of the colours and the smell of the flowers.

Science/Hands on: Colour changing carnations (demonstrates how the stems absorb the water and filter it through the flowers). Have several glasses of water with 10 drops of different coloured liquid food colouring in each (ie one green, one red, one orange etc) and then place a single white carnation in each cup. Check the colour of the flowers every hour or so; make a prediction before hand what you think may happen and then record the results after.

Poem: The Flower by Alfred Lord Tennyson

Once in a golden hour
I cast to earth a seed.
Up there came a flower,
The people said, a weed.

To and fro they went
Thro' my garden bower,
And muttering discontent
Cursed me and my flower

The it grew so tall
It wore a crown of light,
But thieves from o'er the wall
Stole the seed by night.

Sow'd it far and wide
By every town and tower,
Till all the people cried,
'Splendid is the flower!'

Read my little fable;
He that runs may read.
Most can raise the flowers now,
For all have got the seed.

And some are pretty enough,
And some are poor indeed,
And now again the people
Call it but a weed.

Worksheets: Label parts of a flower. Make a flower out of felt and pipe cleaners and label the parts.

Craft: Make a flower crown. Study O'keefee's flower art work and try making your own reproductions. Make Kandinsky flower circles. Collect some flowers in a jam jar or vase and paint a still life (Van Gogh did lots of flower still lifes if you would like inspiration).

Discovery Area: Posters of photographs or illustrations of different types of flowers. Have flowers out in discovery trays to dissect and explore.

Mushrooms

Nature Walk: Go for a nature walk with a spotters guide and see what different types of mushroom and fungi you can spot and identify.

Science/Hands on: Get an edible mushroom growing kit and grow your own mushrooms to eat!

Poem: Mushrooms by Sylvia Plath

Overnight, very
Whitely, diiscreetly,
Very quietly

Our toes, our noses,
Take hold on the loam,
Acquire the air.

Nobody sees us,
Stops us, betrays us;
The small grains make room.

Soft fists insist on
Heaving the needles,
The leafy bedding,

Even the paving.
Our hammers, our rams,
Earless and eyeless,

Diet on water,
On crumbs of shadow,
Bland – mannered, asking

Little or nothing.
So many of us!
So many of us!

We are shelves, we are
Tables, we are meek,

we are edible,

Nudgers and shovers
In spite of ourselves.
Our kind multiples;

We shall be morning
Inherit the earth.
Our foot's in the door.

Worksheets: Parts of mushroom anatomy. Identify and label different types of mushrooms using a mushroom spot checker.

Craft: Make mushroom prints. Make a painting of different types of mushrooms on one page.

Discovery Area: A felt mushroom complete anatomy with separate labels to attach. Identification flash cards to play snap or memory with. Posters of mushrooms and fact cards.

Daffodils

Nature Walk: Take a nature walk end of February/beginning of march to see daffodils at their best.

Science/Hands on: Pick some wild daffodils (or buy some) to take home and dissect and examine the different parts of the flower. Plant daffodil bulbs in the autumn for them to grow each spring.

Poem: I wandered lonely as a cloud by William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed – and gazed – but little thought
what wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

Worksheets: Label the different parts of a daffodil. Research why a bulb grows a flower each spring.

Craft: Paint a picture of a daffodil field or a still life of daffodils in a vase. Make a daffodil flower out of clay, let dry and paint.

Discovery Area: Photographs of mass daffodil fields. Place fresh daffodils in a container in the learning area.

Dandelion Life Cycle

Nature Walk: Go on a spring nature walk to see dandelions in bloom, and again in autumn to see them in seed.

Science/Hands on:

Take photographs of dandelions at different stages of the life cycle throughout the year and then make your own little photobook or poster on the life cycle at the end of the year.

Spring: Make a spring flower sensory bottle with dandelions in. Make naturally dried dandelion playdough

Autumn: In autumn pick dandelions to blow and make a wish and watch how the seeds disperse.

Poem: Dandelion by Janet L. Niehaus

I picked a faded dandelion
And blew it in the air
It's tiny little parachutes
Went floating everywhere.
They caught the wind
And danced awhile
Bending to and fro
In splendid ballerina style,
Finally as the wind grew still
They floated back to earth
And bedded in the dark war, soil
To start their rebirth.
When next summer comes
And dandelions are everywhere
I'll pick another faded flower
And blow it in the air.

Worksheets: Study the life cycle of dandelions and do an ordering worksheet on the life cycle.

Craft: Make dandelion cookies. Paint what dandelions look like in spring and autumn or an art picture of dandelions and their seeds blowing in autumn.

Discovery Area: Art photographs/illustrations of the dandelion life cycle.

Ferns

Nature Walk: Go for a nature walk near woodland where there are ferns; make some nature art with the ferns and stones or other natural materials you can find, such as mandalas.

Science/Hands on: Take fern leaves home to examine underneath and see if you can identify any egg cells, dissect the leaf to see what the different parts look like under the microscope.

Poem: Ferns by Egal Bohem

The images that form our world
Appear as time our day unfurls

As leaves of ferns once tightly curled
Our time expands to fill our space

With length and breadth
With depth and pace

To leave a stalk behind the fronds
Connected to the mother place

That heart from where
All fern buds grow

Not so different you know
From the lives of you and me

Except the fact
Our fronds move free

Worksheets: The life cycle of ferns. Identify and label different types of ferns.

Craft: Fern printing using paint or inks.

Discovery Area: A variety of different ferns to examine.

Lichen and Moss

Nature Walk: Go on a nature scavenger hunt and see how many types of lichen and moss you can spot and identify.

Science/Hands on: Try matching the lichen and moss in your discovery area with the identification charts. Find out how many different types of moss and lichen there are and why they look so different.

Poem: Lichen Glows in the Moonlight by John Kinsella

Lichen glows in the moonlight
So fierce only the cloud blocking
The moon brings relief. Then passed by,
Recharged it leaps up off rocks

And suffocates – there is no route
Through rocks without having to confront
It's bescreeching – It lights the way,
Not the moon, and outdoes epithets

Like phosphorescent, fluorescent, or florescent
It smirks and smiles and lifts the corner
Of its lips in hideous or blissful collusion,
And birds pipe an eternal dawn, never knowing

When to sleep or wake. They might
Be tricked into thinking their time's up
In the spectrum of lichen, its extra-gravital
Persuasion, it's crackling movement

Remembered as still, indifferent , barely
Living under the sun, or on a dark night;
Climbing up you'd escape, but all great
Molecule weights it leaves traces
You carry with you into the realms
Of comfort and faith.

Worksheets: Sketch and describe the characteristics of the different moss and lichen. Research how moss is different from lichen and draw a venn diagram to show their differences and similarities.

Craft: Try and make your own illustrated display poster on the different types of lichen

Discovery Area: Have a variety of different types of lichen and moss to examine and feel. Posters of different types of lichen and moss and fact cards about them.

Space

1. Phases of the moon
2. Constellations

Books

- Phases of the Moon
- Star Stories
- The Faces Phases of the Moon
- What We See in the Stars
- Hundred Billion Trillion Stars. Seth Fishman
- On the Moon
- Pelly and Mr. Harrison Visit the Moon
- Clementine
- Good Night Moon
- Grandfather Twilight
- The Great Moon Hoax
- How to Bicycle to the Moon to Plant Sunflowers
- I love the Night
- I Took the Moon for a Walk
- Jimmy Zangwov's Out of This World Moon Pie Adventure
- Kitten's First Full Moon
- Lullaby Moon
- Owl Moon
- Our Stars. Anne Rockwell
- My Sky is Full of Stars. Franklyn M. Branley
- Spots of Light: A book About Stars. Dana Meachen Rau
- Stargazers. Gail Gibbons
- The Big Dipper. Franklyn M. Branley
- Wishing on a Star: Constellation Stories and Stargazing Activities For Kids. Fran Lee
- Glow In The Dark Constellations. C.E. Thompson
- Galaxies, Galaxies! Gail Gibbons
- Zoo in the Sky: A Book of Animal Constellations. Jaqueline Mitton
- Once Upon a Starry Night: A Book of Constellations. Jaqueline Mitton
- A Child's Introduction to the Night Sky: The Story of the Stars, Planets and Constellations and How You Can Find Them in the Sky. Michael Driscoll

Phases of the Moon

Nature Walk: Take a short night time walk to a place you can easily see the moon, every night for a month and record in a moon diary how the moon appeared in the sky. Throughout the month you will be able to record the transformation of the phases of the moon.

