



Discoveries in the Dark



Discoveries in the Dark Challenge Sheet

There are lots of nature based activities which can be enjoyed as the clocks change and the evenings suddenly become much darker. This Challenge Sheet contains some ideas which can be enjoyed indoors and out, by individuals working alone, or in groups as a six, patrol or Unit.

The badge which accompanies this Challenge Sheet can be added as a body segment to your Rustle, Bustle & Squeak Caterpillar. It is earned by completing one of the activities listed below and is available to buy from the Region's online shop.



Activity

Meet the Moths

Peg a white sheet on a washing line or over the branch of a tree and turn off any nearby lights.

Shine a torch or single light on the sheet and wait;

or

Shine a torch on a patch of nettles, ivy, or some waste ground where weeds grow.

You will disturb moths who like those particular foodstuffs;

or

Leave an outside light on and see what gathers.

There are over 2,500 different types of moths in the UK. How many can you identify?





Activity

Go on a Night Walk

- How many different natural sounds can you hear? A Tawny Owl call is the most common. Did you know it is a male/female duet - one goes 'keewick' and the other replies 'too-hoo'?
- Look for bats flying around street lights, or in parks and over water.
- If you are near a stream, river or pond, shine a torch into the water. There may be a newt peering back at you!



Activity

Go Batty

There are all sorts of crafts on the internet involving bat templates - just type "bat crafts" into your search engine.



Activity

Make a Bug Pitfall

- Dig a hole in the ground with a trowel. Stand an old yoghurt pot or tub in the bottom of the hole and fill the gaps around the outside with soil.
- Put a bit of cheese or some fruit in the bottom of the tub. To stop rain getting in, cover the tub with a bit of wood propped up with stones or twigs.
- Leave for as long as possible and inspect your trap regularly for minibeasts.
- Don't forget to clear everything away after you have finished with it!



Activity

Shining Like Stars

On your night walks and expeditions, the sky will hopefully be clear and you will see some of the constellations and phases of the moon. Use different craft techniques and some black, silver and gold paper to illustrate what you have seen.



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