



Summer Woodland Walk

Name _____



—JUNE—

—JULY—

—AUGUST—

During the summer months the woodland is at its greenest. The trees are now in full leaf and most of the spring flowers are over. Although there is much activity most of it is hidden by the thick canopy and is less easy to spot.

Quietness

The birds have finished nesting and are busy feeding their young. They have no time to sing so the woods are much quieter than in spring.
What sounds can you hear?

Insects

Dragonflies, mayflies and caddisflies will hatch from their larvae in woodland streams. Ants are busy collecting food to take back to the nest. There are many different kinds of insects such as aphids and caterpillars eating the new leaves.

Birds Feeding Young

This is the busy time for animals and birds. They are bringing up their young. Look out for birds such as blue tits bringing caterpillars back to their nest or kestrels hovering along the woodland edges, hunting for voles or mice.

Food Factories

Look at the leaves of different trees. Compare the shapes and sizes. How many can you recognise? Why are they all green?

Look at the **canopy** of different types of trees.

Which creates the most shade? What do you notice beneath different types of trees?

Summer Flowers

The leaf canopy is too thick in summer for flowering plants to survive beneath them. In glades and woodland edges, however, look for summer flowering plants like foxgloves, red campion and willow herbs.

Galls

Look out for 'oak apples' on oak twigs. These are the round growths produced when a tiny gall wasp lays an egg on the twig. Open one up.

What do you find inside?

Other gall wasps make galls on different trees. Look out for 'spangle galls' on sycamore leaves, 'bean galls' on willow leaves and 'robin's pincushions' on dog roses.

