

WILD WORLD HEROES



**WINTER
MINI CHALLENGE**



**CONNECTING WITH NATURE THROUGH
THE POWER OF READING**
TEACHER, FAMILY & LIBRARY RESOURCE GUIDE



	WORKING TOGETHER TO INSPIRE YOUNG READERS TO STAND UP FOR OUR PLANET	THE READING AGENCY
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INTRODUCTION



The Winter Mini Challenge takes place over the winter school holidays throughout the UK. Run by the Reading Agency, the challenge encourages children to keep up their reading whilst they are away from school.

Available through a free, digital platform the Winter Mini Challenge provides fun reading for pleasure activities for all abilities as well as rewards and prizes for children who continue their reading outside the classroom.

Following the success of the Summer Reading Challenge in 2021, WWF have once again teamed up with the Reading Agency to continue the **Wild World Heroes** theme. This time the Wild World Hero characters will be going on an Arctic expedition to explore and celebrate our natural world, inspiring children to engage with environmental issues and take action to protect nature.

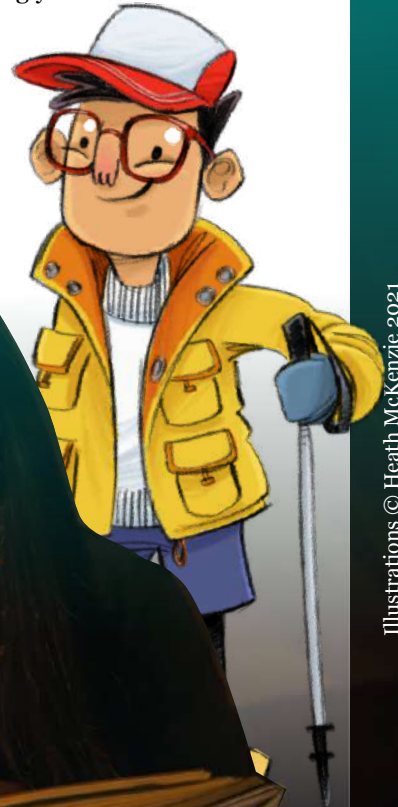
Get ready to go on an expedition with Wild World Heroes, arriving online this winter!

www.wintermini.org.uk

This resource, written for students 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 winter wildlife 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 - WILD BOOK REVIEW** – review a book you've read as part of the Winter Mini Challenge
- **ACTIVITY 5 - BE A WILD HERO** – learn how to make your own bug hotel and bird feeder to help out winter visitors.

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



ACTIVITY 1:

WILD WALK!



1. Take a nature walk through your school grounds, local park or green space and use the Wild Spotter guide on pages 4, 5 and 6 or the Seek app (link to www.wwf.org.uk/discover-nature-seek-app) to identify some of the winter 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?

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

WILD READING RECOMMENDATION

You're Snug With Me by Chitra Soundar
(KS1/ 1st Level)

A Poem For Every Winter Day by Allie Esiri
(KS2/ 2nd Level)



ACTIVITY 1: WILD SPOTTER GUIDE

Illustration © Heath McKenzie 2021

PLANTS AND FUNGI



HOLLY



IVY



MISTLETOE



SNOWDROP



PINECONE



YEW



ROWAN TREE



BRACKET FUNGUS



MUSHROOM



SILVER BIRCH



TREE WITH NO LEAVES



MOSS



LICHEN



ACTIVITY 1:

WILD SPOTTER GUIDE

MINIBEASTS AND WINTER WONDERS



Illustration © Heath McKenzie 2021

EARTHWORM



WOODLOUSE



CENTIPEDE



SPIDER



SNAIL



SLUG



FROST ON LEAVES



FROSTED SPIDER WEB



SNOW



FROZEN PUDDLE



ICICLE



ANIMAL FOOTPRINTS IN SNOW



ACTIVITY 1:

WILD SPOTTER GUIDE

BIRDS AND MAMMALS



ROBIN



© Pixabay

BLACKBIRD



© Germund Sellgren / WWF-Sweden

BLUE TIT



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

GREAT TIT



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

SONG THRUSH



© Pixabay

HOUSE SPARROW



© Adobe Stock

STARLING



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

GOLDFINCH



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MOORHEN



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COOT



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CANADA GOOSE



© Ola Jennersten / WWF-Sweden

SWAN



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MALLARD



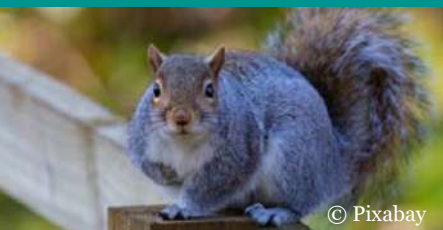
© Global Warming Images / WWF

WOOD PIGEON



© Pixabay

GREY SQUIRREL



© Pixabay

RED SQUIRREL



FOX



© Adobe Stock

ACTIVITY 2:

WILD WORLD WRITING!



