

Animals all around?

As some of the plants around us lose their leaves in autumn, it is a great season to go on an adventure to discover which animals make their homes in your neighbourhood.

Litter exploration

Don't worry, you don't need to empty out the rubbish bin! This activity is about exploring the leaves the plants have lost – the 'leaf litter'.

What you will need:

- tray or plastic container
- white paper
- trowel
- pencil and paper
- bug viewer or magnifying glass
- camera if you want to record your discoveries digitally

What you do:

- 1 Cover the bottom of your tray or plastic container with white paper and then place it onto the ground near the pile of leaves.
- 2 Using your trowel, scoop a small amount of leaf litter into the tray.
- 3 Stay still and look out for anything moving amongst the leaves. If you see anything, catch it in your bug viewer or look at it with your magnifying glass.
- 4 You can record your findings either by drawing, taking a picture, or writing down the animal's name or a description of what it looks like.
- 5 Look at as many different samples of leaf litter as you can. The more results you get the more likely you are to find something different.



Other neighbours

To discover some of the feathered friends in your neighbourhood you could find a comfortable place, sit very still and quiet, and explore through your binoculars.

If you have a pond, stream, or the ocean near you, a net will be handy to find out about your watery neighbours. We want you to stay safe, so make sure you are always with an adult when you go on an adventure near water.