



**Biodiversity
and
Lifecycles**

Curriculum links/skills

Biodiversity
Lifecycles
Observation
Classification
Care for Wildlife

**Can be
adapted for
different
ages**

Link to video lesson: <https://youtu.be/iuJ1eLZWxsQ>

Resources needed

Area of woodland/hedgerow relatively undisturbed by human activity where there is loose material available

Recording sheet, clip boards and pencils - optional

Animal Tracks/Poo ID charts from Woodland Trust

Camera

Activity Description

Children search the area for clues of wild activity: **feast sites** - nibbled fungi, seeds, cones, grass; **murder sites** - piles of feathers, hair, bones; **toileting sites** - poo of different types; **passages** - tracks in mud, trodden pathways, hair low on fence wire; **homes** - holes of different sizes in ground/trees, birds nests, squirrel dreys. Encourage careful observation, looking for detail at ground level, in and under trees and hedges. Option to record findings on paper or photograph, particularly any of fascination or well spotted. Challenge to design and construct a winter shelter for a small mammal, choosing site carefully thinking about the needs of the creature, size, food supply and camouflage to protect from predators, how to make it weather proof and warm.

Safety considerations

- Set boundaries of area of searching
- For shelters use material that has fallen from trees, no longer part of living plant
- Carry sticks carefully away from faces and bodies
- Break long sticks with foot before carrying them

