



April Activity Pack

Spring is a magnificent time of the year. There are signs all around us of new life and hope as more light and warmth helps flowers and wildlife begin to thrive.

According to the most common version of the calendar, April was named that way because of the Latin word "aperire", which means "to open" in translation. The arrival of spring is a complex process and in terms of nature occurs over several months. The opening of flowers as the bloom, the first lambs, the first frog spawns, the fresh green leaves beginning to shine, and the first spring chicks beginning to chirp as they hatch.

This month's activity is full of fun filled poems, colouring sheets, recipes, spotter sheets, and even a wildlife tracker sheet and guide to making an animal footprint trap to help you identify and discover which wild creatures you have around you.

Enjoy and have fun,

www.wildsheffield.com

Goose and swan detective



**wildlife
watch**



Greylag goose



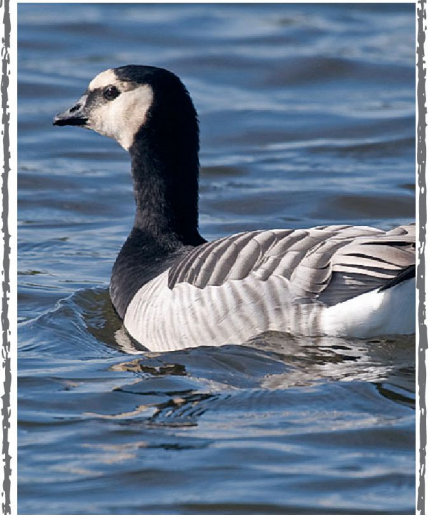
Canada goose



Brent goose



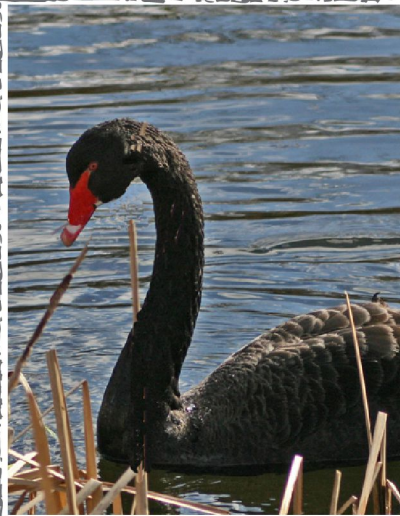
Pink-footed goose



Barnacle goose



Egyptian goose



Black swan



Mute swan



Whooper swan



Bewick's swan



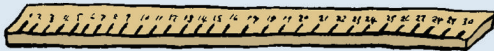
How to make an animal footprint trap

You will need:

- old baking tray



- long ruler



- fine grain sand



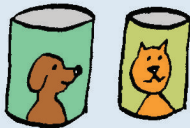
- water



- low-sided dish



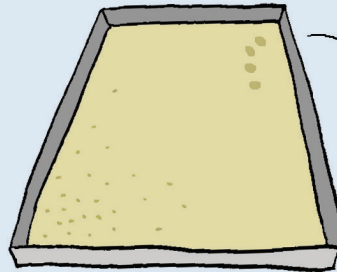
- meaty cat or dog food



- footprint ID guide

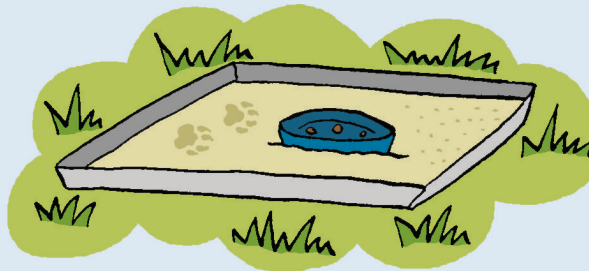


- 1 Fill an old baking tray with damp sand and smooth out the surface with a ruler.

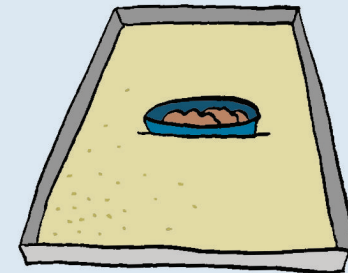


Check to make sure your fingers leave a mark.

- 3 Leave the trap overnight in a garden and check in the morning for footprints left by curious visitors.



- 2 Place hedgehog food or meaty cat or dog food in a low-sided dish in the middle of the tray.



