

Explorer's Map of Painshill



Nature Detectives



If you get separated from your group, head back to visitor/education centre

In an emergency please call 01932 868113

Your Detective Name:

Hello, intrepid explorers, and welcome to Painshill!

This vast landscape is home to all sorts of animals, plants, trees and other wildlife, which vary throughout the year depending on the season and the weather. We have 158 acres of wildlife for you to use your super, nature detective skills in today. Please be kind to the plants by not picking or trampling them on your exploration, stick to paths where possible. And remember to always keep in sight of your adults.

As you can see, each season looks very different to the next, bringing different wildlife and challenges for their survival.

Which season are you in now?



WINTER

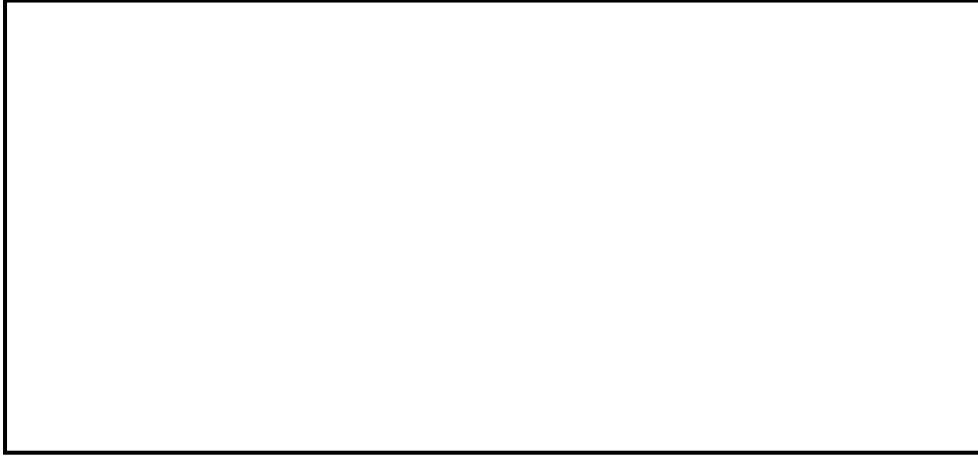
SPRING



SUMMER

AUTUMN

Finally, draw your favourite animal, tree, flower or other natural object from today's investigation.



Well done, intrepid explorers! From all of us at Painshill, we hope you have had an amazing day exploring our park and we hope to see you again soon.

Goodbye for now!

As you set off on your adventure, follow the path to the left, through the trees rather than across the meadow, as you head towards the Serpentine lake. Making sure not to tread on any wildlife, have a good look around.



What can you see on the ground under the trees?

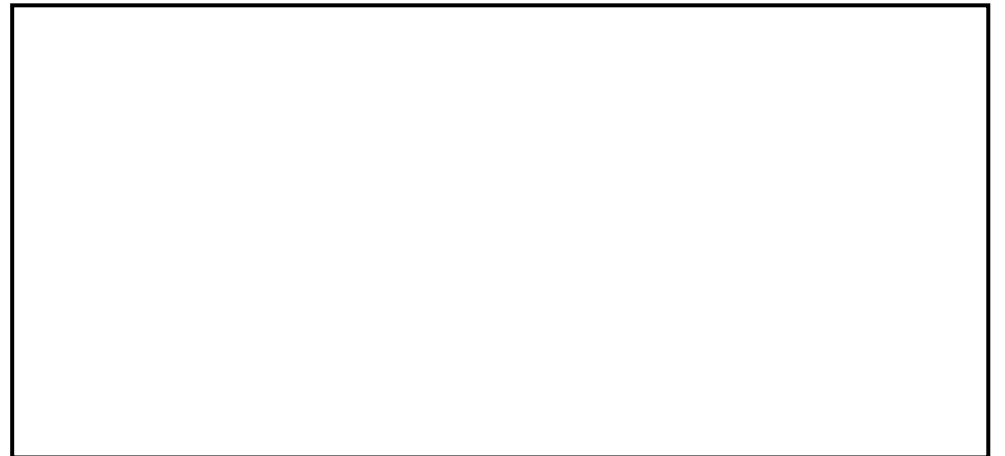
- Brightly coloured flowers
- Crunchy fallen leaves
- Nuts and seeds
- Mushrooms

Make a list of 5 things that you discover here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Can you make a scavenger sketch of all the things you've found?



