

# Woodland Animals

Home to creatures, great and small,  
the woodland welcomes creatures all.

Scuttling beetles to hooting owls  
or scavenging foxes on the prowl.

During the day, squirrels leap and scramble  
upon towering trees and around thick bramble,  
gathering and collecting magnificent meals  
from plants and trees they like to steal.

Spiders weave delicately, a beautiful sight:  
intricate webs glittering in the sunlight.

Silver trails on the damp, leafy floor;  
which creatures have been here before?

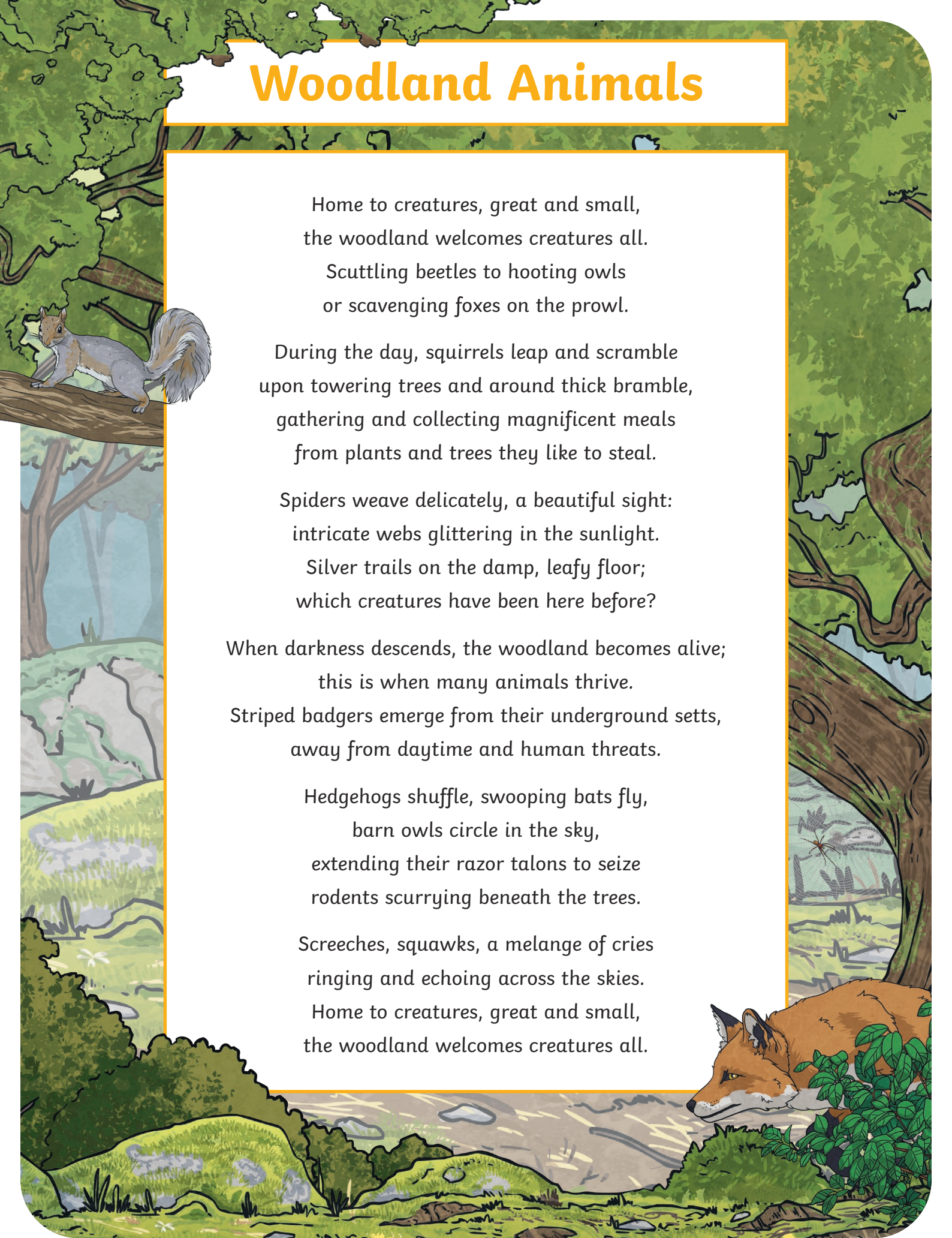
When darkness descends, the woodland becomes alive;  
this is when many animals thrive.

Striped badgers emerge from their underground setts,  
away from daytime and human threats.

Hedgehogs shuffle, swooping bats fly,  
barn owls circle in the sky,  
extending their razor talons to seize  
rodents scurrying beneath the trees.