(you could also try mealworms or chopped, unsalted peanuts)



hedgehog



fox



cat



bird



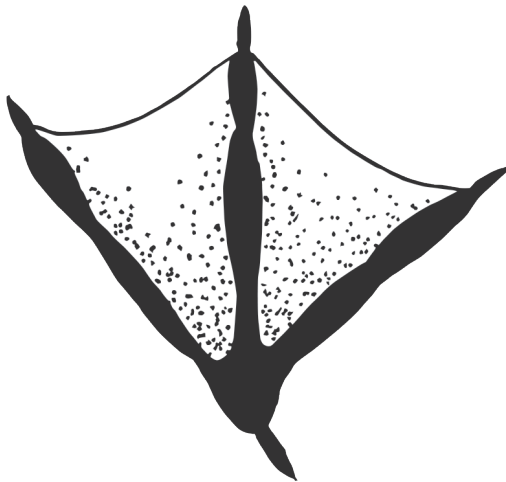
squirrel



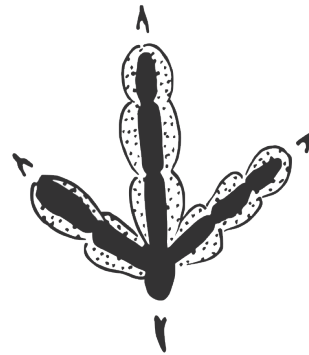
Wildsquare

animal tracks

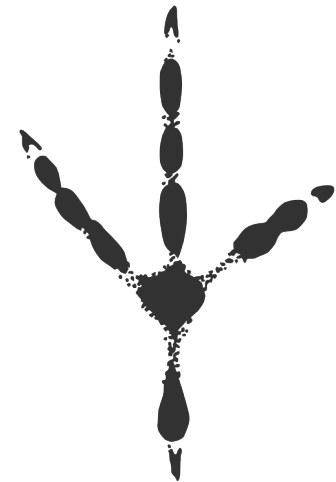
MALLARD DUCK



COOT



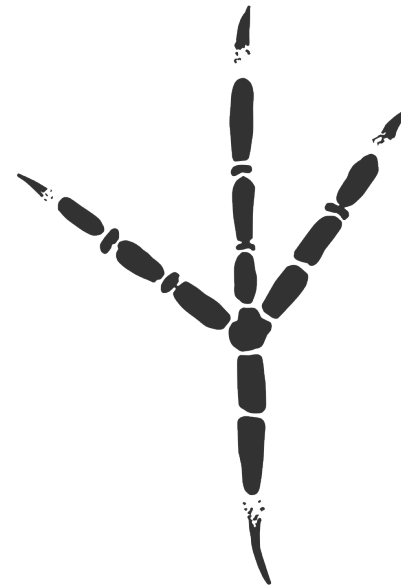
WOODPIGEON

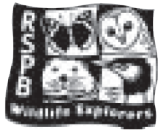


HOUSE SPARROW



CARRION CROW





Wildsquare
animal tracks

DOMESTIC DOG



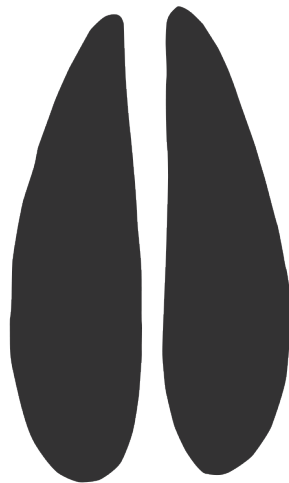
DOMESTIC CAT



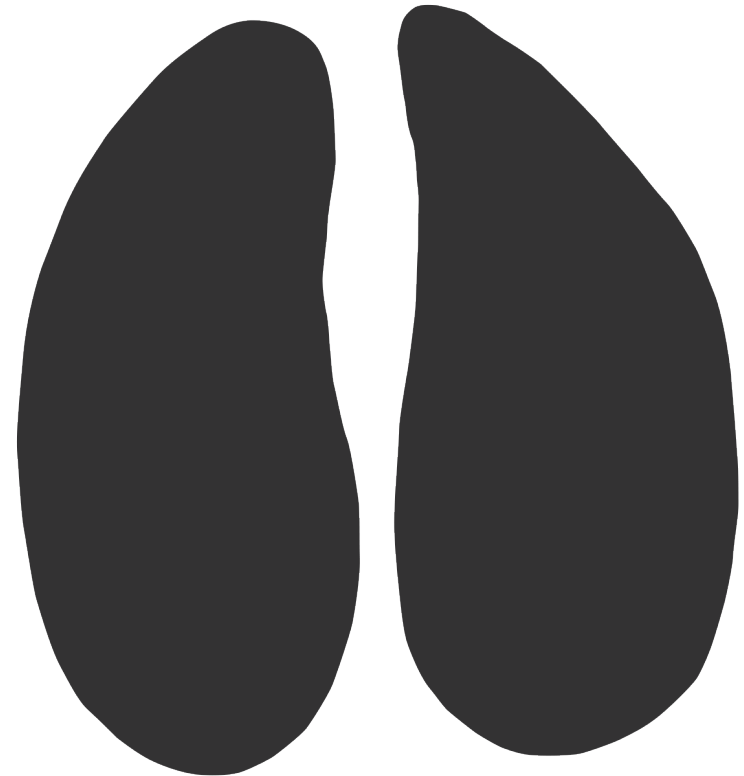
FALLOW DEER
THEIR FEET SPLAY
OUTWARDS WHEN THEY
RUN – OR WHEN THEY
WALK ON SOFT MUD



