

# Scouting at Home



Suitable for: Joeys, Cubs  
Time needed: 60 minutes



Creative  
Challenge Area

## Go nature spotting

Monitor levels of local wildlife in your neighbourhood.



**Shhhh!**  
When you're looking for wildlife, be as quiet as possible so you don't scare it away. And don't disturb any animals or birds' nests that you might spot.

People benefit from spending time in nature and witnessing wildlife in its natural habitat. To find out what species are present in your local area, monitor the animals you see by spending an hour in your local park or public green space, or on a walk.

### You will need

- Pens
- Paper
- Camera
- Magnifying glass and/or binoculars
- Bird and animal ID guides, which can be found online

### Instructions

**1** You are going to become a nature-spotter by monitoring what animals you see in nature over a three-month period.

**2** Plan an outing or a walk to a park or nearby green space that you can easily visit again at least once a month for the next three months.

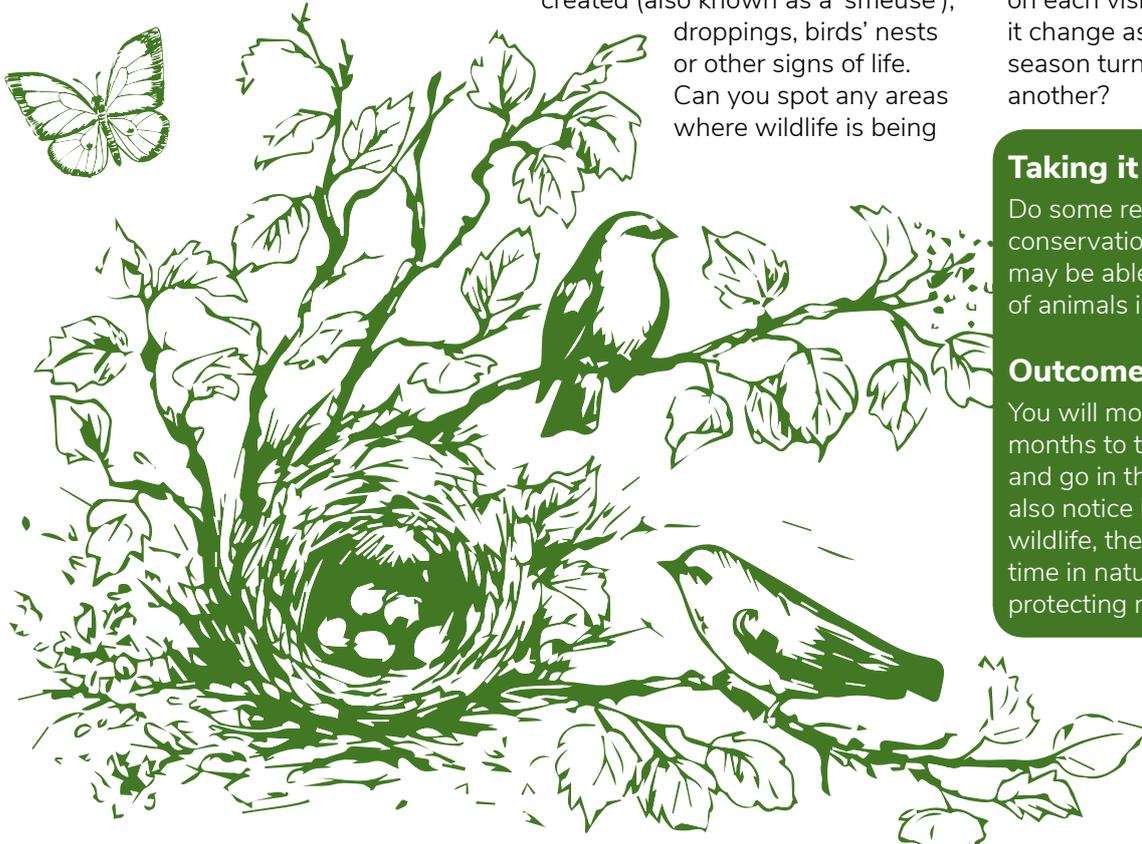
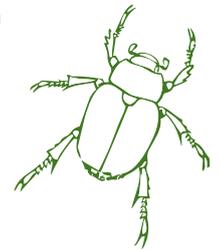
**3** On the outing, be aware of what wildlife you see, such as birds in the trees or on the ground, butterflies or other insects on plants, or ducks on the pond. How are people interacting with nature? They might be feeding the ducks, or birdwatching. You could even see what animals come out at different times of the day, try going out at dusk to see if you can spot any possums or bats.

**4** See if you can find any signs of where animals might have been, like tracks, burrows, small holes in hedges that animals have created (also known as a 'smeuse'), droppings, birds' nests or other signs of life. Can you spot any areas where wildlife is being

helped, like wildflowers that have been left to grow to provide habitats for insects and small mammals?

**5** Record what you see by making drawings, taking photos, making audio recordings and writing descriptions. Write down the time and date too.

**6** Return once a month or more to the same place and record what you see. This will help you keep track of different things you spot at different times, or in larger or smaller numbers. At the end of three months, you can compare with the rest of the Group what you have seen on each visit. Did it change as one season turned into another?



### Taking it further

Do some research into local conservation organisations, you may be able to help study sightings of animals in the area.

### Outcomes

You will monitor wildlife for three months to track what animals come and go in their local area. You will also notice how people interact with wildlife, the benefits of spending time in nature and the importance of protecting natural habitats.