



Signs of spring

These activities will help you to explore the natural world in spring. This is a time of new life as trees awaken from the winter, buds burst into colour and lots of forest wildlife give birth to their young.

Setting the scene

These activities are aimed at 4 to 11-year-olds but can be adapted for any age.

You will need:

- String
- Pencil
- Paper/worksheet
- Camera
- Scissors

Recognising the signs of spring

Look



Lots of new flowers start to appear in spring.

- How many different flowers can you find?
- Which is your favourite?

Noticing spring sounds

Listen



Sit silently and still under a tree. Close your eyes and listen to the sounds around you.

- Can you hear the wind through the trees?
- Can you hear insects buzzing or birds singing?

Take in the spring smells

Take in five big breaths, breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth.

- Can you smell signs of spring in the air?

Smell



Carefully get closer to some flowers and trees and maybe the forest floor.

- What do they smell like?



Get creative



Forest fairy tales

There are lots of stories set in a forest as they can be really magical places. See if you can find a fairy door or have a go at making your own with sticks and string or other natural materials. Find a special tree to prop your door against.

- Can you make up your own story about who lives inside?



Spring poems

Whilst outside or back at home, sit quietly and think about what you like to do and see in the spring.

- Write a poem about all of your favourite spring things.
- Can you start each new line with a letter from the word spring?
- Or you could draw a picture for each letter.

Seeing the bluebells,
Playing longer after school,
R...



A poem where certain letters of each line spell out a word, name or phrase is called an acrostic poem.



Spring wands

Take home some memories. Find a thin stick and collect a selection of natural items from the forest floor. Attach your items on the end of the stick with string to make a spring-themed wand.

- What does each item on your wand remind you of?





New start

Spring chicks

Lots of different birds live in the forest and many will be building nests in the spring.



- Sit quietly near some trees.
- Can you spy any nests in the trees?
- Can you spot any birds carrying nesting materials?
- Build a nest yourself. What natural materials will you use and why?

Another new year

Look for a tree stump. Each ring on the stump shows a year of growth. If you count the rings, you can find out how old the tree was.



- How old is the oldest tree stump you can find?

Get active

Try something new!

There are lots of fun activities that you can do in the forest. They could be organised activities or events, or things that you do with your family, such as going for a muddy welly walk, playing rounders or Frisbee. Have a go at something you've never tried before.



New growth

In spring, trees begin to grow again.

- Can you find five different trees with buds or fresh green leaves?
- Are the buds the same on different tree species?

Try taking photos of the same bud each week to watch how it changes.



Earn your stamp

To earn your stamp, fill in the worksheet or take photos and tell us about the activities, including which was your favourite. Email a copy of your work, along with your name, age and the place you visited, to us at learning.english@forestryengland.uk.



Worksheet



Signs of spring

What is your favourite spring flower? Draw a picture of it or explain why you like it.

Forest fairy tales

Who lives behind your fairy door? What adventures do they get up to?



Worksheet



Spring poem

Write a poem about spring. Or draw a picture that shows your favourite spring things.

Which was your favourite activity? Draw a picture or describe what you did and why you enjoyed it.