FALLOW DEER



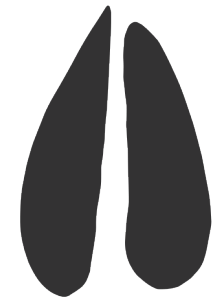
COW



SHEEP



MUNTJAC



RSPB Wildlife Explorers is the
junior membership of the RSPB.

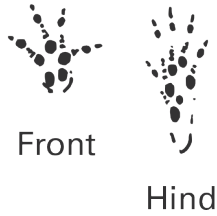




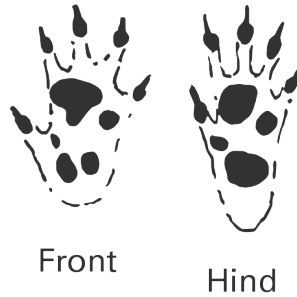
Wildsquare

animal tracks

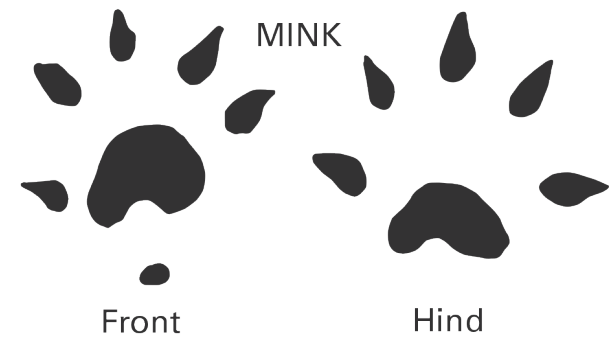
WOOD MOUSE



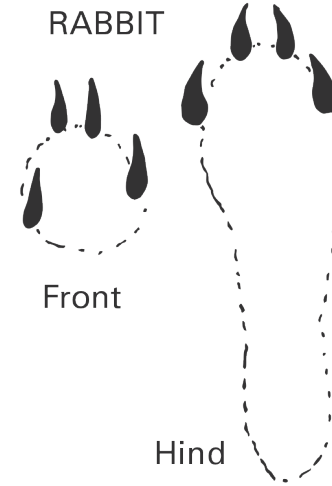
HEDGEHOG



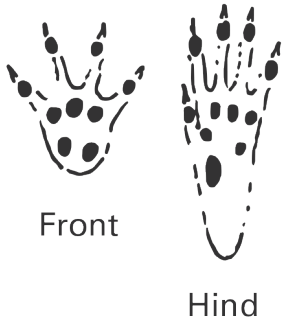
SQUIRREL



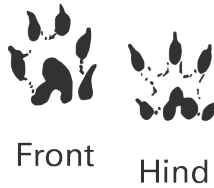
RABBIT



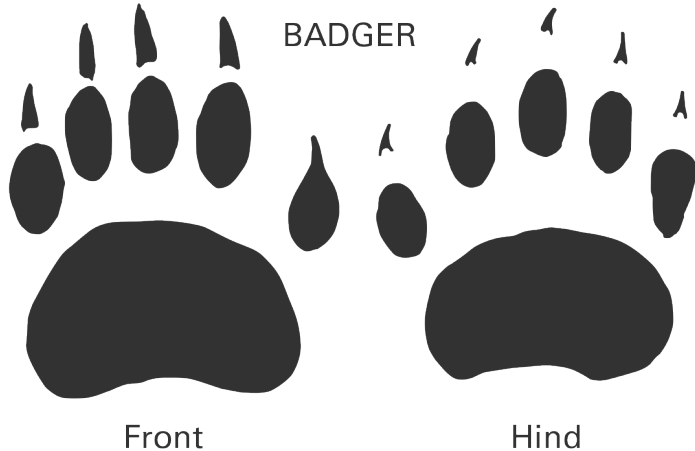
RAT



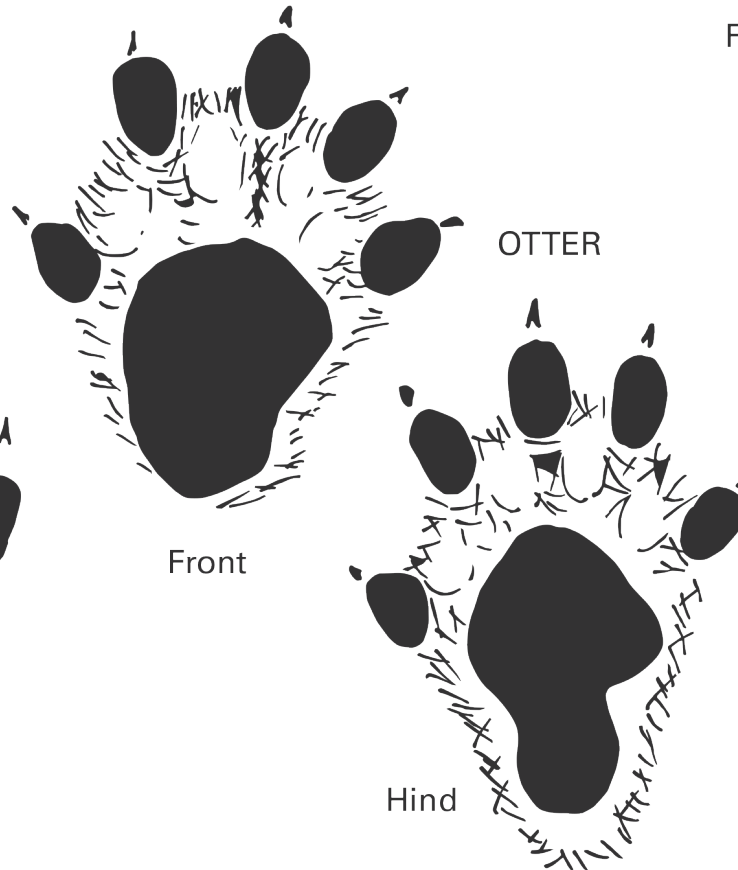
WEASEL



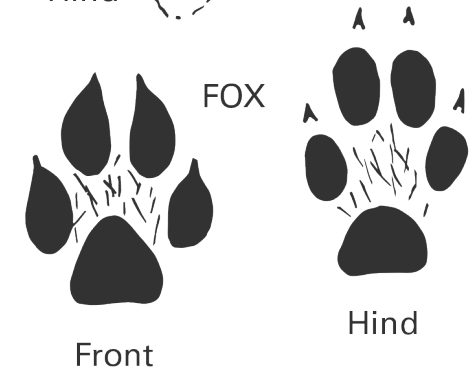
BADGER



OTTER



FOX