Science/Hands on: Make Felt Phases of the moon (out of black and white felt) and attach labels to show what part of the cycle the moon is in at each phase.

Poem: The Moon Phases Poem by Betty Sanchez

The moon is a sphere, big and white
It loves to reflect the sun's bright light.

It goes on a journey every 28th day
Around the earth a hide and seek game it will play.

In the beginning, it is new
Out of sight from me and you.

The it waxes in white
As it grows on its right.

Waxing Crescent and quarter, then gibbous too
When full the phases are halfway through

Now it flips to the left and starts to wane
As it fades away in its orbit lane.

Weaning gibbous and quarter then crescent too
Its completed its orbit and back to new.

Worksheets: Label the phases of the moon cycle with their correct names.

Craft: Make a display or bunting of the moon at its different phases with the labels to explain what phases the moon is in in each position.

Discovery Area: Fact cards about the moon phases, photograph images of what the moon looks like in its different phases.

Constellations

Nature Walk: Go on a night time nature walk preferably on a clear night with minimum light pollution and using a constellation app see which constellations you can identify.

Science/Hands on: Using marshmallows and cocktail sticks and constellation cards see if you can recreate the different constellations and then label them.

Poem: The Constellations by William Cullen Bryant.

O constellations of the early night,
That sparked brighter as the twilight died,
And made the darkness glorious! I have seen
Your rays glow dim upon the horizon's edge,
And sink behind the mountains. I have seen
The great Orion, with his jewelled belt,
That large-limbered warrior of the skies, go down
Into the gloom. Beside him sank a crowd
Of shining ones. I look in vain to find
The group of sister-stars, which mothers love
To show their wondering babes, the gentle Seven.
Along the desert space mine eyes in vain
Seek the resplendent cressets which the Twins
Uplifted in their ever-youthful hands.
The streaming tresses of the Egyptian Queen
Spangle the heavens no more. The Virgin trails
No more her glittering garments through the blue.
Gone! All are Gone! And the forsaken Night,
With all her winds, in her dreary wastes,
Sighs that they shine upon her face no more.
No only here and there a little star
Looks forth alone. Ah me! I know not,
Those dim successors of the numberless host
That filled the heavenly fields, and flung to earth
Their gluvering fires. And now the middle watch
Betwixt the eve and morn is past, and still
The darkness gains upon the sky, and still
It closes round my way. Shall, then, the Night,
Grow starless in her late hours? Have these
No train of flaming watchers, that shall mark

Their coming and farewell? O Sons of Light!
Have ye then left me ere the dawn of day
To grope along my journey sad and faint?
Thus I complained, and from the darkness round
A voice replied – was it indeed a voice,
Or seeming accents of a waking dream
Heard by the inner eye? But thus it said:
O Traveller of the Night! Thine eyes are dim
With watching: and the mists, that chill the vale
Down which thy feet are passing, hide from view
The ever-burning stars. It is thy sight
That is so dark, and not the heavens. Thine eyes,
Were they but clear, would see a fiery host
Above thee: Hercules with flashing mace,
The lyre with silver cords, the Swan uppoised
On gleaming wings, the Dolphin gliding on
With glistening scales, and that poetic steed,
With beamy mane, whose hoof stuck out from earth
The fount of Hippocrene, and many more,
Fair clustered splendors, with whose rays the Night
Shall close her march in glory, ere she yield,
To the young Day, the great earth steeped in dew.
So spake the monitor, and I perceived
How vain were my repinings and my thought
Went backward to the vanished years and all
The good and great who came and passed with them,
And knew that ever would the years to come
Bring with them, in their course, the good and great,
Lights of the world, thought, to my clouded sight,
Their rays might seem but dim, or reach me not.

Worksheets: Put together a constellation mini book.

Craft: Constellation jar lamp projector (link on pinterest board)

Discovery Area: What we see in the stars book. Constellation cards showing the illustrations of what the constellations are named after and also photographs of the same constellations.

Weather

1. Weather
2. Water cycle
3. Thunder and Lighting
4. Snowflakes
5. Rainbows
6. Tornadoes and Extreme Weather
7. Sunrise and Sunset

Books

- See Inside Weather and Climate
- How The Weather Works
- Lift the Flaps Weather
- The Rhythm of the Rain
- The Water Cycle
- The Wind Blew. Pat Hutchings
- The Story of Snow: The Science of Winter's Wonder. Mark Cassino
- The Everything Kid's Weather Book
- The Cloud Book. Tomie dePaola
- Weather Words and What They Mean. Gail Gibbons
- When the Wind Blew. Alison Jackson
- Shapes in the Sky: A Book About Clouds. Joseph Sherman
- Oh Say Can You Say What's The Weather Today? Tish Rabe
- Everything Weather. National Geographical Kids
- Hide and Seek Fog. Alvin Tresselt
- Cloudy With a Chance Of Meatballs
- Down Comes the Rain. Franklyn M. Branley
- Little Cloud. Eric Carle
- Ladybird Girl and the Big Snow
- The Snowy Day. Ezra Jack Keats
- Snow. Uri Shulevitz
- Otis and the Tornado. Loreen Long
- Freddy the Forecaster
- The Kid's Book Of Weather Forecasting. Williamson Kids Can Series
- Hello World Weather
- Weather: National Geographical Weather
- Weather: Time For Kids

Weather

Nature Walk: Take a nature walk focusing on how the weather stimulates your senses; how does it make your skin feel (wet? Warm?) is there a smell or sound made by the weather? If it's raining do the raindrops have a taste?

Science/Hands on: Make a weather station and record your findings. Make a sundial and record how the sun's position changes throughout the day. Make a snow storm in a jar.

Poem: Clouds by Rupert Brooke

Down the blue night the unending columns press
In noiseless tumult, break and wave and flow,
Now tread the far South, or lift rounds of snow
Up to the white moon's hidden loveliness
Some pauses in their grave wandering comradeless,
And turn with profound gesture vague and slow,
As who would pray good for the world, but know
Their benediction empty as they bless.

Worksheets: Keep a weather diary for each day of the week. Make a cloud wheel and use it to identify the clouds outside.

Craft: Colouring in pictures. Make a simple kite and see if you can make it fly. Make a weather mobile. Raindrop crafts

Discovery Area: Make a felt weather chart which can be changed each day to show what the weather is for the day. Fact cards about different weather. Information poster about the different types of clouds.

The Water Cycle

Nature Walk: Take a walk in the rain with raincoats and wellie boots so you can go puddle jumping.

Science/Hands on: Water cycle bag experiment.

Poem: What Goes Up. Tonya Parker

Precipitation, evaporation, condensation,
They work in a cycle all the time
What goes up, must come down,
That is the point of this rhyme

The water in the ocean goes up in the air,
Forms into a cloud
And comes back down

The water of the world,
Is always set on recycle,
Let's keep the water clean,
And protect the water cycle

Worksheets: The water cycle sheet. A lift flap book on the water cycle.

Craft: A felt picture of the water cycle

Discovery Area: Fact cards and posters explaining the water cycle and how water changes its properties depending on temperature.

Thunder and Lighting

Nature Walk: Watch some Youtube videos on extreme thunder and lighting storms

Science/Hands on: Make lighting science experiment.

Poem: Lightning Bolt Delilah Wilson

The lightning lights the lovely night sky
Why it happens I don't know why
The rain is drumming on my house
Thunder is like lightning's spouse

Lightning, thunder hear it roll
Lights up skies so dark like coal
You can run but you can't hide
It doesn't help to stay inside

Striking, stunning keep on running
Hurry up I think it's coming
The wind is blowing much harder
It's putting the storm even farther

Rumble, boom, bam
No longer quiet like a lamb
You might lose your power
Or get wet by the shower

The storm is near
Increased fear
Patiently waiting
Debating

Worksheets: Colouring in worksheet on thunder and lighting. Mindmap of adjectives that describe thunder and lightning. A list about how to stay safe in a thunder storm

Craft: Thunderstorm painting. Lightning storm in a cup luminary

Discovery Area: Photographs of lightning. Fact cards about thunder and lighting.

