Spring Equinox

At the spring equinox the day and night are of equal length with 12 hours in each.

To celebrate, can you find 12 objects with perfect symmetry. Take photos of them or better still, sketch them. Get your friends to do the same and then make a display of all your images. Make sure you design your display to be symmetrical!

Spring

Forestry Commission
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GROW WITH WYRE landscapes for all

Leaf awakening

Make up a story for a play about a woodland waking up from a long sleep. Invent woodland characters and make costumes for them from paper, seeds, nuts, cones, twigs and leaves.

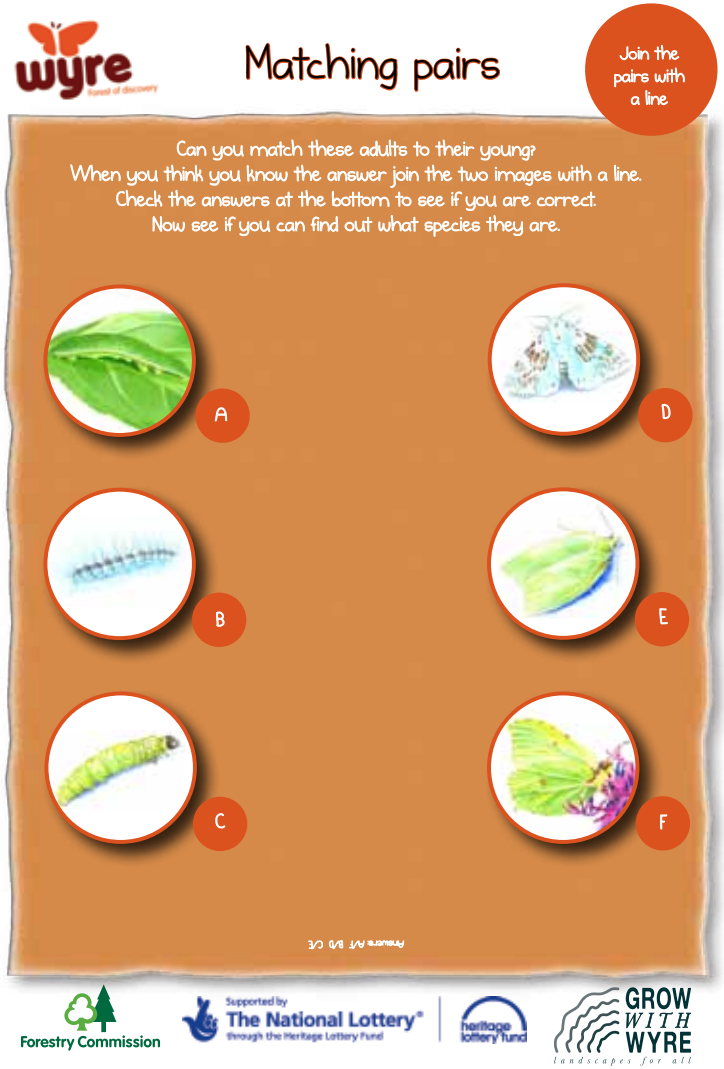
Get each of your friends or family to act out a different character in the play.

Leaf spotting

How many different new leaves can you find? Use the spotters guide. Follow this link to download: http://www.forestry.gov.uk/wyreforest

Matching pairs

Spring is the season when many woodland animals start to have their babies. Look at these pictures of moths and butterflies and see if you can match the adults to their young.



Climate change

Spring seems to be getting earlier, with flowers and insects sometimes emerging too early and then dying off due to the cold temperatures that follow. Is this just a short term issue or will it continue?

Be a researcher and gather evidence of changes in the climate. The following page has some tips on gathering evidence. The best research can take years so you will need to be patient!

Have a look at the Forestry Commission's climate change website pages.
http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-7m8f59
To download a climate change poster:
http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-74sgtj
For more tips on recording your findings look at this USA website:
http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/kids/scientists/citizen-science.html

Why not start a scrap book with the evidence that you gather? You could include newspaper cuttings and magazine articles as well as photos, sketches and notes. Each year compare your notes from previous years and see what the latest press stories are.

You will need:
A site to study eg: your garden, local wood or pond (Make sure you have permission to be there!)
Notebook and pen
A calendar for each year you do the study

Choose your site, then make a list of the trees, plants, birds, insects and mammals that you find there. Visit the site on a regular basis and each time record a tick next to each of the species that you find again. For trees and plants, note when they flower, fruit, lose their leaves or start producing leaf buds.

Watch weather reports daily and make a note in your calendar of the temperature for your area. At the end of the year add up all the temperatures and divide by 365 to find the average temperature. Is this generally increasing each year?

Note each day's weather on your calendar. You could use simple symbols for rain, snow, frost, sun, wind, and cloud.

Site firsts!
Write down the dates on your calendar of the following firsts:
1st snow
1st bee seen
1st butterfly seen
1st spring flower
1st frost
1st gales forecast in UK
1st floods reported in UK
1st leaves on trees
1st tree to lose all its leaves

Spring colours

Look out of your window at your garden or take a walk in your local park with your friends or family.

Use the colour wheel to choose colours that best match the spring landscape. Take a piece of card and write the title "SPRING" at the top. Now try to paint at least 10 splodges of paint that you think represent spring. Don't try to paint a picture - just big splodges of colours.

Now collect natural objects and materials that match these colours and fix them to the same piece of card.