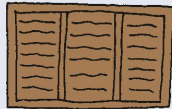
How to make a hedgehog highway

wildlife
watch

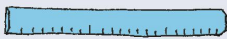


You will need

- A fence panel



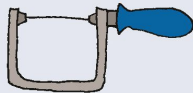
- Ruler



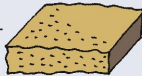
- Pencil



- Coping saw

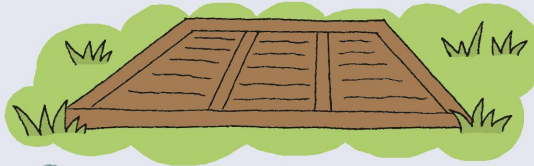


- Sandpaper

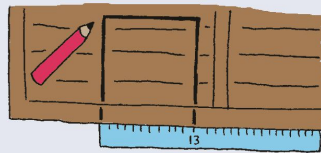


Talk to your neighbour!
It's important to get their consent to cut a hole in the fence - explain that hedgehogs need to move between gardens to access enough food.

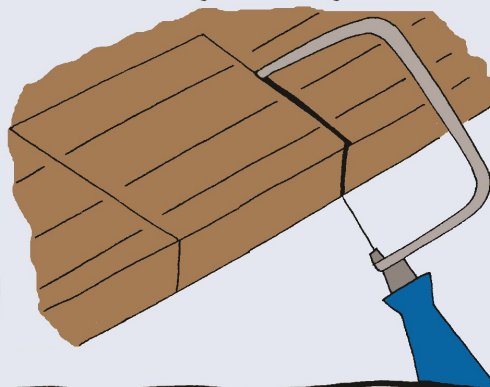
- 1 If your neighbour is happy, remove your fence panel.