Snowflakes

Nature Walk: When it snows grab a sledge and go sledging down the nearest hill, or make a snowman and have a snowball fight.

Science/Hands on: Make salt crystal snowflakes

Poem: Faeries Dancing on a Snowflake. Cirrus

They tumble in the wind
Falling as they go
Drifting in the wind
Sailing as they go

They are soft as down willow
And light as a babies sigh
I watch them after dark
Dancing in the grass

Like stars that fell from the sky
They move with dire
With hearts hot as fire
They love as no others would

They hold a passion of wonder
Who would question that which has no end
So into the Night They fly into Twilight
To a Land of Dreams and Hope forever

Worksheets: The life cycle of a snowflake and make a snowflake booklet.

Craft: Cut out paper snowflakes and decorate with silver glitter. Glue and salt snowflake painting art. Sugar painting snowflakes.

Discovery Area: Photographs of magnified snowflakes.

Rainbows

Nature Walk: When you spot a rainbow take a photograph and then print it and use to paint a picture of the rainbow

Science/Hands on: Rainbow experiments using prisms. Fizzy rainbow science experiments. Rainbow in a jar in a science experiment.

Poem: Riding a Rainbow by Kenn Nesbitt

I'll ride on a rainbow
To soar through the sky.
I'll ride on a kite
As it flies up high.

I'll ride on a dragon.
I'll ride a balloon.
I'll ride on a rocket
and ride to the moon.

I'll ride on the wind
And the sun and the stars,
On floating bananas
And flying guitars.

I'll ride on a cloud
And a unicorn too.
I'll ride in the seat
Of a magical shoe.

But why would I ride
On the sun and the stars?
It's so much more fun
Than just riding in cars.

Worksheets: Colour in a rainbow colouring in page and label the order of colours that you would see.

Craft: Walking water science experiment. Tissue paper rainbow collage (use bits of coloured tissue paper and other materials such as coloured feathers to create a rainbow collage).

Discovery Area: Montessori rainbow which can be put in order to learn the colours of the rainbow.

Tornadoes and Extreme Weather

Nature Walk: Watch Youtube videos on tornadoes and extreme weather

Science/Hands on: Make a tornado in a jar experiment

Poem: Tornado by Allen Steble

It whirls it twirls
It twists and curls
As it picks up and hurls
Everything in its path
This unpredictable weather phenomenon
Who can know
The destructive tornado

It has its classes
One to five
One will rip out a large tree
Five will demolish a small city
It teaches us one thing
No one can predict or know
This mighty force of nature
The destructive tornado

Next time you see one of these
Turn and run the other way
The tornado only paves on path
'A path of destruction'
With no known course of direction
Next time the wind blows
Look out your window
There may just be a tornado
Coming your way!

Worksheets: Research and record how tornadoes happen. Also research what other forms of extreme weather around the world there is.

Craft: Use chalk pastels to draw out a tornado landscape scene

Discovery Area: Photographs of extreme weather

Sunrise and Sunset

Nature Walk: Research what time the sun is due to set and then go for a nature walk as it is setting and watch how it transforms the colours of the sky and landscape. If you're feeling brave set the alarm and wake up before sunrise and sit quietly to watch the sunrise together with your family.

Science/Hands on: Look into the earth's orbit and why we get sunrises and sunsets.

Poem: My Sunrise by Theo Williams

The chirp of birds in the early morning
Bless my smiles with their innocent calling
I head outside with my blanket wrapped around
And lay there listening to this memorable sound.

Inspiring orange light of dawn, infatuating
With all colours the sun rise is portraying
Its cheerful glow fills my heart with serenity
And takes me to a tranquil fantasy.

Amaranth red shimmers of vitality
Creating the most curing reality
Shines transparently through my soul
And takes me to a place so beautiful.

Hues emphasis pure yellow rays of hope
That warms my aura lost in the clouds reflective pink coat
This morning ambiance has risen bright
Like heaven shone down with its piercing light.

There will be no melancholy, only a feeling so gay
Because my sun, you've started my day.

Worksheets: Record the time of sunrise and sunset for a week and see if there are any changes in time from the beginning to the end of the week.

Craft: Paint a sunset landscape.

Discovery Area: Photographs of sunrises and sunsets from around the world.

Animals

1. The Frog Life Cycle
2. British Wildlife
3. Bats
4. Badgers
5. Foxes
6. Deers
7. British Snakes
8. Seals
9. Frogs VS Toads
10. Hedgehogs
11. Owls

Books:

- Fanatical About Frogs
- Beatrix Potter Stories
- National Geographical Kids: Frogs
- Lifecycle Tadpole To Frog
- The Woodland Book
- Animals Of Farthing Wood
- Woodlands Trust: Nature Explorers Woodland Activity and Sticker Book
- The Gruffalo
- Bats: Usbourne
- RSPCA Animals Rescue Pets: 10 Children's books
- Badger and the Great Storm
- British Mammals
- Fantastic Mr Fox
- The Fox and the Ghost King
- Fox in the Night: A Science Storybook Light and Dark
- Fox in Socks
- Midnight Fox
- Little Foxes
- National Trust: How to Help a Hedgehog and Save a Polar Bear
- Owl Babies
- The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark
- Owls Our Most Enchanting Bird
- Wind in the Willows
- Frog and Toad

The Frog Life Cycle

Nature Walk: Go on a nature walk to a pond with frogspawn in, return to see how it changes.

Science/Hands on: Research how to look after tadpoles indoors and what you need to care for them then collect frogspawn and watch the life cycle in action.

Poem: Frog Prince by Linda Ori

As I was walking through the wood
One warm and sunny summer day,
I chanced upon a lovely sight
A swirl of butterflies in flight;

Urged on by curiosity
I followed down the path they flew
And tumbled through a hidden door
Beneath the leafy woodland floor;

A wondrous sight did then appear
As if by magic to my eyes,
And there within a hollow log
I spied a very princely frog;

Nestled deep within that place
Of musty darkness shone a light,
And there I saw as I did look
A princely frog with poem book;

Lounging in his comfy space
With spectacles perched on his nose,
The frog prince reading unaware
Of being watched as I stood there;

So engrossed within his book,
He did not notice as I sneaked
Behind his chair on velvet feet -
Then all at once our eyes did meet

He dropped the book into his lap,
Complete surprise upon his face -
I turned to run and he did follow
Leaping from his hidden hollow

Swift I ran around the tree
And hiding, waited patiently
And soon he leapt upon a rock
And then this frog began to talk;

‘My dear, within your book I’ve read,
Your songs of love and gratitude,
Your tales of woe, of joy and such
I must admit, I like it much!’

But there is one thing I would ask
If I may only be so bold,
Now would you please consider this,
And place upon my lips a kiss?

Well I believe in fairytales
For heaven knows I’ve read a few,
And if my memory serves me well,
A little kiss might break the spell;

So pucker up you ugly frog
Let’s get this done while in the mood,
I closed my eyes and then did place
A kiss upon his slimy face;

It wasn’t bad, he tasted sweet!!
I can’t believe I kissed a frog!
My eyes did open then and see
A handsome prince smile back at me!

The prince of poets had been freed
No longer bound beneath the spell -
And in his freedom I did find
A gentle prince, sincere and kind;

He offered then to mentor me
As poet prince, no longer frog -
And I of course said 'yes' and more.....
The day beneath the woodland floor

Worksheets: Make a mini book describing and illustrating the frog life cycle.

Craft: Make a bunting display out of card or felt showing how a frog looks at each stage of the life cycle

Discovery Area: Tank containing frogspawn/tadpoles. A book describing the cycle and what happens at each stage.

British Wildlife

Nature Walk: Go on a woodland walk and see if you can spot any animals or signs of animals such as tracks. Visit a wildlife centre; Wildwood in Kent is a brilliant center with ancient British wildlife including bears and wolves.

Science/Hands on: Print off animal track cards and see if you can learn to match them to the animals that make them.