We can look for evidence of animals too.

Keep an eye out as you explore the landscape.



- Are there any burrows where badgers and rabbits might live?
- Can you track the footprints of foxes or birds?
- Have the squirrels been chewing on pine cones?
- What about nests, eggs or feathers?
- Even animal poop!?!

Make a note of anything that you see...



Collect some natural objects from the ground as you investigate today.

Meet up with everyone at the end, place all your objects in a pot, then go around the group putting your hand in and see if you can recognise any objects

without looking. For example, you may put twigs, leaves, pine cones, acorns, conkers or stones in there. Make sure you only collect things that have fallen to the ground, please don't pick anything from the trees or flowers, and don't put anything live, like creepy crawlies, in the pot!

As you finish your exploration today, head back to the 'Education Centre' and meet up with the rest of your group. Talk to everyone about the wildlife you discovered during your investigation today. You have learnt so much about the world around you, and picked up skills you can use wherever you go!



When you leave Painshill you can teach other friends and your family about the animals, where they like to live and how to look out for signs of wildlife. But before you go today, what have you learnt that you didn't know before?

Choose an animal you have seen or found proof of today and plot their life cycle. E.g. frog, dragonfly, bird

Keep going through the woods then take the Chinese Bridge over to Grotto Island for more exploration. Keep an eye out for any of these homes or the animals that live in them throughout your investigation today.

As you make your way off the island, turn right and head over the Five-Arch bridge, then right again following the rest of the lake back towards the Great Cedar tree and the Gothic Temple on the hill.

As you come out into wide open grassy meadow, take note of how the wildlife changes again. Different animal homes to see. Different sounds to hear. Perhaps it also feels lighter and more spacious.

Which animals do you think would like open, grassy spaces?

- Deer
- Pheasants
- Rabbits



Look around you and listen as you as you continue your adventure. Make a note of any animals you see, and everything you hear. What homes do the animals live in? How do they protect themselves? Talk to each other, have a think and use your new detective skills to find out more about the wildlife surrounding you.



Did you spot any other interesting wildlife while exploring today?

Continue on your adventure. Remember to look out across the lake now as you walk beside it, along the path at the bottom of the vineyard.

What sort of animals might you expect to find living in, on, or near water?



- Fish
- Ducks
- Frogs
- Otters



Draw an animal you might expect to see.

Now, what can you see on/around the lake here?

Make a list of 5 creatures you spot from the path by the water.

Birds/water fowl/frogs/insects/dragonflies



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

As the Ruined Abbey comes into view, the path curves up at the end of the vineyard, then follow it left through the woodland.

Which animals might you expect to see up in the trees?

- Birds
- Squirrels



We should be using all of our senses when we investigate nature. Remember not only to use your eyes, but your hearing and sense of smell too. Be careful using other senses such as taste and touch as there are many things that are poisonous to us or that might hurt us; these are nature's way of protecting itself from predators. See if you notice anything that could be used as protection for a plant or animal, such as thorns or bright colours, but make sure to keep a safe distance.

What can you hear while you're walking through the woodland?

- Birdsong, woodpeckers tapping, buzzards screeching
- The wind whooshing through the leaves
- Squirrels clambering up trees
- Other small animals rustling the undergrowth



Close your eyes and listen for a few moments. Make a note of everything you can hear, and remember not only to listen for the loud things, but some things may be really quiet too.



While you're still walking through the woodland, find a big rock or log and turn it over. Please be sure to put it back as you found it after you finish your investigation, so as not to disturb the wildlife. You can find a whole world of creepy crawly creatures hiding here.

What creepy crawlies can you find under it?

- Worms
- Woodlice
- Beetles
- Snails



Draw the secret creepy crawly world you discover.

What an interesting place to choose to make a home. There are lots of different kinds of homes, being made by different creatures. Who do you think lives where?

Draw a line to match the creature with its home.

	Mole	Wasp	Rabbit	
Ant				
		BURROW	NEST	Woodpecker
Squirrel				
		Badger	Robin	