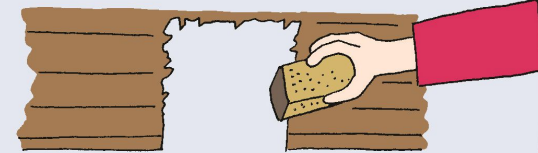
- 2 Measure and mark a 13cm x 13cm hole at the bottom of the panel.



- 3 Ask an adult to help you cut the hole using the coping saw.



- 4 If there are any very rough edges, use the sand paper to smooth them down.



- 5 Put your fence panel back. Your hedgehog highway is now open for business!

You could set up your own trail cam to watch and see if any animals are using your highway.

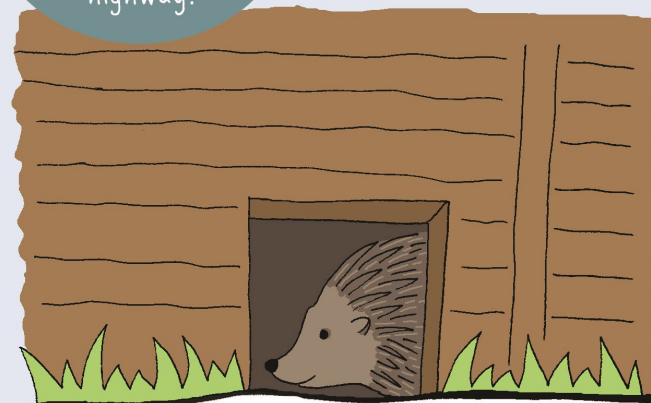
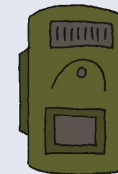


Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2016

Grow a bee and butterfly garden

Provide for bees and butterflies all year round by planting shrubs and plants that flower at different times.

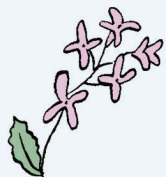
Spring



Primrose



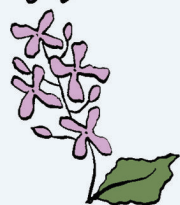
Garlic mustard



Sweet rocket



Aubretia



Honesty

Summer



Buddleia



Honeysuckle



Lavender



Red valerian



Hebe

Autumn



Ivy



Hyssop



Ice plant



Sweet
scabious



Michaelmas
daisy

Garden minibeasts



**wildlife
watch**



Spider



Earthworm



Wasp



Ladybird



Snail



Butterfly



Earwig



Bumblebee



Shieldbug



Hoverfly



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Be wild, whatever your age

Herb Pots for Pollinators

Growing your own herbs provides a healthy boost for us and a great source of food for insects too. Here's a quick starter guide but try out different ones and discover the herbs that you love!



Herb Pots for Pollinators are designed to provide snippings for the kitchen, to touch and smell in the garden and to flower to provide nectar for a variety of insects. They should be very simple to maintain. Keep them moist and cut back the old stalks in early spring as the new shoots start to emerge.

In the first year only pick a small amount – let them bulk up to fill the pots.

All the plants can eventually be split and put into other pots or sunny spots in the garden or shared with family and friends!

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Be wild, whatever your age

Suggestions to start with:

Bronze Fennel: This will grow tall and might be a bit floppy but let it flower to produce beautiful flower heads and tasty seeds.

Chives: Take a few snippings from each plant and allow the flower heads to set seed. Stalks with flowers will be tough so don't try and eat those!

Thyme: Take snippings from the edges of the plant if possible so that the middle has the chance to flower. Fresh thyme tea is a gentle, soothing herbal drink, hot or cold.

Nasturtiums: Nasturtiums are fairly carefree, but it's important to keep them watered during dry periods. They do well in containers and have edible flowers that taste peppery, like watercress. All colours and varieties are tasty in salads or as garnishes. Leaves can be eaten and fresh seeds too.

Enjoy!



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Pea & Mint Spring Soup

Vegetable soups are a perfect for making the most of what's in season.

At this time of year you can make fresh, nutritious soups with peas straight from the pod and spring vegetables.

Peas are packed full of vitamins, fibre, iron and protein, and are low in fat and sugar. But don't worry, frozen peas are just as good as fresh for nutritional value!

Ingredients – serves 4

- 3 tbsp oil or butter
- 4 spring onions
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 large potato or 5 baby potatoes
- 1000ml vegetable stock
- 900g young peas in the pod, or 400g frozen peas
- 4 tbsp chopped fresh mint
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- 150ml double cream or 400ml coconut milk (optional)



Method

1. Wash potatoes. Chop the spring onions, garlic, and potato (keep skin on – potato skins are full of fibre!)
2. Heat the oil in a large soup pot over medium-high heat. Add the spring onions, garlic and potatoes and fry. Stir occasionally, until they begin to soften.
3. Add the vegetable stock.



