

2024 Edition

Blair's nature quest



#BlairsNatureQuest

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Welcome to Blair's nature quest!

Blair the badger loves having fun with his friends at the Blair Activity Centre and wants all of you to have outdoor adventures too.

He has been hard at work and has created Blair's nature quest for you and your unit to try the activities, have fun, and gain badges along the way!

There are different levels of badges to be achieved depending on how many activities you complete, and new packs will be released seasonally over the next couple of years.

You can also adapt the activities to your local area, your unit and the abilities of your girls.

Grab your backpack and head on a quest into nature!



Bronze award

Complete 6 activities in the Nature Quest pack

Coming soon!

- More activities!
- Silver Award!

Further information

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Activity Keys



Season key: will show the best season to complete the activity in.



Section key: Shows which section that activity is suitable for.

Safety and environmental notes

- Dress for the weather and the activity you are doing.
- Always follow safety instructions, especially when you are in an unfamiliar place like a farm.
- Remember to do a risk assessment.
- Make sure you are not harming or disturbing any plants, insects or wildlife, or damaging their homes.
- Always take allergies into consideration when planning an activity.

Bird Banquet

Create an amazing feast for your feathered friends using at least 2 recipes.

Bird Bonbons

Seasons:



Sections:



Resources

- Pine or fir cones (dried out so they don't open)
- Bird seed
- Raisins
- Peanuts
- Grated cheese
- Suet or lard
- A mixing bowl
- Scissors
- String or wool

1. Let the lard warm up to room temperature, but do not melt. Cut it into small pieces and put in the mixing bowl.
2. Add the remaining ingredients into the bowl and mix them together with your hands until the lard hardens.
3. Gather your cones together and loop the string around the top of them.
4. Coat the cones in the bird mixture with your hands, creating a ball shape.
5. Place the cones in the fridge to set until firm.



Kube Kebabs

Seasons:



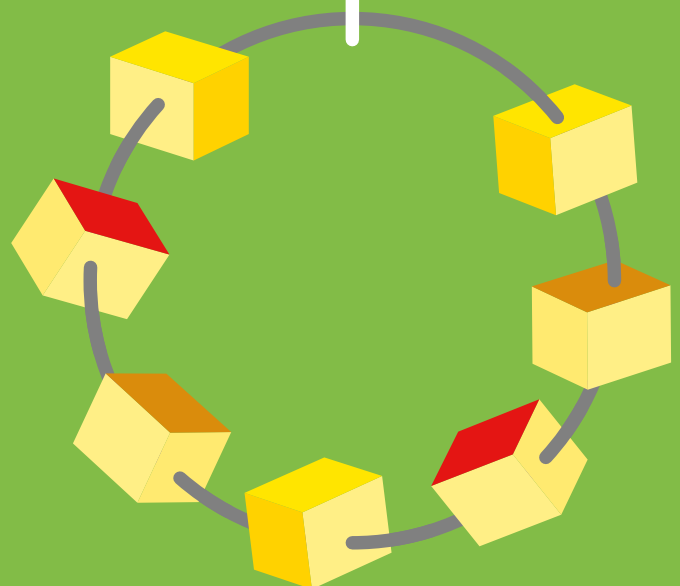
Sections:

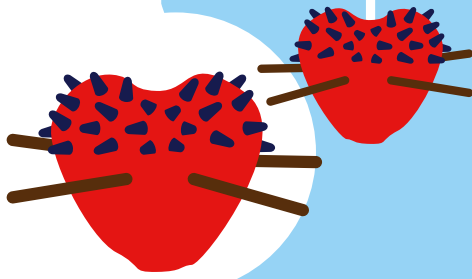


Resources

- Apples
- Hard cheese
- Bread
- Floral wire
- Scissors
- Knife

1. Carefully cut the apples, bread and cheese into cube sized pieces (around 3cm cubed).
2. Carefully thread each cube with the floral wire, making sure to leave a gap of 8cm at each end, once complete fold the ends into small hooks.
3. Bend the wire to form a circle and hook the ends together, then tie a loop of string to the wire so it can be hung up.





