

MAIDEN ERLEGH NATURE RESERVE

LEARNING RESOURCE



Earley Environmental Junior Group

We are the Earley Environmental Junior group and we have been using the nature reserve to take part in the John Muir Award.

John Muir was an amazing man who loved nature and wanted us to protect our wild spaces. He believed that the first step to this was to get people using them.

The team at Maiden Erlegh Reserve are really passionate about caring for this beautiful space and have helped us learn so much.



‘When we try and pick out anything by itself, we find it is hitched to everything else in the universe.’

We would like to invite you to come to the nature reserve and thought it might be helpful if we shared some ideas of things to do.

Outdoor poetry:

So many amazing poets are inspired by nature and being outdoors at the reserve makes writing poetry really easy as there is so much to be inspired by.

Can you write a poem about this goose by thinking of a word or sentence that goes with every letter of the word



**G
O
O
S
E**

Maybe you could write a poem about what you see by thinking about:

What the goose is doing and where it is

What colours you can see on the goose

Descriptive words to share what you think is the character of the goose from the picture.



Maybe you could write a poem in the shape of a feather or one of the footprints a goose would leave behind!



The language of nature:

Can you find an example of these around the reserve?

FRENCH TO ENGLISH-

Nature

la nature

<u>FEMININE NOUNS</u>	<u>MASCULINE NOUNS</u>
la terre the world/land	le renard The fox
la forêt the forest	l'arbre the tree
la feuille the leaf	L'escargot The snail
l'abeille The bee	le lac the lake
la rivière the river/stream	L'écureuil The squirrel
l'araignée The spider	l'étang the pond
la grenouille The frog	le poisson The fish
la guêpe The wasp	l'oiseau The bird
la souris The mouse	les fleurs sauvages The wild flowers

Can you add to these words and maybe have a go in a different language?



Arty bodies:

Choose something from nature. Draw or paint it onto a piece of paper using each of your hands and then have a go using your toes! You may need to sit down to draw with your feet!

Which hand is the easiest for you?
Which foot is the easiest for you?

Can you hold a pencil or brush with your teeth? Can you draw or paint with it using your mouth?



Nature and maths

Measuring



Choose a stick. Make sure you and your friends pick sticks of different lengths.
Look around you and select two trees which you can walk between easily.



Use your stick to measure the distance between the trees. How many stick lengths is it? _____

Do your friends have the same answer? _____

If not, why not? _____

Is it easier to measure the distance with a big stick or a small stick?

Now use your stick to measure other objects around you. You could try the height of a bush, or a fence, or the girth of a tree (distance all around the trunk - you might find this easier with a small stick!)

Object	Size: Number of sticks

Counting, shape and size

Look around and see what flowers you can find (don't pick them!).

Count the number of petals on each flower and record it in the table.

Is your flower large or small? Write its size in the table.

Draw or describe the flower if you don't know its name.

Flower	Number of petals	Size (e.g. small, big, huge)
pink flower	6	small

Do they all have the same number of petals? _____

Now look around and find some leaves. Do they all have the same number of lobes?