Poem: Wildlife! By Denis Martindale

Wildlife! Wildlife! It's everywhere!
Beneath the sea! Upon the air!
No wonder that us humans stare!
God made so many things!

Wildlife! Wildlife! It's short and stout!
You'll always find wildlife about!
It's very close, no need to scout!
God made so many things!

Wildlife! Wildlife! Don't get up close!
For if you do, you'll come to blows!
No matter, crocodiles or crows!
God made so many things!

From kangeroos to cockatoos
And birds most colours you could choose
And if in doubt, then check the zoos!
God made so many things!

I've seen big dogs, I've seen big cats,
I've seen giraffes, I've seen wombats,
I've seen some budgies having chats!
God made so many things!

I've seen the dolphins swimming fast,
I've seen some skunks, man, what a blast,
I've seen some missing lynx walk past!
God made so many things!

The say there's life on planet Mars,
In galaxies beyond the stars,
We'll have to see what comes to pass!
God made so many things!

Worksheets: Make a list of different wildlife you find in Britain and place them into categories of; Mammals, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians.

Craft: Colouring in sheets. Make animal masks or puppets and act out your own story about British wildlife.

Discovery Area: Photographs of different types of British wildlife, fact cards and illustration posters showing them.

Bats

Nature Walk: Contact your local wildlife center and see when they have a bat walk; alternatively google bat walks in your local area (the National Trust sometimes run them).

Science/Hands on: Watch Youtube Videos on bats around the world, and make a fact checker page on bats from the facts you have learnt from the videos.

Poem: The Pondering of a Bat by Ben Gieske

How to know
The pondering of a bat
Hanging upside down
His frown but smile

How to know
The dreaming of a bat
Abiding the dark cave all day
Flying free in the darkness of night
Images going blip in the dark

How to know
The seeing of a bat
When sounds are his mode
Of traveling in the night
And catching prey without light

Worksheets: Research about nocturnal animals and write a description on them and what adaptations they have to allow them to live and hunt in the dark.

Craft: Make hanging bat craft from inside toilet rolls.

Discovery Area: Photographs of different types of bats. Mini plastic or knitted bats to play with in a small world play or bat finger puppets.

Badgers

Nature Walk: Contact your local nature center and see if they run badger walks you can take part in.

Science/Hands on: Watch a badger cam showing what badgers get up to in their dens and at night time.

Poem: Benny the Badger by Bill Hoeneveld

Benny the badger, likes digging holes
He can even out dig, the best of the moles.
His strong short legs, he uses like spades,
Digging for hours, his stamina never fades.

Benny had an idea, to tunnel to France
He heard it was the city, for love and romance.
French lady badgers, are so pretty and sweet,
He could not wait, for his first one to meet.

It took a long time, for Benny to complete,
The came the day, for French soil on his feet,
Benny emerged sweaty, his pelt very soiled,
He needed to wash, after so long he had toiled.

He bathed in a fountain, washing away the grime,
The came the grooming, for which he took his time.
Looking very dapper, he followed a fine scent,
That led him to the woods, down the path he went/

There he saw a lady, a badger so divine,
Like a perfect gent, he would wine and dine,
His tunnel was a winner, taking them back home,
Benny was so happy, for no longer he was alone.

Worksheets: Research and record about badgers, create a poster giving information and facts about them.

Craft: Make a badger plate craft or a woodland toilet roll badger craft.

Discovery Area: Make a woodland small world play scene. Collect together examples of what badgers eat (maybe gummy worms in place of real worms).

Foxes

Nature Walk: Go on a dusk nature walk and see if you come across any foxes.

Science/Hands on: See if you can find any online fox den cams and watch what they get up to in real life.

Poem: Fox Alice Oswald

I heard a cough
As if a thief was there
Outside my sleep
A sharp intake of air

A fox in her fox-fur
Stepping across
The grass in her black gloves
Barked at my house

Just so abrupt and odd
The way she went
Hungrily asking
In the heart's thick accent

In such serious sleepless
Trespass she came
A woman with a man's voice
but no name

As if to say: it's midnight
And my life
Is laid beneath my children
Like gold lead

Worksheets: Make a fact file page on foxes and record down fact you learn about them. Read Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl and do a mindmap of the character traits the characters display.

Craft: Using your favourite media; paint, pastels, crayons, colouring pencils, pens, to draw and colour a fox. Draw a picture of a foxes burrows and den.

Discovery Area: Photographs of foxes. Fox fact cards. Small world woodland play tray.

Deers

Nature Walk: Go deer stalking in woodland; try and camouflage with clothes, blankets and face paints and sit quietly and see if any deer come into view.

Science/Hands on: Find out how many different type of deer there are and see if you can remember them all and their characteristics.

Poem: The Fleeting Deer by Swapna Dutta

The deer runs fast
With nimble feet
By lucky chance
You may just meet!

Sweet deer, do pause
Beneath the tree -
Won't you please
Make friends with me?

Worksheets: Make a deer mini book either of the different types of deers there are or all about deer; what they eat, where they sleep, deer facts.

Craft: Colouring in sheets. Make a deer watercolour painting.

Discovery Area: Photographs of different deers. Fact cards about deers.

British Snakes

Nature Walk: Visit a local wildlife center to view snakes, or watch a web cam on snake life.

Science/Hands on: Research why snakes shed their skin. See if you can learn to identify British snakes from snake flashcards and their names and features which make them distinct.

Poem: Snake by Theodore Roethke

I saw a young snake glide
Out of the mottled shade
And hang, limp on a stone;
A thin mouth, and a tongue
Stayed, in the still air.

It turned; it drew away;
It's shadow bent in half;
It quickened and was gone

I felt my slow blood warm.
I longed to be that thing.
That pure, sensuous form.

And I may be, some time.

Worksheets: Research and record what snakes we have in Britain; where they live, what they eat, whether they are poisonous.

Craft: Make a clay snake pot and paint, or make salt dough snakes. Cut out the spiral snake and colour.

Discovery Area: See if you can get hold of some shedded snake skin to look at and explore; how does it feel? What does it look like under a magnifying glass or a microscope?

Seals

Nature Walk: In Norfolk there is a beach called Horsey beach where you can view hundreds of seals along the beach and sea shore. They have their pups in late October/early November and carry on until early February, however we visited in April and saw them. I would highly recommend a visit it was indescribable being so close these other worldly creatures in their natural environments.

Science/Hands on: How do seals stay warm in icy water? A blubber science experiment.

Poem: Seal by William Jay Smith

See how he dives
From the rocks with a zoom!
See how he darts
Through his watery room
Past crabs and eels
And green seaweed
Past fluffs of sandy
Minnows feed!
See how he swims
With a swerve and a twist,
A flip of the flipper,
A flick of the wrist!
Quicksilver quick,
Softer than spray
Down he plunges
And sweeps away;
Before you can think,
Before you can utter
Words like "Dill pickle"
Or "Apple butter,"
Back up he swims
Past Sting Ray and Shark,
Out with a zoom,
A whoop, a bark;
Before you can say
Whatever you wish,
He plops at your side
With a mouthful of fish!

Worksheets: Comparisons and similarities between Pinnipeds; seals, sea lions and walruses.

Craft: Make a fluffy seal pup collage.

Discovery Area: Photographs of different pinnipeds. A magnetic fishing game.

Frogs VS Toads

Nature Walk: Visit a local pond or lake and see if you can spot any frogs or toads and watch how they live in their natural environment.

Science/Hands on: Create a toad abode and place near a local pond or lake; visit it and see if anyone has taken up residence.

Poem: Frog and Toad by J. Patrick Lewis

The look-alike of frog is toad;
They have similar dress code.
But I should call to your attention
Some differences I thought I'd mention;
A bunch of frogs is called an army;
A batch of toads is called a knot.
A frog leap-frogs over a swamp log;
A toad does not do diddly-squat.
A frog has skin that's smooth or slimy;
A toad has skin that's warty and dry.
A frog enjoys kissing a princess;
A toad prefers kissing a fly.

Worksheets: Read the Frog and Toad stories and write a book report. Make a Venn diagram about the differences and similarities between Frogs and Toads. Write your own toad poem in a toad format.

