



# Exploration and investigation

The following activities have been adapted from **The Big Book of Nature**

- Can you spot any nests? Who do you think made the nest?
- What other signs of animal homes can you see?
- If you were a mouse, where would you live? What if you were a squirrel? An eagle? A bear?
- Look for additional clues such as feathers, scat, pellets, chewed cones, tracks and scratch marks.

Follow up by asking learners to build a home for a small forest creature. Get creative by building different rooms and decorating them.



## Tree Faces

The human brain is very good at seeing “faces,” even when they are not really there. Now that the leaves are off most of the trees, hidden faces in the bark are easier to spot. Look for eyes, a nose and a mouth. The face you see may only have one or two of these features but still look strangely human. Try to see, too, how the tree is feeling. Be sure to show

the face to others. Are they able to see it? Do they agree with how the tree is feeling?

## Animal Home Detectives

Head out to your special outdoor learning spot. Ask learners to put on their detective hats to try to find the special places animals call home. Ask the following questions:

- Can you spot any tree cavities or holes where an animal might live? Who do you think made the hole? Who do you think lives in the hole?



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