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4. Bring to a boil, reduce the heat to medium, cover, and simmer for 20 to 30 minutes or until potatoes are soft.
5. Shell the peas into a bowl.
6. Add the peas, simmer for another 5 mins – no more to keep that fresh pea flavour of springtime!
7. Turn off the heat and stir in the mint, lemon juice and cream. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
8. You can blend the soup in a food processor or with a hand blender if you prefer a smooth soup – then serve hot in bowls with bread!



Seasonal Eating – Spring - March to May

Here is a list of fruits and vegetables which are in season in Spring in the UK:

- Asparagus
- Aubergine
- Beetroot
- Cabbage
- Chillies
- Lettuce
- New Potatoes
- Peas
- Peppers
- Radishes
- Rhubarb
- Rocket
- Spinach
- Spring Greens
- Spring Onions
- Watercress

Wild at Heart

Wild Garlic Pesto

Make a wild pesto from Wild Garlic!

From March to June, British woodlands are blanketed in wild garlic, fresh and perfect for picking and adding to your cooking throughout spring.



Wild garlic, native to Britain, grows in old woodlands across the country.

The leaves – called ‘ramsons’ - appear in March and are best picked young for adding to soups, sauces, or a curry, or for making a tasty pesto.

The delicate white flowers bloom from April to June – the flowers are also edible, and can be added to salads or sandwiches for a pungent tangy flavour.

Wild garlic is so abundant in the spring months that you can save yourself buying garlic through the season. You can also freeze the leaves to have fresh, wild garlic all throughout the year!

Wild garlic has a long history of being used in traditional medicine here in the UK. The leaves would be boiled and the garlicky water used as a disinfectant for wounds. Eating wild garlic, especially raw, is thought to lower cholesterol and blood pressure, ease indigestion and soothe breathing problems.



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Guidelines for Foraging – think about nature, only collect things that are in abundance, only take what you need, leave plenty for wildlife, so as not to have a detrimental effect on the plant and the ecosystem.

All wild plants are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981). It is illegal to dig up or remove a whole plant from the land on which it is growing without permission from the landowner or occupier.

When foraging wild garlic, there is usually a large abundance, but this still applies –only pick as much as you need, and as a rule of thumb, leave enough that someone else coming past wouldn't notice that someone had been and removed anything. Only pick the leaves or flowers, never uproot the bulbs in the wild.

A note on safety:

Before the flowers come through, wild garlic leaves look quite similar to Lily of the Valley, which is poisonous. When crushed, if it doesn't smell of garlic, don't eat it, and if in any doubt, don't eat it!

Wild Garlic Pesto recipe:

1. Wash 150g of wild garlic leaves, finely chop 1 garlic clove, and juice half a lemon.
2. Put the wild garlic leaves, chopped garlic, lemon juice, 50g grated parmesan and 50g pine nuts or walnuts into a food processor. Mix in 150ml olive oil and season with salt and pepper.
3. Blitz into a smooth paste.
4. Serve with chunks of bread, spread on herby scones, or mix into cooked pasta. Enjoy!



