

20. SQUIRREL CACHE



Meaning: celebrate the mystery, signs and cycles of nature.

Linked to **contact** and **emotion**.

Resources

Essential:

Your best wildlife detective skills

Biscuits

Optional:

Binoculars

Selection of acorns, tree seeds and nuts

Images of a grey squirrel



Objective:

To learn about squirrels and their characteristics.

Instructions:

1. Visit your local park or green space and go on a squirrel search. If they're proving difficult to spot, search for their tracks and signs.

2. Once you have found a squirrel, spend some time watching it. How does it move? What does it do with its food?

3. Now ask the children and families to find three items, preferably acorns, seeds or nuts.

4. Ask them to hide the nuts and create a picture or map in their head, to help them remember where they have buried them.

5. Ensure everyone's hands are sanitised and then ask the children how they could eat like a squirrel. Provide a small biscuit and see how long it takes to nibble it away.

6. Now it's time to test that memory. Can you find the three objects you hid before your snack?

You can try burying your three items, but this does make it a lot harder to find them again.

Hints & Tips

Tracks and Signs: A drey is where they live. These are found in the treetops and usually look like big, round, messy birds' nests. Can you find one? Squirrels eat acorns, nuts, and tree seeds. Can you find any? It should not take you long to find one. There are an estimated 2.7 million squirrels in the UK, and they live in most urban settings.

Did you know that squirrels are generally able to find about 95% of the food they bury? They use their amazing sense of smell and super eyesight. This is wide-angled vision with exceptional or 'zoom in' (or focusing) power. A squirrel can see what's next to and above it without moving its head. They also have a really good memory. We think they create a map in their head of where they bury their nuts.

Plenary/Wrap Up

Who managed to find all their items?

What did they notice about the squirrel's behaviour?

Why do you think they are doing so well in Britain? This may be a good conversation starter exploring the introduction of the grey squirrel in the Victorian times, which has had a detrimental effect on our native red squirrel populations.

Follow-on activities: Mammal Safari (no 17), Food chain game (no 34), Meet a tree (no 5) and Tree, leaves and seeds (no 7 & 28).

RSPB Wild Challenge

Shake a Tree
Plant a Tree
Fabulous Fungi
Spot it!



20. CELC Y WIWER



Ystyr:
dathlu dirgelion,
arwyddion a
chylchedau byd natur.

Cysylltiedig
â cyswllt ac
emosiwn.

Amcan:

Dysgu am wiwerod a'u nodweddion

Gallwch drio claddu eich tair eitem, ond mae hyn yn golygu ei bod yn anoddach dod o hyd iddynt eto.

Awgrymiadau

Adnoddau

Hanfodol:	Dewisol:
Sgiliau canfod bywyd gwyllt da	Ysbiendrych Detholiad o fes, hadau coed a chnau
Biscuits	Lluniau o wiwer lwyd

Cyfarwyddiadau:

1. Ymwelwch â'ch parc lleol neu fan agored gwyrdd i chwilio am wiwerod. Os yw'n anodd eu gweld, chwiliwch am eu holion ac arwyddion.
2. Ar ôl i chi ddod o hyd i wiwer, treuliwch ychydig o amser yn ei gwyllo. Sut mae'n symud? Beth mae'n ei wneud â'i bwyd?
3. Nawr gofynnwch i'r plant a'r teuluoedd ddod o hyd i dair eitem - mes, hadau neu gnau os yw'n bosibl.
4. Gofynnwch iddyn nhw guddio'r cnau a chreu llun neu fap yn eu pen, i'w helpu i gofio lle maent wedi eu cuddio.
5. Gwnewch yn siŵr bod dwylo pawb yn cael eu diheintio, yna gofynnwch i'r plant sut fydden nhw'n gallu bwyta fel wiwer. Rhowch fisged fechan iddyn nhw a gweld faint o amser y mae'n ei gymryd iddyn nhw ei bwyta.
6. Nawr mae'n amser i brofi'r cof. Allwch chi ddod o hyd i'r tair eitem y gwnaethoch chi eu cuddio cyn i chi gael eich bisged?

Traciau ac arwyddion: Maen nhw'n byw mewn nyth gwiwerod. Mae'r nythod i'w gweld ym mrigau uchaf coed ac fel arfer maen nhw'n edrych fel nythod adar mawr, crwn, blêr. Allwch chi weld un? Mae gwiwerod yn bwyta mes, cnau a hadau coed. Allwch chi weld rhai? Dylech allu dod o hyd i un yn weddol fuan. Amcangyfrifir bod 2.7 miliwn o wiwerod yn y DU, ac maen nhw'n byw yn y rhan fwyaf o leoliadau trefol.

Oeddech chi'n gwybod bod wiwerod yn gyffredinol yn gallu dod o hyd i tua 95% o'r bwyd maen nhw'n ei gladdu? Maen nhw'n defnyddio eu synnwyr arogl rhyfeddol a'u golwg gwych. Mae ganddyn nhw olwg ongl-eang a gallu eithriadol i weld pethau'n agosach. Gall gwiwer weld beth sydd yn ei hymyl ac uwchben heb symud ei phen. Mae ganddyn nhw hefyd gof da iawn. Rydyn ni'n meddwl eu bod yn creu map yn eu pennau o'r lleoedd lle maen nhw'n claddu eu cnau.

Grŵp llawn / crynodeb

Pwy lwyddodd i ddod o hyd i bob un o'u heitemau?

Beth wnaethon nhw sylwi arno ynglŷn ag ymddygiad y wiwer?

Pam rydych chi'n meddwl eu bod yn gwneud cystal ym Mhrydain? Gallai hyn fod yn ffordd dda o gychwyn sgwrs gan edrych ar gyflwyniad y wiwer lwyd yng nghyfnod y frenhines Victoria, a'r ffordd y mae hynny wedi cael effaith andwyol ar boblogaethau'r wiwer goch frodorol.

Gweithgareddau dilynol: Mamaliaid rhyfeddol (rhif 17), Gêm y gadwyn fwyd (rhif 34), Cyfarfod coeden (rhif 5) and Coed, dail a hadau (rhif 7 a 28).

Sialens Wyllt
RSPB

Chwiliwch!

Ysgwyd Coeden
Plannwch Goeden
Ffyngau Ffantastig