

## ***The Mountains Are Calling Me* – Nature Detectives**



Before you begin, look through the John Muir graphic novel and read the section *The Mountains Are Calling Me*, which describes how John:

*‘ . . . discovered that the clearest way into the universe is through a forest wilderness.*

John Muir: I never saw an unhappy tree.

John Muir: Trees travel as far as we do, wandering in all directions, with every wind, travelling with us around the sun, two million miles a day! And through space, heaven knows how fast and far. . .’

The aim of this activity is, in the spirit of John Muir, to share what you already know about nature with other people (i.e. this will test your knowledge and theirs) but also to discover more and share these new findings too. The ideas outlined below will help you to make lots of discoveries about forests and trees and all that live there.

1. Begin this activity by completing the handout from the Woodland Trust – The Leaf Hunt.

(Your teacher will go through your answers once you have finished the leaf hunt so you can see how many you knew.)

2. Once you have completed the Leaf Hunt try the Woodland Trust’s Nature Detectives quiz ‘Autumn Leaf Identification’ which can be located at the

following web page:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2017/10/autumn-leaf-identification-quiz-can-you-identify-these-10-trees/>

3. Finally, your teacher will give you a handout to carry out a minibeast survey. See how many you can identify!
4. How many did you know? Note down all your answers below, including the ones you already knew and any new information you discovered.

**Answers:**

**Leaves:**.....

.....

.....

.....

**Minibeasts:**.....

.....

.....

.....

5. Once you have completed all the quiz activities it is your turn to create your own nature quiz use one of the above themes, either leaves or minibeasts, or create a new theme using birds, fungi, trees (including twigs and seeds) or woodland animals. Once you have created your own quiz try it out on the rest of your class. You can use the information on the following websites to help you:

To find out more about birds to include in your quiz go to:

<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/trees-woods-and-wildlife/animals/birds/>

Or to find out more about fungi to include in your quiz go to:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/trees-woods-and-wildlife/plants-and-fungi/fungi/>

Or use the supporting handout provided by your teacher: woodland animal facts.