Craft: Paint rocks to look like frogs and toads; add googly eyes and card legs. You could extend it by making a craft pond small world area to place your rock pets in!

Discovery Area: Poster showing the differences and similarities between frogs and toads. The games leap frog or frog frenzy.

Hedgehogs

Nature Walk: Visit a hedgehog rescue center; find out what you can do in your own home and garden to help protect and nurture wild hedgehogs in your area.

Science/Hands on: Make a hedgehog house to place in your garden or a local wildlife spot. Research what food and drink to leave out for them and what is dangerous.

Poem: Spikey the Hedgehog; Anonymous

Spikey the hedgehog
He of prickly spine
Comes into my garden
From time to time
Though I found Spikey
Is not one for a hug
He is rather partial
To the odd fat slug
A gardener's friend
Who can't be beaten
Makes sure your flowers
Won't be eaten
By any slug or any snail
And so ends
This little tale

Worksheets: Find out what you can do to help protect hedgehogs and make a poster to show others what they can also do. Label the parts of a hedgehog sheet.

Craft: Bake hedgehog rolls or chocolate hedgehog cakes. Colouring in hedgehog sheets. Make a hedgehog collage out of leaves and other natural materials.

Discovery Area: Small world play area with pine cones with googly eyes stuck on for the hedgehogs.

Owls

Nature Walk: Go on a night time countryside walk and see if you can hear or see any owls. Alternatively visit a nature center or birds of prey center and see how many types of owls you can see.

Science/Hands on: Owl pellet dissection; owls throw up owl pellets containing the bones and over substances they have eaten. You can dissect them (wearing gloves!!) and see if you can identify what has been eaten.

Poem: The Owl and the Pussy-Cat by Edward Lear

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea
In a beautiful pea-green boat,
They took some honey, and plenty of money,
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.
The Owl looked up to the stars above,
And sang to a small guitar,
“O lovely Pussy! O Pussy my love,
What a beautiful Pussy you are,
You are,
You are!
What a beautiful Pussy you are!”

Pussy said to the Owl “You elegant fowl!”
How charmingly sweet you sing!
O let us be married! Too long we have tarried;
But what shall we do for a ring?”
They sailed away, for a year and a day,
To the land where the Bong-Tree grows

And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood
With a ring at the end of his nose,
His nose
His nose
With a ring at the end of his nose.

“Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling
Your ring?” Said the Piggy, “I will.”

So they took it away, and were married next day
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon,
The moon,
The moon,
They danced by the light of the moon.

Worksheets: Make an owl mini or lap book about the information you have gathered about owls. A label sheet about barn owl adaptations.

Craft: An owl colouring in sheet. Make owl baby wooden spoons puppets and recreate the owl baby story. Make an owl painting, mosaic or collage with googly eyes to make it stand out.

Discovery Area: Invitation to create tray with materials and brown playdough to create their own owl models. Photographs or an illustrated poster about the different types of owls around the world.

Oceans

1. Oceans
2. Fish
3. Jelly Fish
4. Rock Pooling
5. Crabs
6. Shells
7. Seaweed
8. Whales
9. Sharks

Books:

- Ocean A Children's Encyclopedia
- The Big Book of Blue
- The Big Book of Blue Sticker Book
- Ocean Lift the Flap
- Commotion in the Ocean
- Sharks and Other Deadly Ocean Creatures
- Finn the Fortunate Tiger Shark and His Fantastic Friends
- Rainbow Fish
- Tiddler
- One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish
- Life on Earth: Ocean 100 Questions and Flaps
- Layer By Layer: Under the Sea
- Seashore Usbourne Guide
- RSPB First Book of Seashore
- Crab and Whale
- A House For Hermit Crab
- Sharing a Shell
- Shells (Usbourne Guide)
- Shark and the Whale
- The Whales Song
- The Storm Whale
- Whales Amazing Pictures and Fun Facts
- This Morning I Met a Whale
- Sharks (Usbournne Discovery)
- National Geographical Ultimate Book of Sharks
- Smart About Sharks

Oceans

Nature Walk: Take a nature walk along the beach; you could visit different types of beaches (rocky, sandy) and see if you can see different types of life present. Go on a beach plastic clean up..

Science/Hands on: Ocean zone density jar. Salt water density experiment.

Poem: Beneath the Ocean by Dee Daffodil

What lies beneath the ocean blue,
In depths of mariner's legends?
Where creatures hide in crevices,
And divers get the Bends.

Beneath those stormy seas my friend,
Who knows what you will find?
Some say there may be fish fossils,

Or creepy creatures of a kind.

Yes, down below the murky seas,
Where little plant life grows
Untouched by rays of warm sunlight,
Where, what lives there, God only knows!

I often wonder what there is,

Beneath the water dark and cold.
Someday, someone will search those depths,
But I am not that bold!

Worksheets: Watch a documentary on Oceans and how plastic is having a huge negative impact on it. Discuss what you could do to help change it and make a poster or leaflet telling others. Ocean layer label sheet. Label a map with the names of the different Oceans around the world.

Craft: Make salt dough turtles and star fish and paint. Soapy sea foam sensory play. Sea slime.

Discovery Area: Under sea photographs or what life looks like under the sea. Small world play in a tray with water and plastic sea life creatures. Ocean animal matching game.

Fish

Nature Walk: Visit an aquarium to get a close up look at lots of different fish from around the world.

Science/Hands on: Ice fishing winter science for kids experiment.

Poem: We Fish by Herman Melville

We fish, we fish, we merrily swim,
We care not for friend nor for foe.
Our fins are stout,
Our tails are out,
As through the seas we go.

Fish, Fish, we are fish with red gills;
Naught disturbs us, our blood is at zero:
We are buoyant because of our bags,
Being many, each fish is a hero.
We care not what is it, this life
That we follow, this phantom unknown;
To swim away, making a foam;
This strange looking thing by our side,
Not for safety, around it we flee:--
It's shadow's so shady, that's all:--
We only swim under its lee.
And as for the eels there above,
And as for the fowls of the air,
We care not for them nor their ways,
As we cheerily glide afar!

We fish, we fish, we merrily swim,
We care not for friend no for foe;
Our fins are stout,
Our tails are out,
As through the seas we go.

Worksheets: Label parts of a fish sheet. Make a comparison list between salt water fish and fresh water fish.

Craft: Tissue paper stained glass fish craft. Paper plate rainbow fish collage craft. Salt watercolour koi fish art process.

Discovery Area: Posters showing different type of salt and fresh water fish. Water beads small world play tray with plastic fish figures to play with.

Jelly Fish

Nature Walk: London Aquarium Sealife Center has an amazing room on jelly with lights to make the jelly fish lit up and look colour changing. It is a brilliant sensory experience and one of my favorite places to be. Alternatively take a nature walk along the beach and see if you can spot any jelly fish.

Science/Hands on: Watch a nature documentary or Youtube videos on jellyfish .

Poem: Jellyfish by Michael Rosen

The jellyfish
Dances through the water
Waving it's frilly underwear.

We found one on the beach.

It had become a polythene bag
Full of water.

It's frills lay on top
Like party ribbons
After the dance is over.

Worksheets: Create a lapbook on all things jelly fish.

Craft: Mixed media jelly fish art.

Discovery Area: A sensory light up jelly fish tank (with artificial jelly fish)

Rock Pooling

Nature Walk: Go rock pooling with nets and an identification sheet or book and see what you can identify within the rocks pools. We found Westgate beach in Kent was awesome for rock pooling.

Science/Hands on: Watch a Youtube video or nature documentary or rock pools and what lives within them and what happens when the tide comes in and out.

Poem: The Rock Pool by Edward Shanks

This is the sea. In these uneven walls
A wall lies prisoned. Far and far away
Outward to ocean, as the slow tide falls
Her sisters through the capes that hold the bay
Dancing in lovely liberty recede,
Yet lovely in captivity she lies,
Filled with soft colours, where the wavering weed
Moves gently and discloses to our eyes
Blurred shining veins or rock and lucent shells
Under the light-shot water; and here repose
Small quiet fish and dimly glowing bells
Of sleeping sea-anemones that close
Their tender fronds and will not now awake
Till on these rocks the waves returning break

Worksheets: Make a nature journal page on what you found in the rock pool/Tide pool. Make sure to include drawings as well as written descriptions.

