

The Great Animal Food Hunt

RHS GARDEN HARLOW CARR

*Suitable for Primary aged
children with adult support*

Explore the garden to find the 8 stations in any order you like! Question 5 requires A5 paper and wax crayon for each child. You may wish to pick up a larger map from the Entrance.

Remember to wash your hands at the end!



1 Rabbit Poo

Rabbits come to this field to eat. What do you think that they like to eat? Look along the hedgerow and see if you can find any of their droppings.

Activity

Use a stick to poke at a rabbit poo and see if you can see any traces of its food. Did you know that rabbits make 2 types of poo: one that is hard and sticky and another that is dry and soft. Rabbits eat their dry and soft poo! Yum Yum.



2 Acorns

While you are near the hedge have a look on the ground to see if you can find any old acorns.

Activity

Look very carefully and you may see a small hole about 1mm across. This is where a tiny creature lived inside the acorn, ate the seed and then escaped through a little hole.



3 Kitchen Garden

This is where we grow lots of food for people to eat, but unfortunately lots of other creatures like to eat the plants too as they are tender and tasty. We sometimes call these creatures pests.

Activity

Look for nibbled leaves. You may find slug and snail trails. If you find a pest, carefully move it somewhere else to live away from the kitchen garden.



4 Dead standing trees

Look carefully at the dead tree where some of the bark has been removed. You should be able to see some patterns in the wood. This is where a beetle lived between the bark and the wood and ate the wood away.

Activity

Use a crayon and a piece of paper to make a rubbing of the beetle tracks.



5 Minibeast food

All sorts of creature love to live right under your feet in the woods, but what do they like to eat?

Activity

Find four sticks about 10 cm long and lay them on a leafy area in a square. Lie down on your belly so that you can look closely. Now gently lift the leaves in your square up one at a time and look carefully for tiny minibeasts. Some will be smaller than the head of a pin! What do you think that they are eating?

When you have finished make sure that you put the leaves back so that you leave no trace.

6 A plant that defends itself

This amazing yew tree is not food for animals as every part of the plant is toxic (poisonous). The yew is so poisonous that you can become ill from just sanding its wood!

Activity

Have a look at the amazing trunk of the yew. Can you imagine mini people living in the twists and turns?



7 Plants that need help

These newly planted trees are wearing a special guard around the bottom of their trunk. This is to stop voles, mice and rabbits from nibbling at the bark around the base of the tree. If they were to eat all the way round the trunk, the tree would die.

Activity

How many tree guards can you spot around Harlow Carr?



8 A little bit of extra help

The birds that live in the woodland love to eat insects and worms, but at some times of year it is harder to find them. That's when we can all help them by giving them some extra food.



robin



blackbird



blue tit

Activity

Can you spot these birds at the feeders?