Bobbin' for Apples

Seasons:



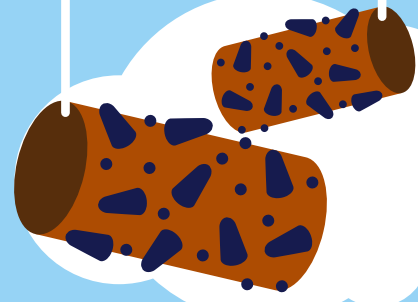
Sections:



Resources

- An apple
- Three thin sticks
- A corer
- String or wool
- Sunflower seeds

1. Carefully remove the core from apple with a corer (**Younger members will need an adult to help with this**).
2. To create the perches, carefully push the sticks to each side of the apple near the bottom. Tie the string to one of the sticks and push through the cored centre of the apple so it can be hung up.
3. Push the sunflowers into the top half of the apple.



Seed on the Cob

Seasons:



Sections:



Resources

- Cardboard tube
- Birdseed
- Peanut butter (no added salt/sugar)
- String or wool
- Baking tray

1. Cover the cardboard tube with peanut butter, making sure to cover the full surface.
2. Pour the birdseed onto the baking tray, carefully roll the tube into the bird seed mixture to coat all the sides.
3. Tie a string through the hole for the tube to be hung up.

**Scrumptious!
Your bird friends
are going to
love these!**



Compost Detectives

Create a natural compost heap or a ready-made compost heap and keep a record once a week for six weeks to see what changes happen.

Seasons:



Sections:



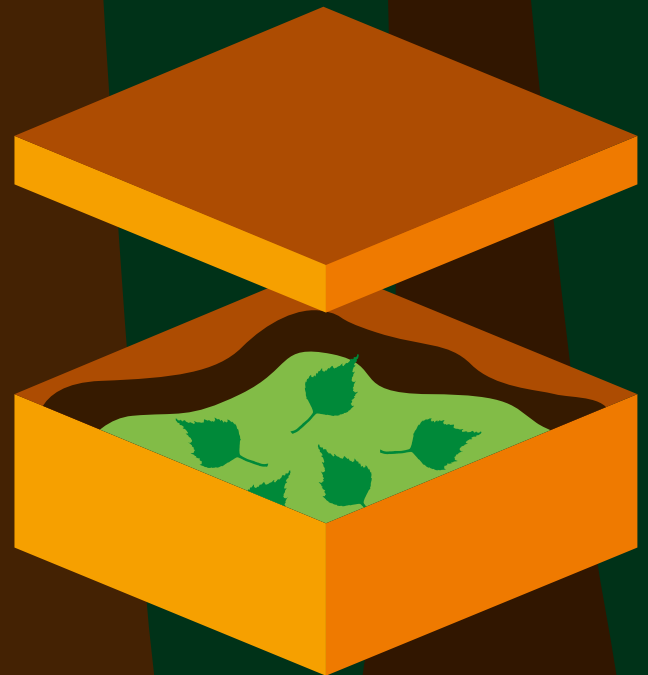
Resources

Container

- A ready-made wooden compost heap or
Some wooden pallets and posts
(Guides/Rangers)
- Nails/hammer or string
- Wood or old carpet for a roof to container

Feed

- **Green ingredients**
e.g. Clippings, weeds, uncooked veg peelings
- **Brown ingredients**
e.g. sticks, dried grass, cardboard



1. Choose a location for your compost heap. If you're making a compost heap from materials, stack the wooden pallets in a square and secure these together with the string. If you are using nails please ask an adult to do this for you. Make sure you have one side that can be removed as this will allow you to access the contents of the heap.
2. To create the feed; shred all the ingredients thinly, the finer the material is the quicker it will rot. This will also attract toads and other insects to the heap.

