

WILD WORLD HEROES

CONNECTING WITH NATURE THROUGH THE POWER OF READING

STUDENT, LIBRARY AND FAMILY RESOURCE GUIDE



WORKING TOGETHER TO
INSPIRE YOUNG
READERS TO STAND UP
FOR OUR PLANET

THE
READING
AGENCY

INTRODUCTION



The Summer Reading Challenge takes place over the summer holidays throughout the UK. Run by The Reading Agency, and delivered with the support of the UK public library network, it is the UK's biggest free reading for pleasure promotion for primary-aged children.

The Challenge reaches over 700,000 families each year, motivates children to keep reading during the summer holidays, and helps them to maintain their reading skills and confidence. Available online and through public libraries, the Challenge provides fun reading for pleasure activities for all abilities and helps to prevent the summer reading 'dip' during the long break from school.

For 2021, WWF have partnered with the Reading Agency to bring you **Wild World Heroes**, a nature-themed Summer Reading Challenge that will inspire children to engage with environmental issues.

Get ready to go on a journey with Wild World Heroes, arriving online and in libraries this summer!

wildworldheroes.org.uk

This resource, written for students, libraries and families, contains activities to encourage children to connect with the nature through the power of reading and writing and to explore the biodiversity of their local green spaces.

- **ACTIVITY 1 - WILD WALK** – explore your local nature with our spotting sheets
- **ACTIVITY 2 - WILD WORLD WRITING** – write your own wild story inspired by nature
- **ACTIVITY 3 - WILD BOOK CRAFTING** – create a book made from recycled paper
- **ACTIVITY 4 - PAPER JOURNEY** – from trees to paper mills, where does our paper come from?
- **ACTIVITY 5 - BE A WILD HERO** – learn how to make your own bee hotel and bird feeder

For each activity we've added our favourite Wild World Heroes reading recommendations, but you can read anything you like for the Summer Reading Challenge!



ACTIVITY 1:

WILD WALK!

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1. Take a nature walk through your school grounds, local park or green space and use the Wild Spotter guide on pages 4, 5, 6 and 7 or the Seek app (link to www.wwf.org.uk/discover-nature-seek-app) to identify some of the wildlife you find.
2. Note down which different types of wildlife you find and count or tally up the total.
3. Draw a bar chart or pictogram to display your results.
4. Using your results answer the following questions:
 - How many different species did you find?
 - Which species did you find most of? Do you think there's any reason for this?
 - How do you think your results would have changed if you conducted your nature walk in a different season?
 - What was the most interesting species you found and why?

WILD READING RECOMMENDATION

Nature Trail by Benjamin Zephaniah
(KS1/1st Level)

A Poem for Every Summer Day by Allie Esiri
(KS2/ 2nd Level)



SEEK APP

You can download the free Seek app by iNaturalist on a phone or tablet to unlock a whole world of nature on your doorstep! From bugs to trees and everything in between, Seek's smart image recognition technology will identify what you've found and encourage you to discover the hidden natural treasures in your local surroundings.

www.wwf.org.uk/discover-nature-seek-app

Illustration © Heath McKenzie 2021

ACTIVITY 1:

WILD SPOTTER GUIDE

TREES AND PLANTS



Illustration © Heath McKenzie 2021

OAK



BEECH



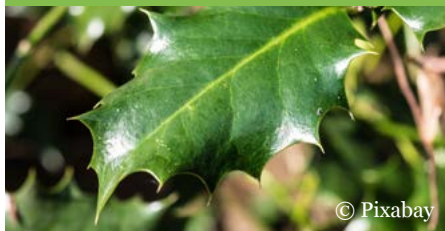
BRAMBLES



HORSE CHESTNUT



HOLLY



IVY



LAVENDER



PRIMROSE



DAISY



DANDELION



ELDERFLOWER



SYCAMORE



NETTLES



BUTTERCUP



PINE



ACTIVITY 1:

WILD SPOTTER GUIDE

MINIBEASTS

Illustration © Heath McKenzie 2021



LADYBIRD



© Pixabay

CATERPILLAR



© Pixabay

EARTHWORM



© blickwinkel / Alamy

BUMBLEBEE



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

CENTIPEDE



© Pixabay

WOODLOUSE



© Pixabay

DAMSELFLY



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SLUG



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SNAIL



© David Lawson / WWF-UK

SPIDER



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MOTH



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BUTTERFLY



© Tea Smart / WWF

HONEY BEE



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

ANT



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STAG BEETLE



© Wild Wonders of Europe / Niall Benvie / WWF

DRAGONFLY



© Mich le D praz / WWF

ACTIVITY 1:

