

ACTIVITY: Gathering information in the woods, making a woodland map for an animal.

OUTCOMES: Understanding the woodland habitat, observational skills looking at scale, mapping and illustration skills, using your imagination.

KIT: Sketchbook, pencils, camera, map (Google map / OS map), string.

HOW WOULD A BIRD ENCOUNTER THE WOODLAND, COMPARED TO AN ANT, OR A DEER?

MAKE A WOODLAND MAP FOR AN ANIMAL

GATHER INFORMATION

- 1 Think of the 3 layers of woodland life: the forest floor, the sub-canopy layer (lower trees and shrubs) and the canopy (taller trees). *What plants and animals live in each layer? How do they move around? What do they eat?* Make notes in your sketchbook.
- 2 Look for evidence of animals' activities: tracks, nests, holes, webs, half eaten nuts are good places to start. Look for deer paths as they can be hidden deep in the woods and not used by humans. **PS: Don't get lost down one!**

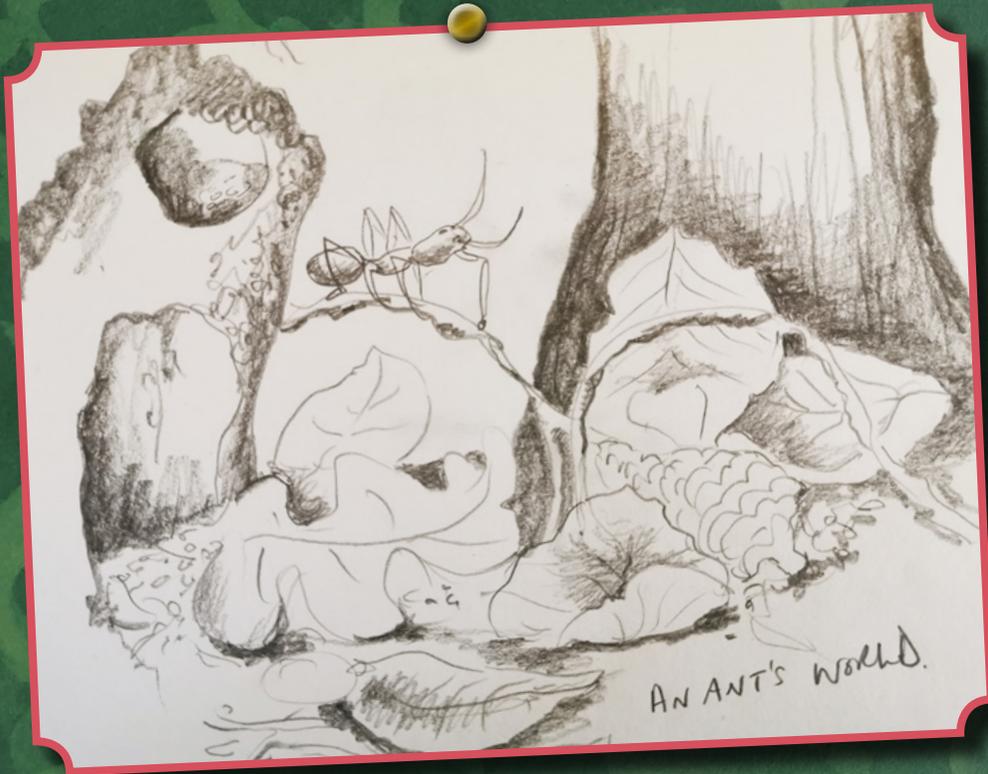


- WOODLAND ACTIVITIES -



- 3 Decide which animal you want to make a map for; a **bird**, **fox**, a fast moving animal like a **squirrel**, or a small animal such as **mouse**, an **ant**, **spider** or **woodlouse**. Sketch and take photographs of their environments in the woods. If you chose an insect you might use string and sticks to fence off a small area of the forest floor and make a sketch of this.
- 4 If helpful, gather a small amount of materials, i.e. dead leaves and sticks. You can take these home to draw.