Screeches, squawks, a melange of cries  
ringing and echoing across the skies.

Home to creatures, great and small,  
the woodland welcomes creatures all.



# Questions

1. What colour are the trails on the woodland floor? Tick one.

- ☐ white
- ☐ black
- ☐ golden
- ☐ silver

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occur in the poem.

- ☐ Rodents scurry.
- ☐ Squirrels leap and scramble.
- ☐ Darkness descends.
- ☐ Spiders weave webs.

3. Draw **four** lines to match and complete the phrases.

scavenging	•
magnificent	•
leafy	•
razor	•

•	meals
•	floor
•	foxes
•	talons

4. Which of the following creatures are mentioned in the poem? Tick **two**.

- ☐ skunks
- ☐ badgers
- ☐ bats
- ☐ moths

5. Fill in the missing word.

Scuttling beetles to \_\_\_\_\_ owls  
or scavenging foxes on the prowl.

6. Which animal is described as **shuffling**?

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7. **Screeches, squawks...**

What creature do you think may be squawking? Why do you think this?

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# Answers

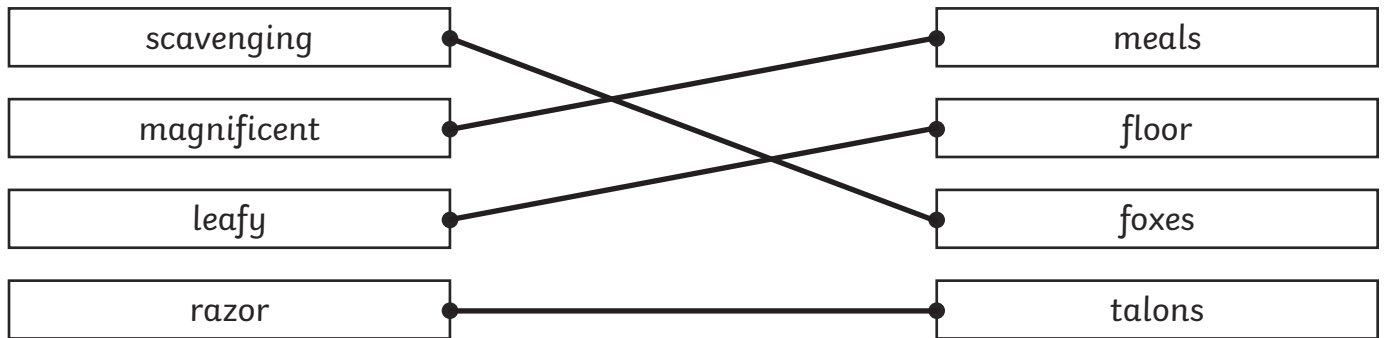
1. What colour are the trails on the woodland floor? Tick one.

- ☐ white
- ☐ black
- ☐ golden
- ☒ **silver**

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occur in the poem.

- 4** Rodents scurry.
- 1** Squirrels leap and scramble.
- 3** Darkness descends.
- 2** Spiders weave webs.

3. Draw **four** lines to match and complete the phrases.



4. Which of the following creatures are mentioned in the poem? Tick **two**.

- ☐ skunks
- ☒ **badgers**
- ☒ **bats**
- ☐ moths

5. Fill in the missing word.

Scuttling beetles to **hooting** owls or scavenging foxes on the prowl.

6. Which animal is described as **shuffling**?

**Hedgehogs are described as shuffling.**

7. **Screeches, squawks...**

What creature do you think may be squawking? Why do you think this?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think birds may be squawking. I think this because the noises that birds make often sound like this.**

# Questions

1. Which of the following creatures are **not** mentioned in the poem? Tick one.

- ☐ hedgehogs
- ☐ foxes
- ☐ barn owls
- ☐ deer

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occur in the poem.

- ☐ Badgers emerge from their setts.
- ☐ Bats fly.
- ☐ Rodents scurry.
- ☐ There are scavenging foxes.

3. Draw **four** lines to match and complete the phrases.

scuttling	•
beautiful	•
silver	•
human	•

•	trails
•	threats
•	beetles
•	sight

4. Underline **one** word in the quotation below which means the same as 'mixture'.

*Screeches, squawks, a melange of cries  
ringing and echoing across the skies.*

5. Fill in the missing word.

When darkness \_\_\_\_\_, the woodland becomes alive;  
this is when many animals thrive.

6. Find and copy one word which shows that the trees are tall.

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7. What do you think the squirrels' meals may contain?