Daffodils

William Wordsworth

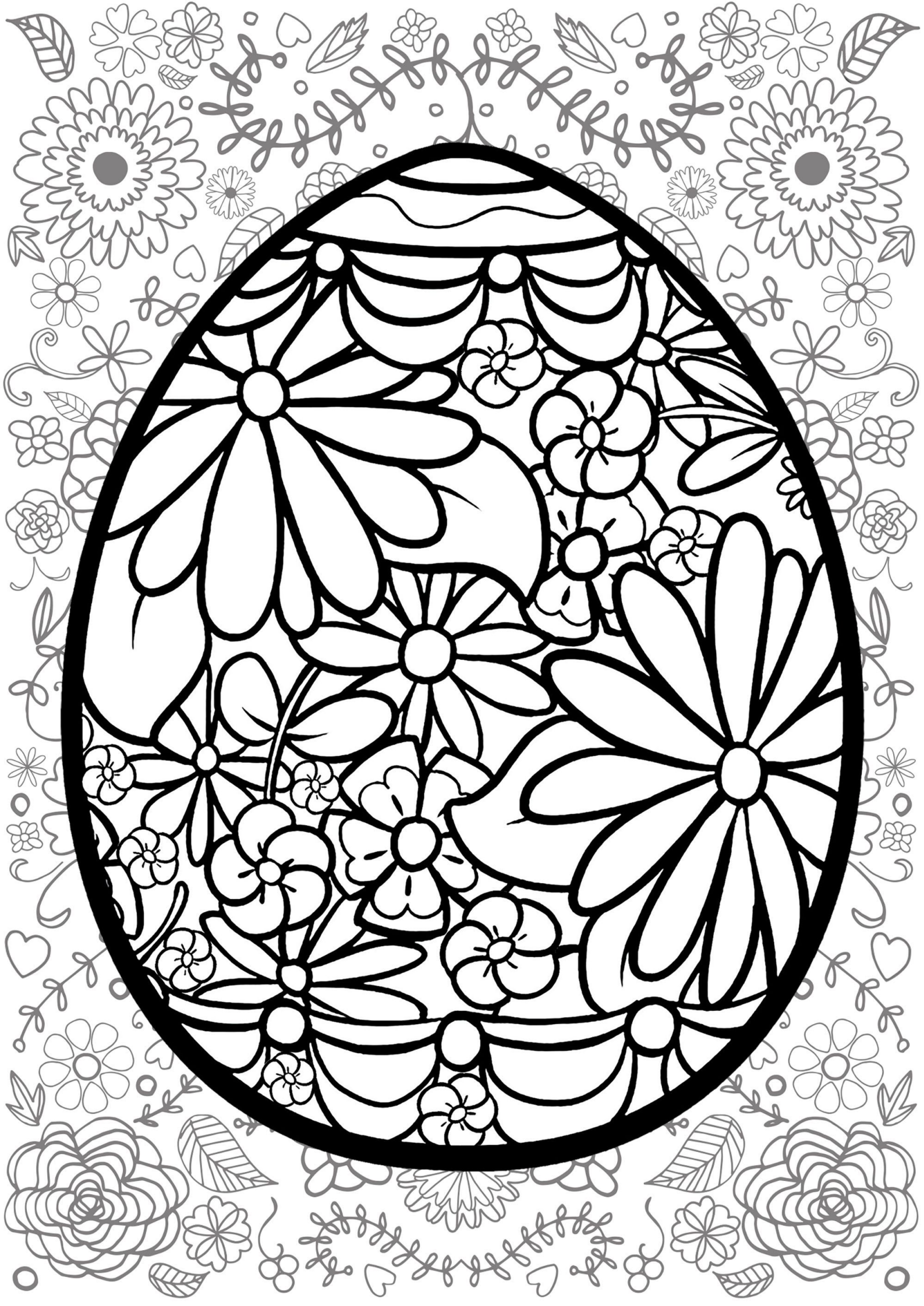
I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
and twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