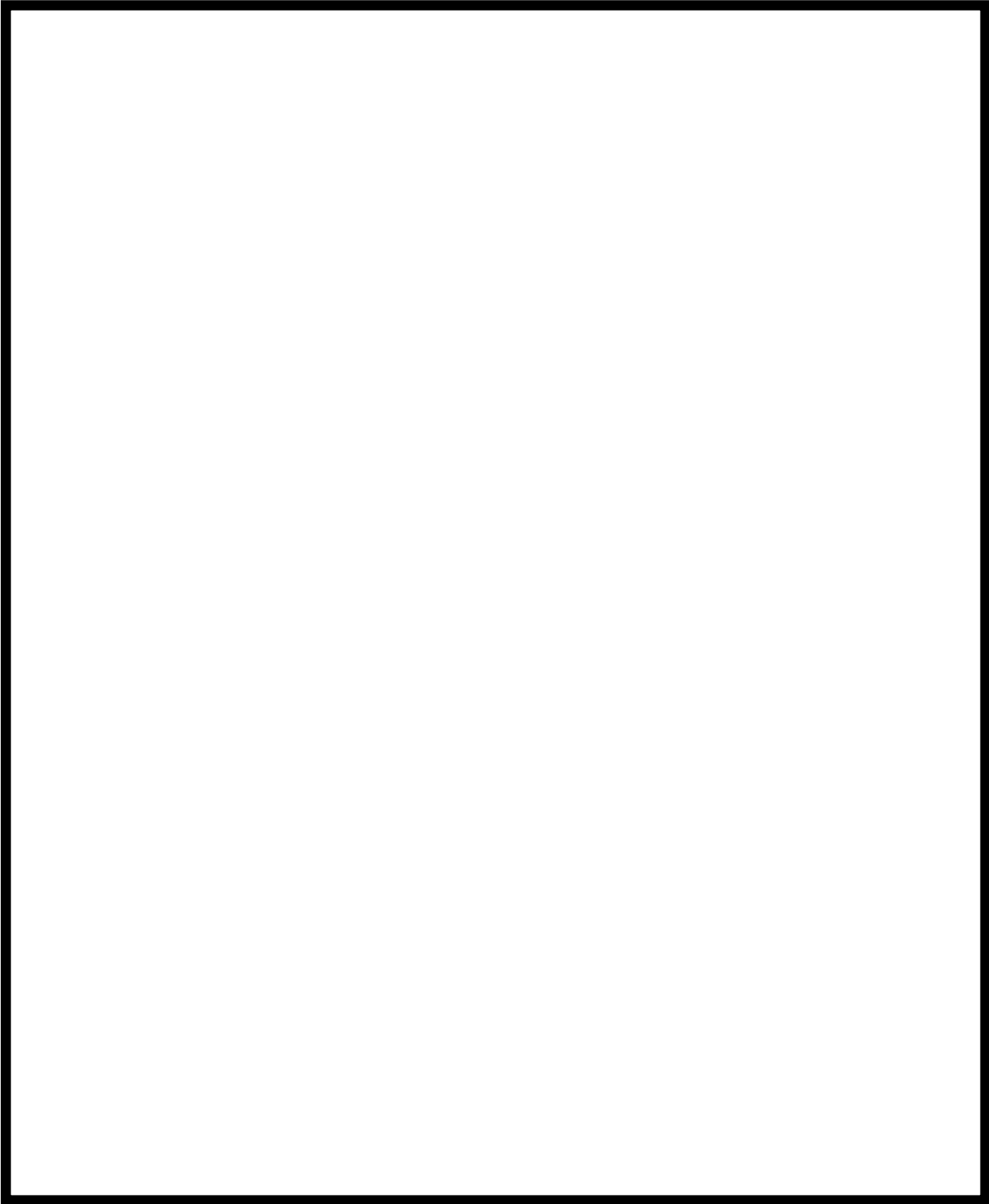
This leaf has 5 lobes.

Fill in the table below. If you don't know the name of the tree that your leaf comes from, then draw a sketch of it instead of writing the name.



Leaf	Number of lobes
Sycamore	5

Draw a life size picture of your favourite leaf. Don't forget to include the right number of lobes and the veins. You could try drawing round it to start.



Nature's Music-



Credit shaun/E+/Getty Images

Find a quiet spot and sit for a few minutes just listening to the sounds around you.

What do you hear?

Can you create a sound map by recording the sounds you hear around you by drawing a symbol to represent them. Draw yourself in the middle of the space so that you can include all sounds in a 360 degree zone around you.

Natural measures

This is a simple way to get an approximate height for a tree without using any equipment except your body.