WILD SPOTTER GUIDE

BIRDS

BLUE TIT



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

GREAT TIT



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

CHAFFINCH



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

BLACKBIRD



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MAGPIE



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

TAWNY OWL



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

WOOD PIGEON



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CROW



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HOUSE SPARROW



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STARLING



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SWALLOW



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SWIFT



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MOORHEN



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MALLARD



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SWAN



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

COOT



© Jiri Kezac / WWF-UK

CANADA GOOSE



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

ACTIVITY 1: WILD SPOTTER GUIDE

AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES AND MAMMALS

Illustrations © Heath McKenzie 2021



COMMON FROG



© David Lawson / WWF-UK

SMOOTH NEWT



© Adobe Stock

COMMON TOAD



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

BAT



© Adobe Stock

GREY SQUIRREL



© Pixabay

RED FOX



© Adobe Stock

HEDGEHOG



© Shutterstock / Coatesy / WWF

WOOD MOUSE



© Pixabay

BADGER



© Global Warming Images / WWF

RED SQUIRREL



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

ACTIVITY 2:

WILD WORLD WRITING!



Illustrations © Heath McKenzie 2021

1. Use the story planner on page 9 to develop your Wild World story. If you completed the Wild Walk activity you could include some of the wildlife you found in your story.
2. Remember to think about where your story will be set, in a leafy woodland? A rushing river? A hot, tropical rainforest? Up a freezing-cold, snow-capped mountain? Try to think of lots of interesting nature words you could use in your story.
3. Finally use your completed plan to write up your Wild World story. Make sure to include some of your Wild Hero illustrations and try to come up with an exciting title!

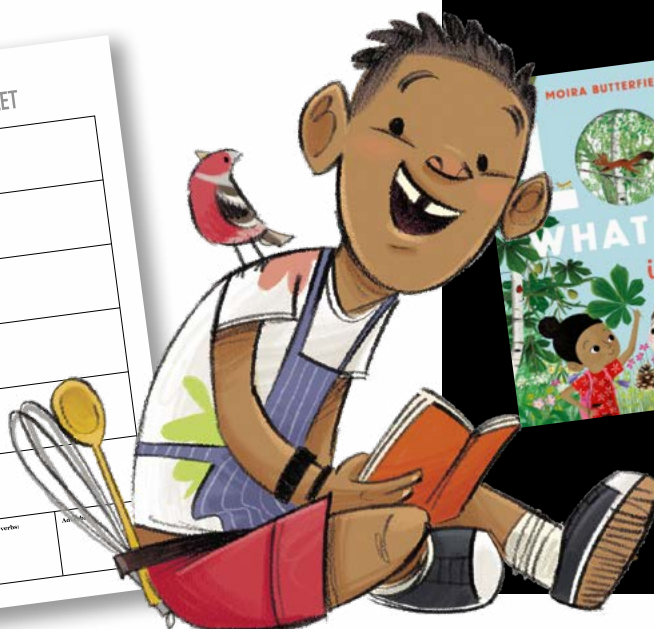
WILD READING RECOMMENDATION

Look What I found in the Woods
by Moira Butterfield (KS1/1st Level)

My Name Is River (KS2/ 2nd Level)

ACTIVITY 2: WILD WORLD STORY PLANNING SHEET

Wild Heroes (Characters) What do your Wild Heroes look like? Are they people, animals or something else altogether? What are their names? Where do they live?	
Wild World (Setting) Where is your Wild World story going to be set? What can be seen, heard, smelt, felt?	
Introduction How does your Wild World story start? Who is there? What are they doing?	
Build up What happens next? Build up to the problem.	
Problem The high point of the story, lots of excitement and action!	
Resolution How do your Wild Heroes sort out the problem? How does your story end?	
Wild words Note down some interesting nature words to use in your story.	Adjectives: Powerful verbs: Animals:



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WILD WORLD STORY PLANNING SHEET

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Wild words Note down some interesting nature words to use in your story.	Adjectives:	Powerful verbs:	Adverbs:

ACTIVITY 2:

WILD WORLD STORY PLANNING SHEET

Draw a picture of your Wild Heroes

Draw a picture of your Wild World

ACTIVITY 3:

WILD BOOK CRAFTING



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YOU WILL NEED:

- Old scrap paper
- Bowl with warm water
- Spoon to stir with
- Cornflour
- Sieve or colander
- Aluminium foil
- Some heavy books
- An adult to help!