Craft: Make a paper plate rock pool collage scene. Paint rocks from the beach to look like the different creatures you found in the rock pools; don't forget the googly eyes.

Discovery Area: Create an imaginary play rock pool space using rocks, shells and seaweed from the beach.

Crabs

Nature Walk: Go crabbing (Littlehampton is great for this) and see how many crabs you can catch!

Science/Hands on: See if you can learn the names of the different types of crabs and match them with the name labels.

Poem: Crabby by Barbara Vance

I am a crab
Who walks the shore
And pinches toes all day.

If I were you
I'd wear some shoes
And not get in my way.

Worksheets: Make a crab lift the flap fact book.

Craft: Under the sea colouring pages. Paint shells red and stick on red pipe cleaners and googly eyes to make mini crabs.

Discovery Area: Have an ocean in an egg carton with mini crabs to play with.

Shells

Nature Walk: Go to the beach and see how many different type of shells you can collect (Again the best beach we have found for this was Westgate in kent).

Science/Hands on: Match real shells to named illustrated cards.

Poem: A Shell's Life by LexiSully

Shells coming and going,
Locked in to movement of the waves,
Crushed by the magnitude of their strength

The float in and out of beaches,
Leaving their mark on passersby,
Only to be forgotten with the next
Wave of treasures

The long to be found,
Crave to be picked up,
Ache to tell their story

Until at last, they're swept out to sea,
To the next beach which it will call home,
And into the life of another who will see its beauty.

Worksheets: Do a bubble shell painting but first write a prediction of what you think will happen and then record your observations about what happened.

Craft: Make a shell mobile out of rainbow painted shells. Make a hand print shell keepsake out of salt dough and shells. Paint shells with acrylic paint with different designs, colours and patterns. Make shell mandala art.

Discovery Area: Have a range of different shells to look at and explore with magnifying glasses and a microscope.

Seaweed

Nature Walk: Go on a nature walk to the beach with an identification/spotter sheet or book and see what different types of seaweed you can identify.

Science/Hands on: Watch a Youtube video about seaweed.

Poem: Seaweed by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

When descends on the Atlantic
The gigantic
Storm-wind of the equinox,
Landward in his wrath he scourges
The toiling surges,
Laden with seaweed from the rocks:

From Bermuda's reefs; from edges
Of sunken ledges,
In some far-off, bright Azore;
From Bahama, and the dashing,
Silver-flashing
Surges of San Salvador;

From the tumbling surf, that buries
The Orkneyan skerries,
Answering the hoarse Hebrides;
And from wrecks of ships, and drifting
Spars, uplifting
On the desolate, rainy seas:--

Ever drifting, drifting, drifting
On the shifting
Currents of the restless main;
Till in sheltered cover, and reaches
Of sandy beaches,
All have found repose again.

So when storms of wild emotion
Strike the ocean
Of the poet's soul, erelong

From each cave and rocky fastness,
In its vastness,
Floats some fragments of a song:

From the far-off isles enchanted,
Heaven has planted
With the golden fruit of Truth;
From the flashing surf, whose vision
Gleams Elysian
In the tropic clime of Youth;

From the strong Will, and the Endeavor
That forever
Wrestle with the tides of Fate;
From the wreck of Hopes far-scattered,
Tempest-shattered,
Floating waste and desolate;--

Ever drifting, drifting, drifting
On the shifting
Currents of the restless heart;
Till at length in books recorded,
They, like hoarded
Household words, no more depart.

Worksheets: Research seaweed facts and draw out the different types of seaweed with the names and one fact about each.

Craft: Make an under the sea picture by gluing real seaweed onto your ocean floor. Or make a glued picture or nature art of a mermaid with seaweed for its hair.

Discovery Area: A range of different seaweeds to explore. Illustrated posters of different types of seaweed.

Whales

Nature Walk: Google whale watching trips near to where you live and see when and where to watch wild whales in the ocean. I went whale watching in Canada when I was 16 and hands down it was one of the best experiences of my life! There aren't enough words to describe the wonder and beauty of seeing whales up close and real.

Science/Hands on: Watch nature documentaries of whales and follow their journey.

Poem: Whale Song by David Keig

Can you hear the Whale Song resonating deep?
Can you hear that deep slow hum within your mind asleep?
Can you understand the Whale Song and feel its undulating tones
Vibrating through our bodies within our flesh and bone?
Why is it that the Whale Song entrances us in life
And let's us glimpse a real-ness that needs not ears nor even eyes?
Maybe it's that the Whale Song makes us feel part of this earth
In a way that seems to be obscured in the life that follows birth.

Worksheets: Make a mini book about whales; either choosing one type of whale to focus on or a generalized one about all whales. Different type of whale activity sheet.

Craft: Stenciled whale cards. Using chalk draw a life sized to scale whale on the sidewalk to get a sense of just how big whales are! Coffee filter whale suncatchers.

Discovery Area: Illustrated art work posters showing the different types of whales. Fact cards. Photographs. Plastic whales.

Sharks

Nature Walk: Aquariums are great for seeing sharks are close especially in the under the water walk through tunnels. See which sharks you can identify.

Science/Hands on: Montessori inspired shark anatomy model with labels to learn the different parts of a shark and where they go. Why don't sharks sink science experiment.

Poem: Shark by Geoffrey Piers Henry Dutton

Sometimes when the shallow water is clear and green
A long and steadily moving shape is seen,
And the whole bright bay suddenly grows dark,
And swimmers rush for the shore at the cry of 'Shark!'

Porpoises bounce cheerfully up and down
But sharks go grimly straight, as if a frown
Was above the horrible grin I cannot see,
And those little eyes were glaring straight at me.

Lazily the dark shape turns, to disappear
Above the weed, and the sea is full of fear.
No thank you, just now I haven't any wish
To swim, or even to launch the boat to fish.

Worksheets: Fact or opinion shark cards; work out what is fact and what is opinion then research true shark facts and make a leaflet on sharks. Fast fact sheets about different types of sharks. What are the myths or misconceptions people have about sharks and why do you think these have developed?

Craft: Tissue paper shark sun-catcher. Ocean slime.

Discovery Area: Shark memory cards; learn to identify the names of the different types of sharks. 'Mermaid purses' which can be found at the beach which used to collect shark eggs. Illustrated posters about sharks.

Seasons

1. Signs of Spring
2. Signs of Summer
3. Signs of Autumn
4. Signs of Winter

Books

- The Seasons Come, Seasons Go
- The Story Orchestra Four Seasons In One Day
- Lift The Flap Seasons and Weather
- Out and About: A first Book of Poems
- The Gruffalo Spring and Summer Nature Trail
- The Gruffalo Autumn and Winter Nature Trail
- Everything You Need For A Treehouse. Carter Higgins
- Abracadabra Its Spring! Anne Sibley O'Brien & Susan Gal
- Drawn From Nature. Helena Ahpornsiri
- Goodbye Summer, Hello Autumn
- We Gather Together
- Why Do Leaves Change Colour?
- How To Make Apple Pie and Travel The World
- Fletcher and the Falling Leaves
- Red Leaf, Yellow Leaf
- Hello Harvest Moon
- How Do Apples Grow?
- Fall Leaves
- Autumn. Shirley Hughes
- The Reasons for Seasons
- Moon
- The Summer Visitors. Karel Hayes
- Rules Of Summer. Shauna Tan
- Summer Days and Nights. Wong Herbert Yee
- Mama, Is It Summer Yet? Nikki McClure
- The Longest Day: Celebrating the Summer Solstice. Wendy Pfeffer

Signs of Spring

Nature Walk: Go on a springtime treasure hunt with a treasure hunt sheet of things you want to try and find which remind you of spring .i.e. daffodils, lambs, tree blossom

Science/Hands on: Plant spring flowers in the garden or in flower pots

Poem: A Light Exists In Spring by Emily Dickinson

A light exists in spring
Not present on the year
At any other period
When March is scarcely here

A colour stands abroad
On solitary hills
That science cannot overtake,
But human nature feels

It waits upon the lawn;
It shows the furthest tree
Upon the furthest slope we know;
It almost speaks to me.

