

Natural potpourri



What you need:

- Fallen evergreen leaves that smell good
- Cones
- Fallen petals and flowers
- A tray and shallow dish

Have a go at colouring this spring colouring sheet on page 3... What scents are there in your woodland?



Step 3

Transfer them to the bowl and place somewhere warm so the scent spreads out or use them to make a scented mobile.

Step 2

Place them on a window-sill or in the airing cupboard. Turn them over gently every day until they are completely dry.

Step 1

Spread the flowers, cones or leaves you collected out on the tray to dry them.



Scent facts

Scent is a very important sense for many animals. It is thought that this is a way that most animals communicate to each other. They can use scent for marking their territory or protect themselves from predators!



Rabbits use 'nose blinking' to identify different smells. They have folds in the nose and move it up and down to detect different scents.

Deer can sniff an acorn and tell if it is a good one, a worm infested one or a hollow acorn... just from its smell!



Squirrels sniff out their underground food stores. They can also smell the scent marking on trees left by other squirrels.



Badgers communicate with scent. They produce different smells that give information to other badgers including using poo to mark their territory.



Willow, sugar maple and poplars communicate in the air with scent signals. When one willow is under attack from herbivores, it releases chemicals that nearby willows detect. These nearby willows then produce toxins that taste bad to herbivores.



Butterflies detect the scent of nectar using the smell sensors they have in their antennae, legs and other parts of the body.



Weasels protect against predators by spraying a terrible smell...the stink is as bad as a skunk!



A lot of animals have a wet nose because scent sticks to it, helping them to smell better. The wind also cools the nose helping them work out where smells are coming from.