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8. ... **extending their razor talons to seize...**

What does the poet suggest by the word 'razor'?

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# Answers

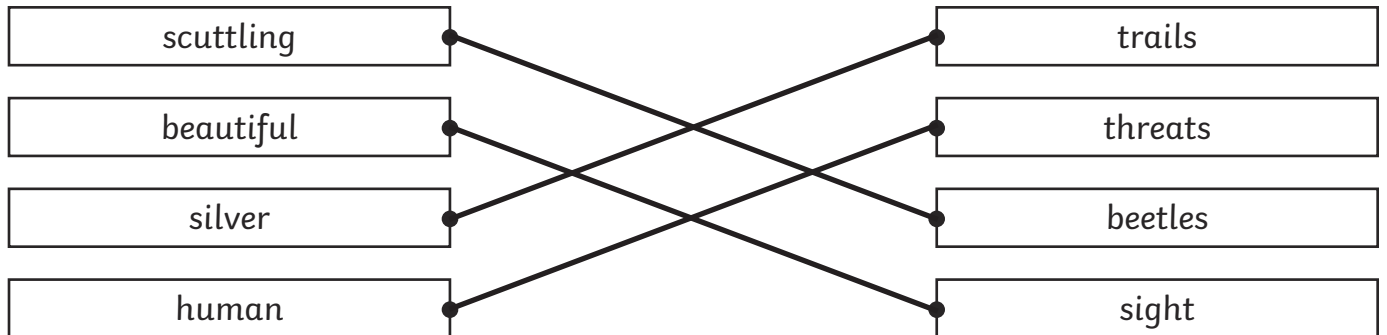
1. Which of the following creatures are **not** mentioned in the poem? Tick one.

- ☐ hedgehogs  
☐ foxes  
☐ barn owls  
☒ **deer**

2. Number the events from 1-4 to show the order that they occur in the poem.

- 2** Badgers emerge from their setts.  
**3** Bats fly.  
**4** Rodents scurry.  
**1** There are scavenging foxes.

3. Draw **four** lines to match and complete the phrases.



4. Underline **one** word in the quotation below which means the same as 'mixture'.

*Screeches, squawks, a melange of cries  
ringing and echoing across the skies.*

**Award 1 mark** for:

- melange

5. Fill in the missing word.

When darkness **descends**, the woodland becomes alive;  
this is when many animals thrive.

6. Find and copy one word which shows that the trees are tall.

**towering**

7. What do you think the squirrels' meals may contain?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the squirrels' meals may contain seeds, nuts and berries.**

8. ... extending their razor talons to seize...

What does the poet suggest by the word 'razor'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The poet suggests that the owls' talons are very sharp by the word 'razor'.**



# Questions

1. What are circling in the sky? Tick one.

- ☐ buzzards
- ☐ robins
- ☐ barn owls
- ☐ eagles

2. Underline **one** word in the quotation below which means the same as 'softly'.

*Spiders weave delicately, a beautiful sight:  
intricate webs glittering in the sunlight.*

3. Name one creature in the poem that is awake during the night.

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4. Fill in the missing word.

Striped badgers \_\_\_\_\_ from their underground setts  
away from daytime and human threats.

5. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'sparkling'.

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6. **... or scavenging foxes on the prowl.**

What does the poet suggest about the foxes by the phrase 'on the prowl'?

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7. Which creatures do you think could have left a silver trail on the woodland floor?

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8. Summarise what the poem is about in 30 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. What are circling in the sky? Tick one.

- ☐ buzzards
- ☐ robins
- ☒ **barn owls**
- ☐ eagles

2. Underline **one** word in the quotation below which means the same as 'softly'.

*Spiders weave delicately, a beautiful sight:  
intricate webs glittering in the sunlight.*

**Award 1 mark** for:

- delicately

3. Name one creature in the poem that is awake during the night.

**Accept one of the following: badgers; hedgehogs; bats; barn owls; rodents.**

4. Fill in the missing word.

Striped badgers **emerge** from their underground setts  
away from daytime and human threats.

5. Find and copy one word which means the same as 'sparkling'.

**glittering**

6. ... or scavenging foxes on the prowl.

What does the poet suggest about the foxes by the phrase 'on the prowl'?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the poet suggests that the foxes are hunting and looking for food by the phrase 'on the prowl'.**

7. Which creatures do you think could have left a silver trail on the woodland floor?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think snails and slugs could have left a silver trail on the woodland floor.**

8. Summarise what the poem is about in 30 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The poem is about creatures that live in the woodland. First, the poem focuses on creatures that are awake during the day and then animals that are up during night.**