

PS7 - Ecology ELG - 3 - 5



What is the main task of this puzzle?

Which animal will catch the mouse? Guide the cat and the dog around the maze and find out which one can reach the mouse.

Cats and dogs are domesticated animals but they still show some 'wild' behaviour, such as hunting. There are many different types of pet cats and dogs but there are still both wild cats and wild dogs. Species of wild dogs include foxes, wolves and jackals. Species of wild cats include tigers, lions, jaguars and leopards.

What are the other topics or tasks in the puzzle?

- Look at the animals in the window of the house which one might be a pet? Where do the others belong? What would you have to do to look after one of the other animals; where would they sleep and what would they eat?

The bird could be the pet.

A bat might well be found in the building. Bats roost in lofts, under bridges, in caves and in hollow trees. It is illegal to remove a bat colony if you have one in your house. But instead of causing any damage bats can help by eating insects: there are 17 different species of bats in the UK and all of them only eat insects.

The deer in the puzzle is a fallow deer - you can tell by the shape of the antlers which are called palmate - shaped a bit like a hand - it is the only deer in the UK which has these shape of antlers. You can see these type of deer in England and Wales and a few are found in Scotland, generally in woodland. Deer mainly graze on grass and new shoots from plants.

There are two types of squirrel in the UK, red squirrels and grey squirrels. Red squirrels are our native species and they have been pushed out by the introduction of grey squirrels and because their habitat is being destroyed. Now red squirrels are mostly found in Scotland and the north of England. Grey squirrels are larger and better at finding food and holding on to territory and they can be found pretty much everywhere. Squirrels build spherical nests and eat nuts, acorns, fungi, eggs, bark and flowers.

- In the picture which animals can fly? Can you find the two insects? Apart from the bird in the window can you find another bird?
- There are three butterflies, two are the same but one is different, which one is different?
- Which animal in the picture might be an unwanted pest in the garden? Which animals are wanted in the garden?

Moles are considered an unwanted guest in most gardens. Moles live in burrows and where they dig up to the surface they make mole hills which can kill areas of grass. However, they can benefit the garden by making the soil looser, making it easier for plants to grow.

Both bees and butterflies are beneficial in a garden because they help pollinate plants, but caterpillars (the precursor to butterflies) can be damaging by eating plants.

Where does it fit in the curriculum?

England

Look closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change.

Observe, find out about and identify features in the place they live and the natural world.

Find out about their environment, and talk about those features they like and dislike.

Wales

Begin to understand about different places such as the countryside and the town.

Begin to appreciate the importance of the environment.

Scotland

Care for living things, for example plants, pets at home.

Northern Ireland

Understand the need to respect and care for themselves, other people, plants, animals and the environment.

Be aware of the local natural and built environment and their place in it.

Further information and links.

Butterflies:

Butterfly Conservation. Information on butterflies and their habitat: <http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/index.php>

Information on the butterflies found at the London Butterfly House: <http://www.londonbutterflyhouse.com/>

Some information on UK moths in Back Garden Moths: <http://www.back-garden-moths.co.uk/>

Facts about dragonflies from the Young Peoples Trust for the Environment: http://www.yptenc.org.uk/docs/factsheets/animal_facts/dragon_flies.html

Squirrels:

For lots of information about squirrels have a look at this webpage: <http://www.wildlondon.org.uk/resourcefiles/20040625132643Squirrels.doc>

The grey squirrel: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/wildfacts/factfiles/190.shtml>

Bees:

Facts about Bees on the BBC: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/wildfacts/factfiles/425.shtml>

All about honey on the British Beekeepers association webpage: <http://www.bbka.org.uk/faq3.php>

How do bees make honey? <http://science.howstuffworks.com/question300.htm>

For more information on how bees see the world look here: <http://gears.tucson.ars.ag.gov/ic/vision/bee-vision.html>

Bats:

The Bat Conservation Trust - includes a live bat-cam and bat kids: <http://www.bats.org.uk/>

Bats of Britain - lots of photos of the different types: <http://www.bio.bris.ac.uk/research/bats/britishbats/>

Deer:

The British Deer Society: <http://www.bds.org.uk/>

BBC wildlife facts - Fallow Deer: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/wildfacts/factfiles/276.shtml>

