

Why do squirrels hide their nuts?



The screenshot shows the project overview page for 'Why do squirrels hide their nuts?'. It features a large image of a squirrel, the title, and a brief description: 'Imaginative Learning Project for Reception children'. Below this are sections for 'Possible lines of enquiry include:' (e.g., seasonal change in the natural world, hibernation and migration, autumn foods, woodland animals, seasonal celebrations and festivals) and 'National Curriculum objectives' (e.g., English: Reading, Writing, Maths, Science, PSED, KS1, KS2). There are also icons for Communication, Problem Solving, and Creativity.



Into the woods we go! Why do squirrels hide their nuts? Why do hedgehogs hibernate? It's time to explore the seasonal changes in the natural world during autumn and winter.

This half term, we'll visit a local woodland to observe and experience the enchanting autumnal environment, collecting autumn treasures as we crunch through piles of fallen leaves. Back in the classroom, we'll sort our treasures into different categories, create land art, and dry and flatten leaves to decorate. We'll learn about woodland animals and migration through movement and discuss the features that allow animals to survive through winter. In our literacy lessons, we'll snuggle up and listen to autumnal stories and write woodland tales. In mathematics, we'll thread and count conkers and dried fruit and collect and order sticks of different lengths. We'll roll up our sleeves to make a clay owl or hedgehog, autumn-scented play dough, a delicious harvest soup and 'squirrel muffins' for our forest friends. Outside once more, we'll observe food as it decays over time and go on a hedgerow hunt for blackberries. How will they smell and feel?

At the end of the project, we'll invite you to sharing time, where we'll show you what we've learned about woodland animals. Then we'll talk about the changes that occur as autumn changes into winter. Can we relate them to our memories and experiences?

Language, literacy and communication skills	Oracy; Reading; Writing
Mathematical development	Developing numerical reasoning; Using number skills; Using measuring skills; Using data skills
Personal and social development, well-being and cultural diversity	Personal development; Social development; Well-being
Knowledge and understanding of the world	Places and people; Time and people; Myself and other living things
Physical development	Personal; Adventurous and physical play; Health, fitness and safety
Creative development	Art, craft and design; Music

Help your child prepare for their project

Woodlands are wonderful! Why not explore a local woodland together to build a fairy house using twigs, leaves, nuts and berries? You could also cook some fabulous autumnal recipes such as pumpkin soup or toffee apple cakes. Alternatively, set up a mud kitchen in your garden. What ingredients from the garden can you mix together to create an autumn potion?