3. Mix the green and brown ingredients together, aim for a max of thin layers of green and brown to create a heap rich in nitrogen and carbon.
Don't add meat, cooked food (such as bread and leftovers), dairy products or pet waste as these may attract rats.
4. Keep the heap warm and damp. Water it with a watering can in dry weather (Try not to make it soaking wet). Having a roof on the heap will keep heat and moisture in and to prevent it from getting wet when it rains.
5. If required, you can mix the contents with a fork to help speed up decomposition but be careful not to disturb or spike any worms or toads in the process.
6. Check your progress every week, what changes have you noticed since you first put this together, have you seen any insects or animals yet?

Photo Forage

Take photographs of nature that represent the season you are in and create a themed A4 collage.

Seasons:



Sections:



Resources

- Camera
- Printer
- A4 paper
- Coloured pen/pencils
- Stickers

1. Think about what makes the season you are in so special, is it the new flowers that appear or the changing colours? Think of some ideas you'd like your photograph to be. You can sketch the ideas out on paper.
2. Research where and when the best time would be to take your photographs, plan your trip.
3. Go on your adventure with your camera and take your photographs, remembering to take care and follow any advice given for the area including giving the wild animals space.
4. Print out your photos onto paper.
5. Cut and glue your photos onto your A4 sheet, you can decorate your collage with drawings and stickers.



Collage Ideas:

Spring

When nature awakes from its winter slumber, it springs back into life! Flowers blooming, fluttering bees and new animals appearing.

Summer

The warmer weather brings out bright flowers and colourful insects. The ponds will be a bustling scene with fish and animals.

Autumn

The harvest season makes for a great scene with warm colours with the fallen leaves and cones.

Winter

When the world quietens and the nights draw in, it can create a peaceful scene with glistening snow and a starry sky.

Grow and Show

Collect natural materials or recyclables to create a beautiful garden tabletop or windowsill decoration and grow at least 1 plant from a seed using one of the following methods.

Potted Garden (1 Plant)

Seasons:    

Sections:    

Resources

- Large bowl
- Potting soil
- Moss or grass
- Natural decorations
- Coloured pen/pencils or paint
- Seed of your choice

1. Decorate the bowl with pen, pencils or paint.
2. Fill the bowl with the potting soil, starting off shallow and gradually growing as you get to the centre to create a mini hill.
3. Create a small hole in the middle with your finger, pop the seed in and cover the top with soil.
4. With the natural decorations, place the items in and around the bowl giving it a natural look. Add the moss or grass once done on top of the soil.
5. Water the plant when the soil gets dry. Put in sunlight to allow the plant to grow.

Egg Garden (2+ Plants)

Seasons:    

Sections:    

Resources

- Old egg box
- Potting soil
- Garden tray
- Natural decorations
- Coloured pen/pencils or paint
- Seeds of your choice

1. Decorate the egg box with pen pencils or paint. You could draw symbols in each container to show what type of plant you're growing in them if planting different kinds.
2. Fill each container in your egg box with soil. Make a hole in each container and pop your plant seed in. Cover the seeds in soil.
3. Place the egg box into the shallow garden tray, when you water your plants this will stop the water from seeping out through the cardboard.
4. Decorate around the tray, stones would conceal the tray and make a mini rock garden.
5. Water the plant when the soil gets dry. Put in sunlight to allow the plants to grow.

Some plants may need to be rehoused when they grow too big from the container, such as wildflowers or vegetables. Micro greens can remain in the smaller containers and can be picked when ready.

Flying High

Make and customise a kite and go flying with it.

