

Hallowe'en

Spoooooky ideas for wicked woodland adventures :D)

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Fun stuff for Kids, families and schools by the **Woodland Trust**, a charity registered
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Tree faces

As the leaves fall off our deciduous trees, their once hidden faces are easier to spot.

As you walk along, look for spooky faces peering out from the trees.

A tree may have only one eye showing as it mischievously winks at you, it may have both eyes open wide, or you may only spot the nose and mouth of a sleeping tree.

You may be able to tell how the tree is feeling – the signs are there!



Woodland spirits

There are lots of myths and legends about woodland gods, fairies, elves and spirits.

The Green Man is one of the most famous – a mythical figure often portrayed as a mask made entirely from leaves.

Have a go at creating your own woodland spirits from natural materials collected from the woodland floor.



You could:

- make a 'mud mask' in the shape of a face, mould it onto a tree trunk and decorate it with leaves and seeds
- create a giant face peering up from the woodland floor
- twist twigs and grass to make dolls
- try and make a life-size figure!

When you've finished, leave them hidden around the woods for other people to discover :O)

Torch tag

A brilliant woodland game for darker evenings :O)

One player is **IT** and has the torch. They have to guard a flag and try to stop the other players from capturing it. (**IT** can move around as much as they like, but watch out – if you leave the flag unattended for too long it might get captured!)

The rest of the players spread out and have to creep towards the flag as silently and slowly as they can, using trees and bushes for cover.

IT has to listen out for movement and try to tag the players with the torch beam before they reach the flag.

The winner is the first person to capture the flag, or the last person to be tagged if no-one reaches the flag. The winner also gets to be **IT** when the game starts again :O)



Spooky bingo

 <input type="checkbox"/> see a full moon	 <input type="checkbox"/> feel a spider web	 <input type="checkbox"/> hear an owl hooting
 <input type="checkbox"/> see a crow	 <input type="checkbox"/> hear a creaking tree	 <input type="checkbox"/> hear snapping twigs
 <input type="checkbox"/> hear rustling leaves	 <input type="checkbox"/> find a leaf skeleton	 <input type="checkbox"/> listen to silence
 <input type="checkbox"/> hear the howling wind	 <input type="checkbox"/> spot a scuttling spider	 <input type="checkbox"/> hear a screeching bat

Woodland potion

If you wander down to the woods today, you'll find heaps of ingredients perfect for a woodland potion...

Take a beaker or small bowl out on your adventure.

Add a splash of water and find a special stick for stirring.

As you explore the wood, gather bits and pieces that catch your eye
– a brightly coloured leaf, a fluffy feather,
a shiny berry, some glistening grass...

Can you find scented items to add to your potion too, like pine needles?



Make up a rhyme about each new ingredient you add, like this one:

'Next a fallen acorn goes in,
big trees grow from this tiny thing!'

When you've mashed everything up,
find a special spot to pour out your
potion and make a wish :O)

Woodland spells

What do you think makes a perfect woodland?

a handful of dazzling autumn leaves...
a dash of brightly coloured berries...
a lungful of nose-tingling, fresh pine needles...
a sprinkling of cheeky squirrels...
a spoonful of soothing silence...

Explore a wood near you and collect ideas for the best sights, sounds, smells and textures (what about tastes too?).

Mix them together and make up a spell for a magical woodland.

Write your spell down on some paper then fold it up, wrap it in an orange leaf and keep it somewhere safe.

Now can you find a woodland in real life that matches up to your ideal, magical one?

When you think you've found it, take out your spell and see if it matches all of the special ingredients in your spell – if it does you've found your perfect wood :O)