Illustrations © Heath McKenzie 2021

1. Use the story planner on page 8 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 frosty woodland? A rushing river? 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!

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 Context What's your Wild World story going to be set in? What will be the main land, water, sky?	
Introduction How does your Wild World story start? Why is there? What are they doing?	
Build up What happens next? What's up to the problem?	
Problem The high point of the story. Lots of excitement and action!	
Solution How do your Wild Heroes get out the problem? How does your story end?	
Wild words Note down some interesting nature words to use in your story.	Adjectives: _____ Powerful verbs: _____ Adverbs: _____



WILD READING RECOMMENDATION

Frostheart by Jamie Little (KS2/2nd Level)

Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone (KS2/2nd Level)



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ACTIVITY 2:

WILD WORLD STORY PLANNING SHEET

Wild World (setting) Where is your Wild World story going to be set? What can be seen, heard, smelt, felt?			
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?			
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!			
Solution 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:	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



© Adobe Stock

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!



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!



WILD READING RECOMMENDATION

Little People, Big Dreams: Greta Thunberg by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara (KS1/1st Level)

Climate Action by Georgina Stevens (KS2/ 2nd Level)

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 or ball point pen 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](https://www.bookcreator.com)

ACTIVITY 3:

WILD WORLD HEROES BOOK REVIEW

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Fiction or non-fiction? _____

What was the book about?

What was your favourite part of the book?

Rating:



Draw a key part of the book
(your favourite character, setting,
best fact, best page)

**Has this book inspired you to do
anything to protect our planet?**

ACTIVITY 5:

BE A WILD HERO BUILD A BIRD FEEDER



© Adobe Stock

Providing food for birds is one of the most helpful things that you can do for our feathered friends over the winter. Why not build a bird feeder and put it up around your school or community 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.



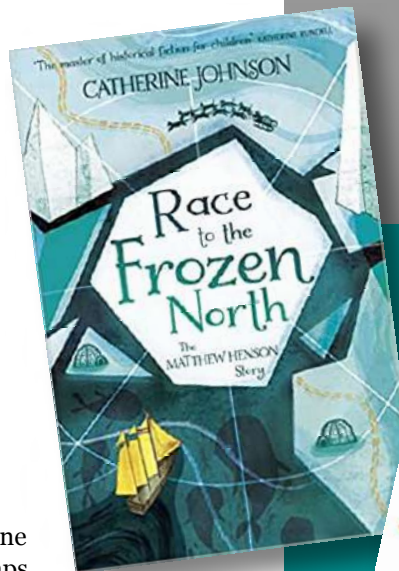
ACTIVITY 5:

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 over the winter months by building them their very own bug hotel around your school?

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.



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.

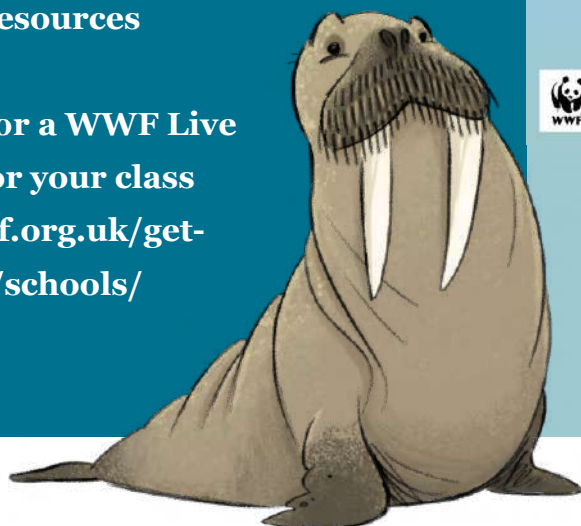
WILD READING RECOMMENDATION

Snowflakes by Cerrie Burnell (KS1/1st Level)

Race to the Frozen North by Catherine Johnson (KS2/ 2nd Level)

OTHER RESOURCES

- Sign up to our Teacher Newsletter
www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools#register
- Download our Introduction to Climate Change resources
www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/resources/climate-change-resources
- Sign up for a WWF Live Lesson for your class
www.wwf.org.uk/get-involved/schools/calendar



WALRUS FROM SPACE BECOME A WALRUS DETECTIVE



British Antarctic Survey
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

WWF and British Antarctic Survey (BAS) are working together to understand the impacts of climate change on Walrus.

Walrus are under threat from a warming climate.
Now you can help. Become a Walrus Detective!
www.wwf.org.uk/learn/walrus-from-space



Winter Mini Challenge: <https://wintermini.org.uk>

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



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