- WOODLAND ACTIVITIES -

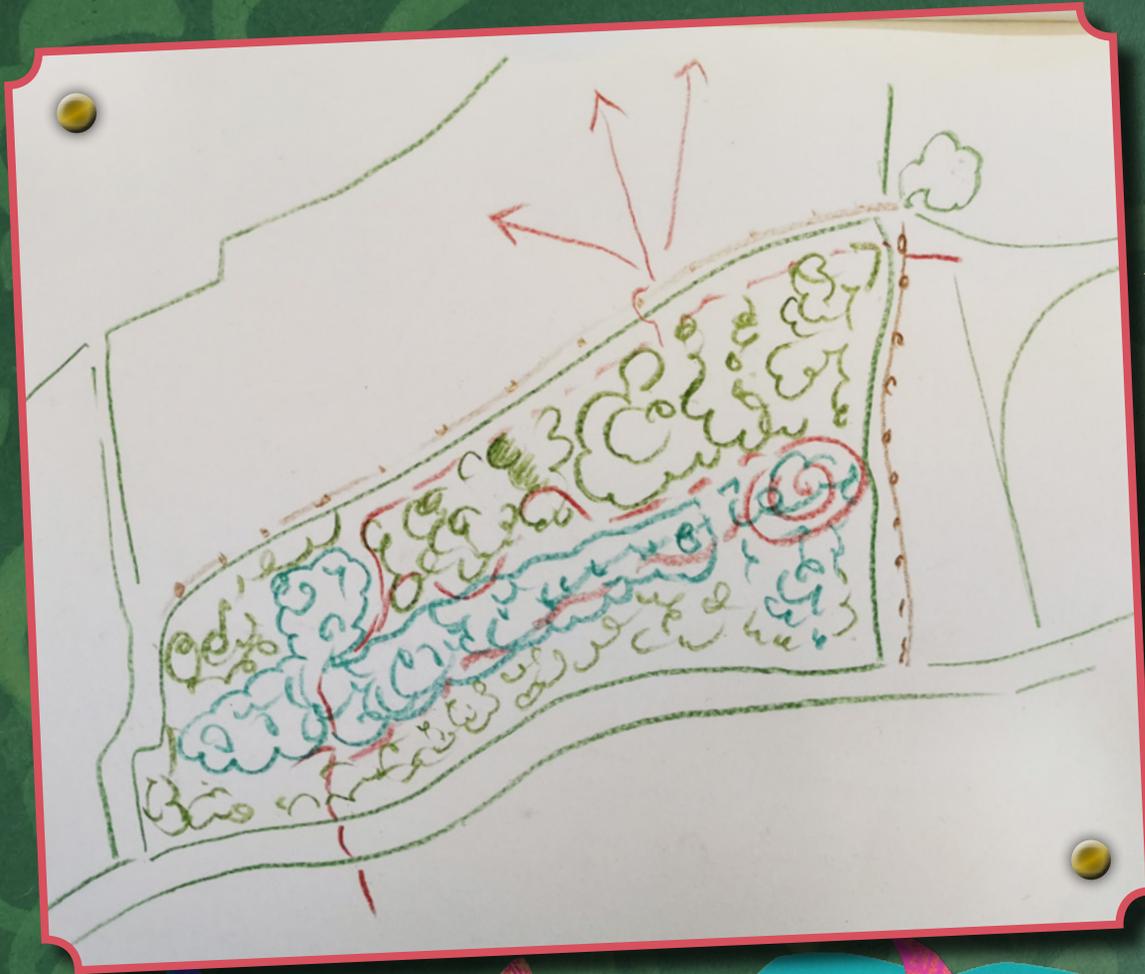


A quick sketch of an Ant's World, showing walking routes, places to hide, and so on.

- 5 If you have chosen an insect choose a small section of the woods, a tree or a stump. Dead leaves or rotten wood might make up your home.



- WOODLAND ACTIVITIES -



- 6 Draw an outline of your chosen space. If you are a bird get an idea of a bird's eye view by looking at a Google satellite image. Copy the shape of the woods as a start to your map, like this:
- 7 In your sketchbook draw an outline of your chosen area and plot in some landmarks: a shelter, pathways, a safe place for youngsters, places where you hunt and eat.
- 8 Draw in the woodland environment, include flowers, special trees and landmarks. Maybe something special happens in these places involving your animal. Let your imagination run wild.