Seasons:



Sections:



Resources

- Large sheet of paper (60cm x 45cm recommended)
- 2 x Bamboo plant support (1 x length of paper and 1 x width of paper)
- Twine
- Ruler and scissors
- Glue or tape
- Garden secateurs (Guides/Rangers)
- Coloured pen/pencils or paints
- Crepe paper strips or ribbon (Optional)

1. To make the sail of the kite, fold the large sheet of paper in half along the longest length. From the top measure down 15cm and make a mark on the open edge. With a ruler draw a line from the top corner at the fold to the mark at the side, and then the mark to the bottom corner at the fold to make a half diamond shape.
2. Carefully cut the shape out, and once done open the paper up to reveal a symmetrical diamond. Decorate your kite by drawing or painting your design.
3. To make the spar, get the 2 bamboo plant supports and tie them together with twine, making sure the tips of the sticks align to the corners of the paper sail.
4. At each end of the spar, poke 2 holes on each side and loop twine through each to create 2 loops. Do this for all 4 ends of the spar to have 8 loops total.
5. Glue or tape the bamboo spar to the kite and allow time to dry.

How high can your kite fly?



6. Once dry, attach a piece of twine firmly to the spar on the left and right corners through the 2 loops, allowing plenty of slack (approx 60cm twine loose between the two corners) then attach the flying line to this piece.
7. Time to add the final touches (Optional) with the strips of crepe paper or ribbon, tie these to the corners of the kite.

Winged Wonders Quest

Go out on an adventure to find some birds and then photograph or draw the birds you see.

Seasons:



Sections:



Resources

- Binoculars
- 'Elephant ears'
- Camera or coloured pen/pencils and paper

1. Choose an area to go on your bird hunt. Your garden or local park or beach will be a great place to find all kinds of birds.
2. Go on a quiet or slow walk, keeping an eye around the area including the ground, trees and sky.
3. You can also listen out for the birds using **'elephant ears'**, different birds have different songs. How many can you hear?
4. Once you find the birds, try to be as still and quiet as you can as to not disturb them.
5. Use your binoculars to get a closer look at the birds from a distance. Use your camera to take photos or draw the birds.

To make 'elephant ears', cup your hands around your ears and turn your head around slowly, just like a satellite dish.



Paws and Prose

Every footprint or feather has a story, go on an adventure to find signs of animals in the area and write a story or poem about one of them.

Seasons:



Sections:



Resources

- Camera or smartphone
- A magnifying glass or lens to look up close
- Paper and coloured pen/pencils
- Detective gear (Optional - A deer-stalker hat or moustache)

1. Choose an area to go on your adventure, a local park or forest would be great options to find all kinds of wildlife.
2. Go for a slow walk and look for clues. Areas that are muddy are a great place to spot animal footprints.
3. Can you find evidence of animals in the area? (egg shells, hairs, nibbled leaves, animal poo etc.) You can photograph these for reference.
4. Work out the story behind the scene, had the animals been foraging? If a bird has been born, where do you think they were living? If there's footprints, where do they lead? Use your magnifying glass or lens to get a closer look.
5. When your adventure is complete, wash your hands if you've handled messy clues. Create a story or poem based on the animal clues you have discovered.

When you find an animal print on the forest floor...

Think of all their journeys, challenges and more!



Weather Station Creation

Create your own weather station using one of the instruments below and record your findings over a week in a notebook/diary. How do you think the weather affects the world around us?

What's the weather like where you live? Share photos of your weather station on Facebook or Instagram and tag us!



Windsock

Seasons:



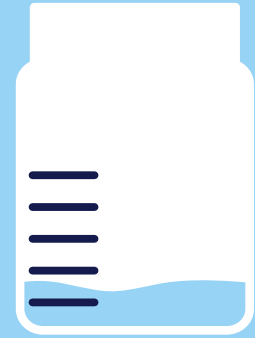
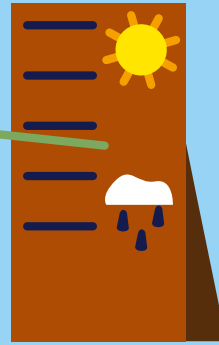
Sections:



Resources

- A4 paper
- Plastic carrier bag
- Pipe cleaner or string
- Glue, tape or stapler
- Coloured pens/pencils or paint

1. Decorate the A4 paper however you like using pens, pencils or paint.
2. Roll the paper into a long tube and use the glue, tape or stapler to secure it.
3. Cut the plastic bag into 2cm side strips and attach these to one end of the tube.
4. Make a loop with the string or pipe cleaner and attach to the other side.
5. Hang the windsock on a tree or stick and see which way and how fast the wind blows.
6. Record your findings in your notebook/diary for a week. What colour is the sky? Are there any clouds? There are many types of clouds and can mean different things for the weather.
7. Wind - How strong is the wind? From your windsock, record the direction the windsock blows to and the angle.