WILD READING RECOMMENDATION

Omar, The Bees and Me by Helen Mortimer
(KS1/1st Level)

Tamarind & the Star of Ishta by Jasbinder Bilan
(KS2/ 2nd Level)

Instructions

1. Tear some old scrap paper into little strips and put them into a bowl of warm water for a few hours, stirring every now and then.
2. Add a tablespoon of cornflower to help hold the paper together. If you wanted to you could add some food colouring to colour your paper as well.
3. Put the paper mush into a sieve or colander to drain out the extra water.
4. Spread your paper pulp onto a clean surface on top of some aluminium foil.
5. Add another layer of foil on top and flatten the paper with heavy items like books.
6. Let the paper dry overnight
7. Your recycled paper is now ready to use!

If you make more than one sheet of paper you can bind this into your own book.

1. When your paper is dried use a hole punch to make two holes along one of the long sides of the paper – try to get these holes about 2cm away from the edge
2. Use some ribbon or string to bind your book together – make sure you don't pull it too tight otherwise you won't be able to open your book!
3. Once your book is finished you could use it to write up your Wild World Story! (Tip: it's best to use a pencil when writing on your recycled paper to prevent any ink running).



GOING DIGITAL

You can create your own awesome digital book using Book Creator. You can design your book layout, type up your Wild World Story and include some wild graphics and illustrations!

bookcreator.com

ACTIVITY 4:

PAPER JOURNEY



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We use paper in lots of different ways, from school exercise books, to packaging and even toilet roll! Across the world our demand for paper can cause large areas of forests to be cut down – this is called deforestation. Deforestation is destroying habitats and having devastating impacts on our forest species. To make sure we are not adding to deforestation we need to make sure we are always using paper that has the FSC tree tick logo on it. This logo means our paper has come from forests that have been managed responsibly.



Questions

- Write down three different items made from paper.
- Making paper means that we have to cut down trees. How might this affect wildlife?
- How can we try and reduce the amount of paper we waste?
- How can we make sure the paper we use comes from a **sustainable** source?



CAN YOU BE A FOREST HERO?

Be a Forest Hero and design a campaign to encourage people to think about their paper use at school and at home. You can use your campaign to encourage people not to waste any paper that could be reused, make sure waste paper is being recycled in the correct recycling bin and try to make sure that all the paper you do use at school has the FSC tick tree logo on it!

WILD READING RECOMMENDATION

Into the Wild by Robert Vescio
(KS1/1st Level)

Jungledrop by Abi Elphinstone
(KS2/ 2nd Level)



Illustrations © Heath McKenzie 2021

ACTIVITY 4:

PAPER JOURNEY

Cut out the following sentences and put them in the correct order to show how paper is made!

As tree grows
it provides
habitats for
wild creatures.

The wood pulp
is squashed and
squeezed to
remove water.

Tree is cut
down and
branches
removed.

Young tree
grows in forest.

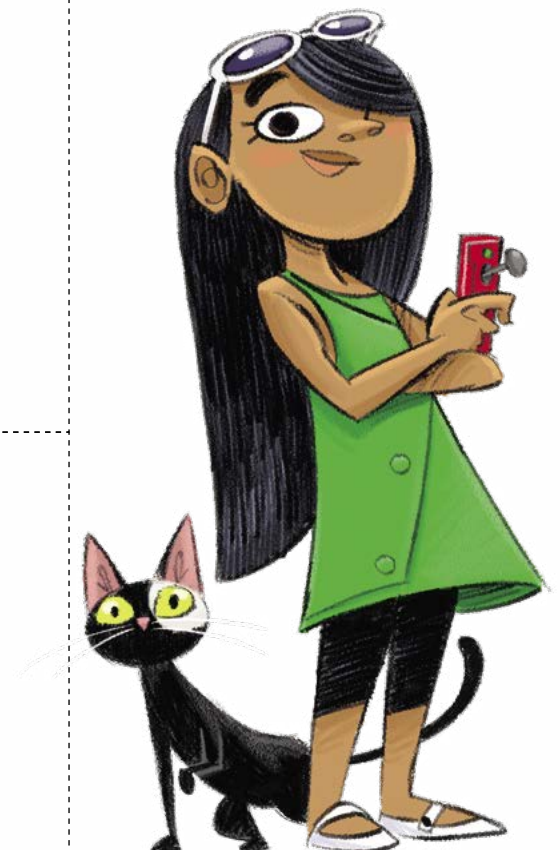
Water is added
to the wood
fibres to make
wood pulp.