1. Stand with your back to the trunk of the tree



2. Take big steps away from the tree. Count the number of steps you are taking.



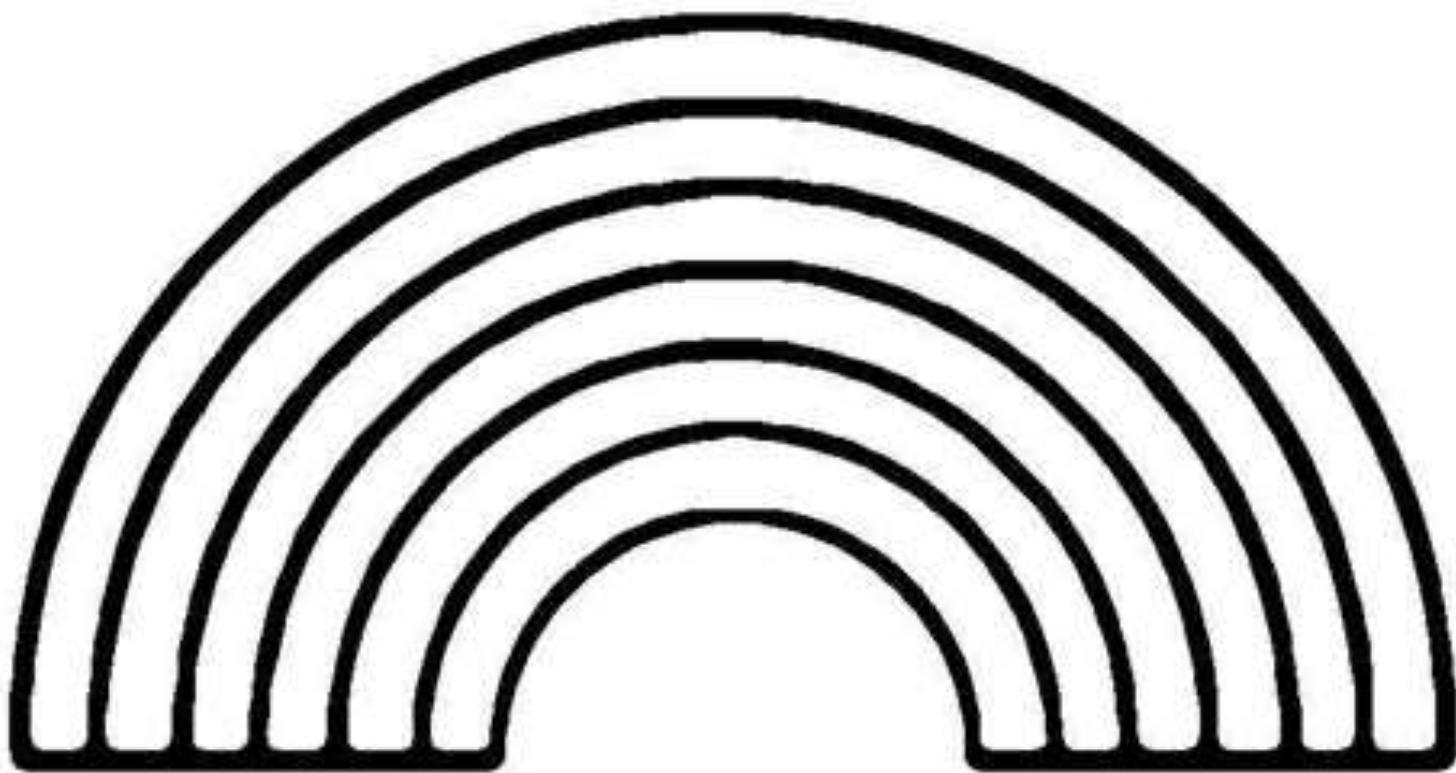
3. Every few steps, stop and bend down to look through your legs to see if you can see the top of the tree yet.



4. When you can see the top of the tree, the number of big steps taken is the approximate height of the tree in metres. This tree was approximately 7 metres tall.

Can you see a rainbow?

As you travel around the reserve, use a mobile phone to capture the different colours that you see. When you get home, print them out if you can and glue them into a rainbow below! If you don't have printer, just look at the photos and try to match the different shades with colouring materials or collages of coloured paper that you may have at home.



Noticing nature

Nature makes our brains really happy if we spend a few minutes just looking closely. While you go around the reserve, you could



Stop and look at a leaf that is growing on a tree. Notice the edges of the leaf. Are they smooth or jagged? Are the veins symmetrical or do they alternate? Are the colours the same all over the leaf or do they change?



Stop and look at a wildflower or some of the longer grass in the meadow area. Can you see how many petals there are? Can you notice the different parts of the flower or grass? Can you see where the pollen is held?



Stop and look at the lake. Can you see any reflections on the water? Are there any birds swimming on the lake? Can you see any trees that have branches that touch the water? Is the water smooth or can you see the surface moving?



Stop in front of a tree that you like the look of. Touch the bark and notice how it feels. Look up at how many branches are above you. If you have enough time, you could sit for a few minutes with your back to the tree and just enjoy the view.

We really hope that you enjoy the ideas in this booklet and that you enjoy the time spent at the reserve.

Research John Muir if you can and find out about all of the amazing things that he did to improve our relationship with nature.