

Rainmaker

What you need:

- Sticks
- Plastic bottle from your recycling
- Rice or seeds

Have a go at our spring sounds colouring sheet on page 3... what will your woodland sound like?



Step 1

Measure the length of your bottle and break or cut the sticks to a size that will fit inside the bottle (ask an adult to help you with this).



Step 2

Place the sticks into the bottle one by one until you can not fit any more in.



Step 3

Carefully add a few teaspoons of rice or seeds to the bottle and then put the lid on.

Step 4

Once the lid is on tightly, turn the bottle upside down and listen to the sound of rain! You could decorate the outside of the bottle.



Sound facts

Many animals rely on their sense of hearing, it can warn them of danger or help them find food. Here are some facts about woodland animal hearing and how some plants can detect sounds.



Foxes have amazing hearing; they can hear a watch ticking from 40 metres away – how far can you get from a ticking watch before you cannot hear it anymore?



Hedgehogs don't have vocal cords but they still make sounds. They make clucking and quacking sounds when annoyed and have been known to scream when frightened.

Birds use different songs and sounds to communicate. They could be singing to warn about a predator or inviting other birds to come and share food!

Bats use echolocation to navigate in the dark and find prey. They produce a constant high-pitched sound and detect the echoes when these sounds bounce off objects.



Some moths have a kind of ear, called a tympanum, that is very sensitive to ultrasound - this means they can detect the echolocation of bats hunting them.



Some studies show that a few plants respond to sounds of munching caterpillars. They release chemicals that taste bad, to try and stop caterpillars from eating the leaves.



Studies have found when some plants hear sounds of a flying bee, the plant quickly produces sweeter nectar. The sweeter flower is more likely to attract the bee and increase the chances of pollination.



Rabbits can hear sound from two miles away, they use their sense of hearing to detect predators and understand the world around them by listening to sound bounce off objects.



Barn owls can pinpoint prey to the millimetre using their ears. Their ears are at different heights on the head to hear sound from different directions.