Logs are taken to
the paper mill.

Seed is planted
in the ground.

Grinding stones
crush the logs into
tiny pieces called
wood fibres.

Paper is dried
and ready to use!



ACTIVITY 5:

BE A WILD HERO BUILD A BIRD FEEDER



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Providing food for birds is one of the most helpful things that you can do for our feathered friends. Why not build a bird feeder and put it up around your school or home to give your local birds a helping hand.

YOU WILL NEED:

- Plastic bottle with lid - washed
- Scissors
- String
- Twigs or pencils
- Bird seed – e.g. sunflower seeds, millet, niger seed

Instructions

1. Hold your plastic bottle upright (lid at the top) and using the scissors cut a hole (around the size of a penny), about 3 cm from the bottom. This will be the doorway of the feeder.
2. At the top of the bottle use the scissors to make two small holes, one on each side. Thread your string through the two holes – this will be used to hang up your feeder.
3. Use the scissors to pierce a small hole just under the doorway and repeat on the opposite side.
4. Poke your twig or pencil through the small holes under the doorway to create a perch for the birds.
5. Pour in your good quality bird seed into the bottle and put the lid back on
6. Your bird feeder is now ready to hang up around your school or home – just remember to keep it topped up!

SAFETY'S FIRST!

This activity involves using scissors which can be sharp. Always keep scissors away from yourself and from other people. Do not run with scissors and make sure scissors are closed when you are not using them. You should always have an adult with you to help.



Illustrations © Heath McKenzie 2021

ACTIVITY 5:

BE A WILD HERO BUILD A BUG HOTEL

Leaves, straw, bamboo, twigs and old pots... these are the things that bugs, bees and spiders absolutely love! Why not help to look after these amazing creatures by building them their very own bug hotel around your school or home?

YOU WILL NEED:

- Bricks
- Pallets or strips of wood
- For the filling, any of the following: egg boxes, ceramic plant pots, plastic containers, plastic drain-pipe, bits of old wood, logs drilled with different sized holes, leaves, twigs, pinecones, straw, stones, old bamboo canes.

Illustration © Heath McKenzie 2021

SAFETY'S FIRST!

This activity involves moving heavy objects. Make sure to move heavy objects very carefully and close to the ground so that you don't drop them on your, or other people's, fingers and toes. If objects are too heavy for you, make sure to ask an adult to lift them for you. If using wood in your bug hotel, wear gloves to avoid splinters. Make sure to keep your hands away from your mouth and wash your hands after you've finished making your bug hotel.

Instructions

1. Find a level place for your bug hotel – lots of minibeasts like to live in cool and damp conditions so near a shady hedge, wall or tree is a good spot!
2. Use your pallets or your bricks and wood to create a layered tower structure with spaces in between each layer.
3. Fill the spaces with your different materials. You can use different materials to create smaller habitats for different bugs for example you can use straw which is good for small invertebrates to burrow in and have a safe environment to hibernate, or you could fill a length of drain-pipe with bamboo canes to create a wonderful habitat for bees.
4. Once most of the spaces are filled in you can use loose leaves, bark and pine cones to fill in some of the smaller gaps.
5. Carry on until you have made your hotel as high as you want, then cover with something waterproof e.g. bricks or roofing tiles to give your bug hotel a waterproof roof.
6. Once your bug hotel is finished, you could plant some wildflowers around it. They'll not only look beautiful, but will provide food for bees, butterflies and other flying insects that will be attracted to your habitat.



WILD READING RECOMMENDATION

The Extraordinary Gardener by Sam Boughton
(KS1/1st Level)

Guardians of Our Planet by Clive Gifford
(KS2/ 2nd Level)



Summer Reading Challenge: <https://wildworldheroes.org.uk>

WWF School Resources: <https://www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools>



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