Then as horizons step,
Or noons report away,
Without the formula of sound,
It passes, and we stay:

A quality of loss
Affecting our content
As trade had suddenly encroached
Upon a sacrament.

Worksheets: Write a poem inspired by spring. Write a newspaper front page telling readers that spring has come and giving reasons how you know it has.

Craft: Make a card flower crown. Make a spring sensory bottle or frozen art where you collect spring flowers and put them in water in an ice tray and then pop them out when they have frozen.

Discovery Area: Images of different signs of spring. A collection of different dried pressed spring flowers and blossom (you can quickly dry and press flowers by placing them within kitchen towel between two tiles and microwaving them in 30 second blocks until they have dried fully.

Signs of Summer

Nature Walk: _Go on a summer time treasure hunt with a treasure hunt sheet of things you want to try and find which remind you of summer.

Science/Hands on: Ice play; help cool down by seeing how many different ice activities you can take part in. Make your own ice lollies or ice cream.

Poem: Summer Sun by Robert Louis Stevenson

Great is the sun, and wide he goes
Through empty heaven without repose;
And in the blue and glowing days
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Through closer still the blinds we pull
To keep the shady parlour cool,
Yet he will find a chink or two
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic spider-clad
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;
And through the broken edges of tiles,
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around
He bares to all the garden ground,
And sheds a warm and glittering look
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,
Round the bright air with footing true,
To please the child, to paint the rose,
The gardener of the World, he goes.

Worksheets: Use the prompts on Summer Writing Ideas For Kids (signs of summer pinterest board) to write about Summer and what it means to you.

Craft: Make sand slime. Go to the beach and build a sandcastle or make sand art. Paint a picture of yourself at the seaside.

Discovery Area: Make an indoor sandpit in a large plastic tub with bucket and spade. Start a sensory summer nature table with things that remind you of summer (you could include a small pot containing sunscreen for the smells of summer).

Signs of Autumn

Nature Walk: Go on an Autumn time treasure hunt with a treasure hunt sheet of things you want to try and find which remind you of Autumn; Autumn leaves, seeds, pine cones.

Science/Hands on: Collect all different leaves and find out why autumn leaves are all different colours and shades.

Poem: Once Upon An Autumn Day by Joseph T. Renaldi

Once upon an autumn day,
Colourful leaves began to fade
In the midst of a chilly, frosty air
As multitude of trees grew steadily bare.

Once upon an autumn day,
The whispering breeze was here to stay
Moving aimlessly through the countless trees
Scattering leaves with the greatest of ease.

Once upon an autumn day,
The leaves whirled freely in every way,
Until at last they came to rest
Finding a haven in which to nest.

Once upon an autumn day.

Worksheets: Write a list of all your favourite things you like to see and do in Autumn, or things that remind you of Autumn. Think of all your five senses when writing the list; smell, touch, taste, sound, sight.

Craft: Make Autumn leaf prints or rubbings. Make Autumn leaf sun catchers to stick on your window. Bake a pumpkin or apple and blackberry pie/crumble.

Discovery Area: Create an Autumn sensory table of all the things you have collected that remind you of autumn.

Signs of Winter

Nature Walk: Go on a winter time treasure hunt with a treasure hunt sheet of things you want to try and find which remind you of winter.

Science/Hands on: Look at Youtube videos of what winter looks like around the world in different countries.

Poem: Blow, blow, thou winter wind by William Shakespeare

Blow, blow, thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.
*Heigh-Ho! Sing, heigh-ho! Unto the green holly;
Most friendship is feigning, most loving mere folly;
Then heigh-ho, the holly!
This life is most jolly.*

Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,
That dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot:
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remembered not.
Heigh-ho! Sing, heigh-ho! Unto the green holly...

Worksheets: Write a winter poem and illustrate it with your own drawing.

Craft: A winter tree picture using sticks for the tree and use q-tips to paint snow on the tree and background; you could even add silver glitter to make it sparkle.

Discovery Area: Make a winter small world play tray including fake snow or shaving foam to act as the snow.

Rocks & Minerals

1. Rocks & Minerals
2. Gemstones
3. Fossils

Books

- The Street Beneath My Feet
- Let's Go Rock Collecting. Roma Gans
- National Geographic Kids: Everything Rocks and Minerals. Steve Tomeck
- If You Find A Rock. Peggy Christian
- Rocks, Fossils and Arrowheads. Laura Evert
- A Rock Is Lively. Diana Hutts Aston
- Everybody Needs A Rock. Byrd Baylor
- If Rocks Could Sing. Leslie McGuirk
- Rhoda's Rock Hunt. Molly Beth Griffin
- A Rock Can Be. Laura Purdie Salas
- The Rock Factory: The Story About the Rock Cycle. Jacqui Bailey
- The Magic School Bus Inside The Earth. Joanna Cole
- The Pebble in My Pocket. Meredith Hooper
- Rocks and Minerals. Steve Tomecek
- Rocks: Hard, Soft, Smooth and Rough. Rosinsky
- Dirt: The Scoop On Soil. Rosinsky
- Planet Earth/Inside Out. Gail Gibbons
- Erosion Changing Earth's Surface. Koontz
- An Island Grows. Shaefer
- How Mountains Are Made. Zoehfeld

Rocks and Minerals

Nature Walk: Visit some underground caves (The Cheddar Gorge and Wokey Hole has amazing caves you can explore in a tour).

Science/Hands on: Grow your own crystals. Rock testing experiment

Poem: The How and Why Of Rocks and Minerals by Lee Upton

And these other – what are they?
Not dolomite, sandstone, shist or calcite,
I might include ice – the colourless mineral
If ice stayed ice.
But what is this one? Some go nameless,
Do not look like their pictures.
This stingy lump, this once hot magma?
This is our whole cause
Of trouble over arithmetic.
Now crack two of these together.
Fire won't start.
I've tried it.
How about this? The bad stone,
The go-to-work stone,
The stone in a uniform.
He wants to look just like the other stones.
But what would you call my new stone?
Nameless, anonymous,
This dark stone.
Do we think it will teach anyone
The name of the mountain
All these stones rolled down from?
To see the pool of water inside the gem?
Or is this the blarney stone,
What we get for our kisses,
For not knowing our rocks from our minerals.
This rock has a spot in it, so smooth
It is the start of the first quarry,
That zoo of rocks, the untamed, distant rocks.
The rocks that make us nervous.

On the Scale of Hardness we're talc.
But this is not fool's gold,
Not banker's gold either,
Our love stamped on it.
If this rock could talk I know it would
be quiet. Not a stupid rock,
This one we love,
The loudest stones of history,
They are sand now.

Worksheets: Research and record the rock cycle. Make poster showing the different types of rocks and minerals and facts about them.

Craft: Rock painting with acrylic paints and seal with PVA glue so you can place them outside in the garden or for others to find.

Discovery Area: Display a tray of all different types of rocks and minerals.

Gemstones

Nature Walk: Watch a Youtube video on where gemstones are mine-ed around the world and how they are found and excavated.

Science/Hands on: Create candy geodes. Learn the names of different gemstones and match them with their picture card.

Poem: Priceless Gems by Joyce Hemsley

Included within this poem:

Gold, diamond, ruby, amber,
Sapphire, eighteen-carat,
emerald and crystal.

Through a diamond-led window
Grows a magnificent ruby rose
Towering higher than all others
And gently swaying to and fro.

Above the rose in nature's glory
Are amber tints of rarest hue...
A painting by a heavenly master
On wide backcloth of sapphire blue.

Autumn shines light 'eighteen carat',
Its lustrous radiance fills the air;
Beyond a diamond-led window
Is jewellery for the world to wear.

How splendid are the verdant emeralds
Which ate adorn October trees,
And crystal stars which soon will gather
From nature's jewellery box of dreams.

Earthly value could never be counted
In pounds or dollars, or even in gold
For these fine jewels belong to nature
'Priceless gems' from days of old.

Worksheets: Gemstone wordsearch. Do a nature journal page with illustrations and labels of different gemstones.

Craft: Gemstone collage art project using bleeding tissue paper. Gemstone geology slime.

