

# Squirrels & Beavers

## Nature Explorers



45 Minute session



12 participants + Adults



Supervision ratio as per P.O.R



No qualification required

### What is this activity?

Nature Explorers is a way of getting younger children to explore and connect with the natural environment. It uses simple activities designed for children and can be run without any specialist qualifications or knowledge by adult volunteers.

### What equipment do we use?



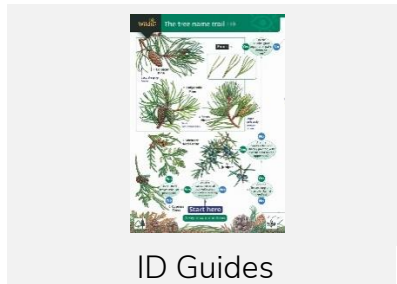
Bug Pots



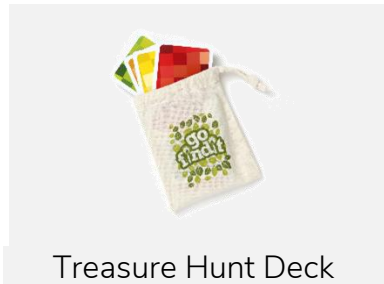
Bug Bingo Cards



Rainbow Wheels



ID Guides



Treasure Hunt Deck

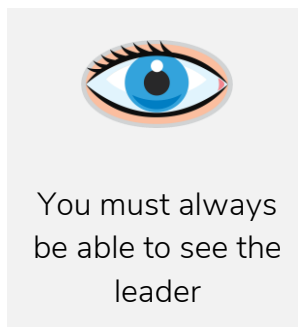


Magnifying Glasses

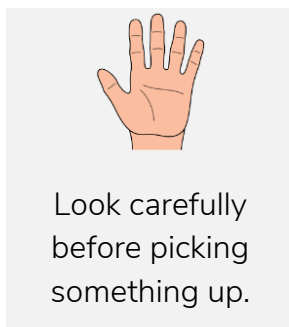
### How to run the session

This session is made up of several small activities – you don't have to play them all and you can change the timings to suit your group.

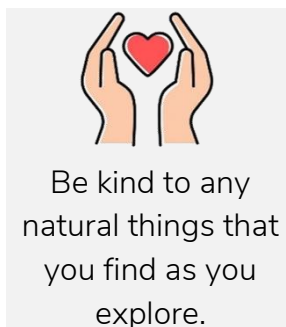
**Briefing** First give a short introductory briefing to the group (5 minutes)



You must always be able to see the leader



Look carefully before picking something up.



Be kind to any natural things that you find as you explore.



If anyone shouts "stop" you must freeze exactly where you are!

## Natural Treasure Hunt Explore the area to find natural treasures (15 minutes)



Split the group into teams of 3 with an adult. Each team will head off to solve as many of the treasure hunt items as they can. Remind them they should always be able to see their adult!



Give them a time limit to try and complete as many cards as possible. Make sure they know they can only find natural items.



We suggest giving each team 1 or 2 cards at a time – they go and find a matching treasure and either bring it back, OR the adult can confirm they found something. They then get another card and go off again.

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## Bug Bingo See who's living around here (15 minutes)



Now that you have explored the area let's see who lives here. Each team will try to find and identify different species of bugs living here. Again, you should set a time limit and they must stay with their adult.



Teams collect examples of bugs using the bug pots, being careful not to hurt them. Each bug is placed on the matching circle on the bug bingo card until they have found all the different bugs (or you call them back). Choose the bingo card that matches your terrain - woodland or grassland.



As a group look at all the bugs you've found, you can give them some bug facts from the bug cards or use the ID guides as well. Afterwards ask them to carefully take the bugs home – back to the sort of place they found them!

### Rules for bug collection

- The bingo sheets stay at the central point. Take one pot at a time to collect.
- Use the bug collectors, don't hurt the bug! ONE BUG PER POT

## Rainbow Wheels Build a beautiful colour wheel (10 minutes)



The natural world is full of lots of different colours. Split the group into 2 teams and then each a colour wheel and clothes pegs, then set them the challenge of finding something that matches every colour on the wheel.



They can find either natural items for 2 points, or manmade items (e.g. litter) for 1 point. Give them a time limit and set some clear boundaries for them to stay within (e.g. this field, or so you can always see me!)



When everyone is back you can ask people which their favourite item is and why, or talk about why different things might be different colours – e.g. most natural things are greens and browns, but bright flowers attract buzzy bees, and bright crisp packets attract hungry children!

### Rules for finding items.

- No animals or bugs this time, and only take as little as you can.
- Only pickup things which look clean – if you're not sure ask an adult