Barometer

Seasons:



Sections:



Resources

- Clean glass jar
- Large balloon
- 2 Rubber bands
- Thin wooden skewer
- Thick cardboard
- Tape or glue
- Scissors
- Markers
- Ruler

1. Cut the neck off the balloon and stretch over the jar's mouth, pulling it tight and flat and ensuring it is not sagging. Secure with two rubber bands and tape to make it airtight.
2. Glue or tape the flat end of a wood skewer to the centre of the flattened balloon.
3. Cut a rectangle that is 8cm taller and 5cm wider than the glass jar to use as your cardboard backdrop. Then cut a rectangle (same width) for the base and glue or tape the backdrop on top so it can stand on its own.
4. On the backdrop, draw a line where the skewer points on the measurement stand. This is your starting pressure reference.
5. Record your findings in your notebook/diary for a week. If the outside air pressure is higher than inside the jar (High pressure), it pushes the balloon down, making the straw point up. If the outside air pressure is lower (Low pressure), the balloon swells outwards, making the straw point down. How has the pressure affected the weather?

Rain Gauge

Seasons:



Sections:



Resources

- A glass jar
- Permanent marker
- Clear tape
- Ruler

1. Apply a strip of clear tape to the side of the jar
2. Use the ruler and mark lines for each centimetre on the tap, making sure your ruler starts from the bottom of the jar.
3. Apply a 2nd strip of clear tape on top of your marked tape to protect it from water.
4. Place the glass jar outside in an open area before the rain starts.
5. When the rain stops, check what the level is with your markings and empty the contents to measure for the following day.
6. Record your findings in your notebook/diary for a week. What colour is the sky? Are there any clouds? There are many types of clouds and can mean different things for the weather.
7. Has it rained? Check you rain gauge and record how many centimetres have fallen from when you last set the glass jar. Once recorded empty the rain water to restart the measurements.

Creepy Crawly Choreography

Create a dance routine to music based on different kinds of bugs.

Seasons:



Sections:



Resources

- Music Player
- Props & Costumes (optional)

1. Discuss with your group what bugs you'd like to dance to, different bugs have different characteristic movements. Props can be used to enhance features (e.g. paper legs for spiders or pillows for rocks)
2. Choose a song that would fit your selection of bugs, e.g. a slow tempo song for a snail. Practice your dance together.
3. Perform your dance to your Unit, can they guess what bugs you are presenting?



Examples of bugs and dance moves:

Worm

Wiggling on the ground

Butterfly

Beautiful fluttering of the wings

Spider

Scuttling around the floor on hands and feet

Grasshopper

Giant leaps from the ground

Woodlouse

Curling up into a ball



Scent Sleuths

Create a smelling test game using natural resources and test your unit. How many smells can they guess right?

Seasons:



Sections:



Resources

- Empty jars or containers
- Blindfold or paper to wrap containers
- Notepad and pen/pencil
- Natural smelling ingredients:
e.g. Cinnamon Sticks, Orange Peel, Mint Leaves, Lavender Stems, Peppermint Leaves, Basil

1. Gather your natural ingredients, these can be edible food such as cinnamon sticks or orange peels, or strong smelling plants such as lavender or mint.
2. Put each ingredient into the jar or containers, you can wrap the outside of the containers so the challengers can't peek or they can use a blindfold during the test.
3. Start the challenge, ask each player what they think they smell and write on a notepad. You can also document if they liked or disliked the smell.
4. Check the results, are some smells very recognisable or some smells misidentified?

How many smelling ingredients can you find naturally in your local area?



Be the first to find out about future challenges and campsite discounts!

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