Discovery Area: Display a tray of different gemstones. Photographs of different gemstones with labels

Fossils

Nature Walk: Take a trip to go fossil hunting along the Dorset coast; Charmouth and Lyme Regis is famously where Mary Anning some of the first large fossils ever found. The information centers there are brilliant and they also run guided fossil hunts. Or visit the dinosaur section at the Natural History Museum which contains several of Mary Anning's fossils.

Science/Hands on: Fossil sorting; using a tray of fossils see if you can organise and identify them.

Poem: Fossil by Ananta Madhavan

Measure the passing time
By sand-fall or by gears,
What measure can tell
The granulated years?

Measure the passing time
By wrinkles or by tears,
What measure can tell
The laminated years?

Measure the passing time
By mountains or by seas,
What measure can tell
The hardening arteries?

Measure the passing time
By artifact surmised,
What measure can tell
A rapture fossilised?

Worksheets: Show a step by step diagram of how fossils are created. Make a profile page on Mary Anning. Describe the difference between trace, mold, cast and true form fossils.

Craft: Make salt dough fossils or fossil imprints in playdough.

Discovery Area: Create a fossil dig sand tray where you can dig up replica fossils.

Habitats

1. Bodies of Water
2. Ponds
3. Caves
4. Woodland
5. Underground Animals
6. Fields & Hedgerows

Books

- In the Small, Small Pond. Denise Fleming
- Pond Walk. Nancy Elizabeth
- Turtle Splash. Cathryn Falwell
- Life in the Pond. Craig Hammersmith
- Over and Under the Pond. Kate Messner
- A Dark, Dark Cave. Eric Hoffman
- Because Of An Acorn.
- Welcome To the Neighbourhood
- One Small Place In A Tree
- The Busy Tree
- Forest Bright, Forest Night
- A Forest Has A Song
- Explore the Deciduous Forest. Rebecca L. Johnson
- Over in the Forest: Come and Take a Peek. Marianne Berkes
- Whose Tracks Are These? Jim Nail
- Magic School Bus Meets the Rot Squad. Joanna Cole
- Look Inside A Burrow
- Peek Inside Animal Homes (Usbourne)
- Burrows, Nests and Lairs: Animal Architects
- The Complete Brambly Hedge. Jill Barklem
- About Rodents. Cathryn Sill
- The Mouse and the Meadow
- Two Tiny Mice. Alan Baker
- Explore Rivers and Ponds.
- Song of the Water Boatman and Other Pond Poems. Joyce Sidman
- Little Critter: Just a Day at the Pond. Mercer Mayer
- Pond Circle. Betsy Franco
- Pond. Donald Silver

Bodies of Water

Nature Walk: Go on a nature walk and follow a river or stream on its journey to a lake or pond; see if the surrounding landforms and vegetation changes along its path.

Science/Hands on: See what types of life you can find in different bodies of water.

Poem: Water by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

Water
Is clearly
A mystery
To me.

A solid?
A liquid?
A gas?
It's all three.

Freeze it.
Warm it.
Boil it.
You'll see.

Water
Is clearly
A mystery
To me,

Worksheets: Make a poster showing different types of bodies of water with your own illustrations to show the difference.

Craft: Fold and print a lake scene to show the symmetry often reflected in water; paint a lake and then trees, mountains and sky above and then before it dries fold it over and lightly press so it is printed in the lake reflection.

Discovery Area: Fact cards and images on different types of land forms and bodies of water.

Ponds

Nature Walk: Take some nets and go pond dipping with a spotter sheet or book to see what pond life you can find.

Science/Hands on: bring home some pond water to look at under a magnifying glass. Compare it with tap water.

Poem: Four Ducks on a Pond by William Allingham

Four ducks on a pond,
A grass-bank beyond,
A blue sky of spring,
White clouds on the wing;
What a little thing
To remember for years-
To remember with tears!

Worksheets: Research and then write about the pond ecosystem and how it works. What types of creatures would you expect to find living in or by a pond?

Craft: Study Monet's Water Lillies painting and try and recreate your own version of it. Make tissue paper dragonflies or a pond life collage.

Discovery Area: Photographs of different ponds and the life found within it at different times during the year. Make a pond small world play tray. Have the Beatrix Potter book; The Tale of Mr Jeremy Fisher on display with printed artwork from the stories out to look at.

Caves

Nature Walk: Visit some caves and go on a guided tour; try and pick ones which contain stalagmites or stalactites to experience this natural wonder.

Science/Hands on: Create your own soda stalactites and stalagmites experiment.

Poem: The Caves Mouth by George Szirtes

The cave gapes at the sea
As it has done for years,
Hardly able to believe
Everything it hears.

Strange echoes of its own
Gargles, sighs and groans
Are stored in its dark mouth
Like tiny bones.

Tiny bones of water
Trapped inside its throat,
The cave utters a sound,
Half cry, half musical note.

Cave language is like this:
It wells up from inside
But all it has to say
Is swallowed by the tide.

Worksheets: Write about how stalactites and stalagmites develop and the difference between the two.

Craft: Look at ancient cave paintings from the cave man time and try and create your own; you could even try and make up your own natural paints made from the same materials they would have used.

Discovery Area: Information about what animals live in caves, what people around the world use caves for and photographs of different caves.

Woodland

Nature Walk: Go for a nature walk in woodland, see what different types of trees and vegetation you can see. Are there any traces of any animals or birds that live there?

Science/Hands on: Make woodland dens out of branches you can find in the woodland.

Poem: A Woodlands Charm by Jean Dament

I came upon a sacred view along my way;
While walking through the woods one day,
Such calm and beauty gave me pause
When it appeared like a dream;
While I beheld this enchanted woodland scene,
With the steady flow of water softly
Falling and emitting very little sound;
As it caressed the small rocks and fertile ground;
Where all the autumn trees seemed to
Embrace it into it's loving arms.
Adding to this woodland's charm;
While the crisp air surrounding left me
Feeling renewed once again,
Capturing all my sense for a brief
Moment in time;
And it will forever remain a sweet
Memory in my mind.

Worksheets: Write about the ecosystem within woodlands.

Craft: Make stick wands from sticks, ribbons, beads and natural materials.

Discovery Area: Set up a nature table of things you collect from the woodland.

Underground Animals

Nature Walk: Watch nature cams of burrowing animals.

Science/Hands on: Make handmade tunnels and dens out of junk cardboard and junk modeling materials.

Poem: Wombat by Lorraine Marwood

Warriors of dirt, only here, only rare
Mooching at dusk, mooching at dawn.
Rocks and fences to overcome
Burrowing at dusk, burrowing at dawn.
Bear-like, an energised machine
Digging at dusk, digging at dawn.
Grasses, bark and roots to chew
Grazing at dusk, grazing at dawn
Lonely, except for baby in pouch
Wandering at dusk, wandering at dawn.

Worksheets: Research and record what animals live underground and what their homes look like.

Craft: Create an underground burrow scene showing the tunnels, chambers and dens.

Discovery Area: Illustrated posters of burrower animals. A mud play tray with tunnels.

Fields and Hedgerows

Nature Walk: Go for a nature walk in a field with long grass during summer/beginning of autumn and sit for a bit and see what life you can spy. Can you hear crickets?

Science/Hands on: Explore hedges and see what life you can find within.

Poem: On A Lane In Spring by John Clare

A little lane, the brook runs close beside
And spangles in the sunshine while the fish glide swiftly by
And hedges leafing with the green spring tide
From out their greenery the old birds fly
And chirp and whistle in the morning sun
The pilewort glitters 'neath the pale blue sky
The little robin has its nest begun
And grass green linnets round the bushes fly
How Mild the Spring comes in; the daisy buds
Lift up their golden blossoms to the sky
How lovely are the pingles and the woods
Here a beetle runs; and there a fly
Rests on the Arum leaf in bottle green
And all the Spring in this Sweet lane is seen.

Worksheets: Write an animal profile on harvest mice. Research what ecosystems there are in hedgerows.

Craft: Sketch what flowers or weeds you saw in the fields and hedgerows during your nature walk.

Discovery Area: Photographs of different types of grasslands around the world. How does our fields and ecosystems within them compare with ones in Africa?