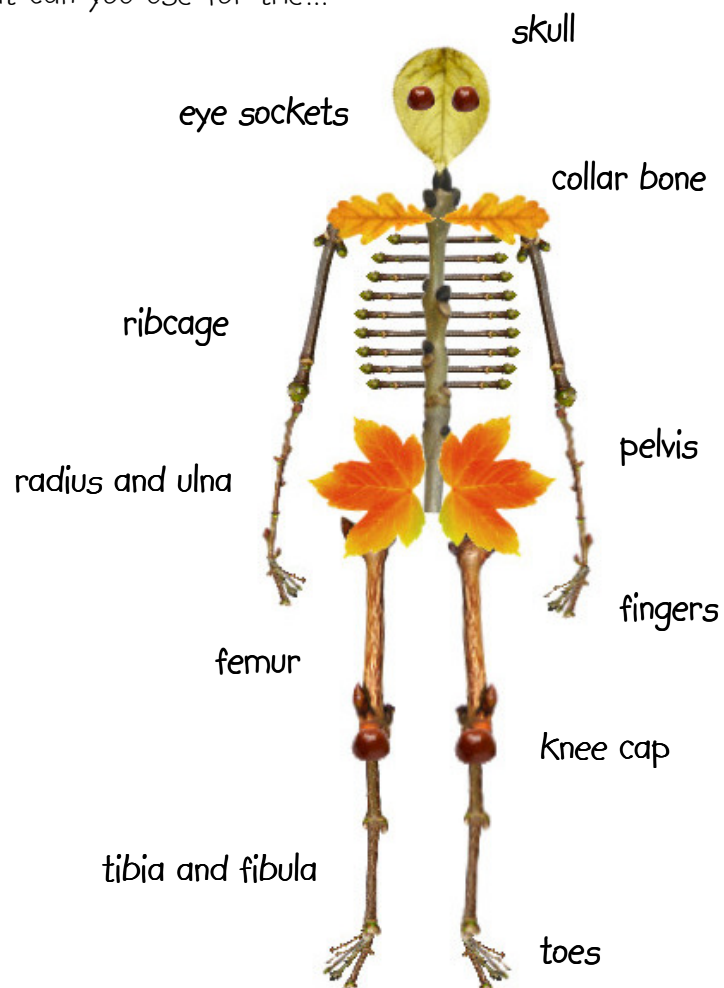


Twig skeleton

Did you know the human body has 206 bones?
Wow, that's a lot :O)

Can you recreate it on the woodland floor using fallen twigs, leaves, seeds and bits of bark like our friend Trev the skeleton here?

What can you use for the...



Spooky scavenger hunt

How many of these weird and wonderful woodland treasures can you find and collect?

Twig shaped like a **witch's hand** with long, bony fingers

Leaf **skeleton**

Fairy goblet (also known as an acorn cup :O)

Stick used for stirring potions

Fir cone nibbled by something with **razor-sharp teeth**

Fairy wings (a helicopter seed :O)

Wisp of mist

Preserved **goblin's eye ball** (also known as a conker :O)

Silky strands of a **cobweb** (not home to a spider of course!)

Leaf shaped like a bat's silhouette

Piece of bark shaped like a **witch's fingernail**

Elf's slipper (a curled up leaf :O)

Fairy knitting needles (also known as pine needles :O)

A leaf the colour of a **pumpkin**

Slender twigs from a **witch's broom**



...what other mysterious discoveries can you find?

Freeze a spider web in time

Find a spider web, making sure it's not home to a spider.

(It's a good idea to find some webs to practice this technique on too, so save your best web until you've got the hang of this :O)

Spray the web with spray paint or glitter to make it stand out

Spray a piece of card with hairspray (this will 'catch' the web and stick it in place).

Hold your card behind the spider web and gently push it through the web, carefully detaching it from its 'moorings'

The hairspray should catch the web, sticking it in place and leaving you with a fab 'frozen' spider web :O)

Try framing it, or turning into a card you can send to a friend!



Witch's broom

Every good witch needs a broom to travel around (or to play Quidditch :O)

You can make your own on a visit to the woods:

- ▲ First search for a long, straight, fairly strong twig – this will be your broomstick.
- ▲ Next, collect a bunch of smaller, slender twigs to make up the 'broom' part.
- ▲ Holding the bunch of small twigs tightly together, fasten them to one end of your 'broomstick' with string or sticky tape (make sure they are all secure or you'll be likely to lose some on your first flight!)
- ▲ Now you're ready to fly off in the moonlight, or compete in the Quidditch world cup :O)

This type of broom is known as a 'besom broom'.

Traditionally the handle is made from hazel, the head from birch twigs.