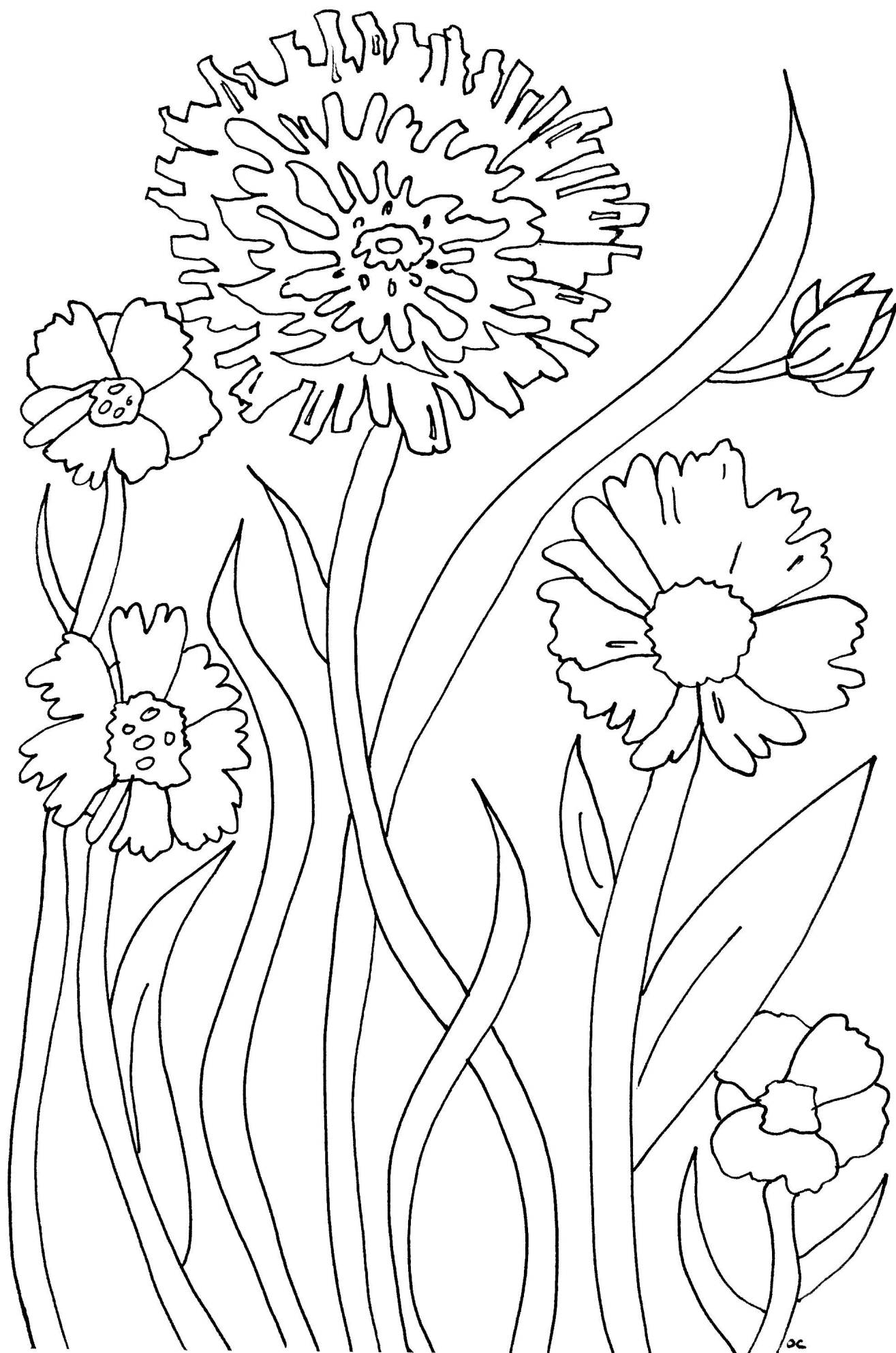
The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not be but gay,
in such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
what wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.











Mammals of Britain Word Search

Here in the UK we have 58 native mammals that live on land. See how many of these you can find below! How many others can you think of?

A	F	L	O	E	L	A	H	E	P	J	V	B	W	L	J	F	H	Y	C
F	W	J	U	W	B	O	U	R	P	N	R	O	O	Z	T	B	E	A	C
O	K	S	W	E	A	S	E	L	E	V	W	U	O	A	O	E	D	I	V
X	S	O	Q	S	T	W	J	S	U	X	T	I	C	B	W	A	G	G	I
O	N	I	N	E	A	K	U	O	Y	V	S	D	L	A	Z	V	E	L	P
Y	Y	Y	G	P	J	O	P	E	H	T	L	W	I	D	J	E	H	F	P
L	D	U	W	O	M	Z	L	K	R	I	T	M	R	G	B	R	O	Z	H
O	T	Q	U	D	X	O	B	L	W	W	W	F	I	E	T	O	G	J	A
K	F	L	O	K	V	L	A	H	E	I	J	M	R	R	I	J	A	X	Z
K	J	O	S	D	H	E	S	V	S	C	F	L	M	O	G	O	J	R	E
L	W	S	L	B	Y	I	F	B	C	O	T	J	F	E	Y	T	T	E	L
R	G	E	R	C	T	T	T	J	K	K	D	O	Q	H	N	N	O	D	D
W	I	M	Q	T	N	O	C	T	U	L	E	B	A	T	Z	E	S	S	O
F	S	Y	O	J	K	Z	P	T	L	W	P	P	E	D	O	V	T	Q	R
G	Y	C	C	L	A	F	P	V	E	O	D	W	I	T	Z	S	O	U	M
J	S	H	B	I	E	I	P	B	A	N	K	V	O	L	E	K	A	I	O
Z	P	A	V	P	I	P	I	S	T	R	E	L	L	E	B	A	T	R	U
E	N	S	I	D	X	P	R	E	D	D	E	E	R	X	N	P	K	R	S
J	P	I	N	E	M	A	R	T	E	N	F	K	F	D	L	T	K	E	E
T	A	J	A	E	V	Y	C	M	Y	G	K	X	B	J	Z	W	Y	L	R

Badger

Field Vole

Hedgehog

Pine Marten

Scottish Wild Cat

Weasel

Bank Vole

Fox

Mole

Red Squirrel

Stoat

Wild Boar

Beaver

Hazel Dormouse

Noctule Bat

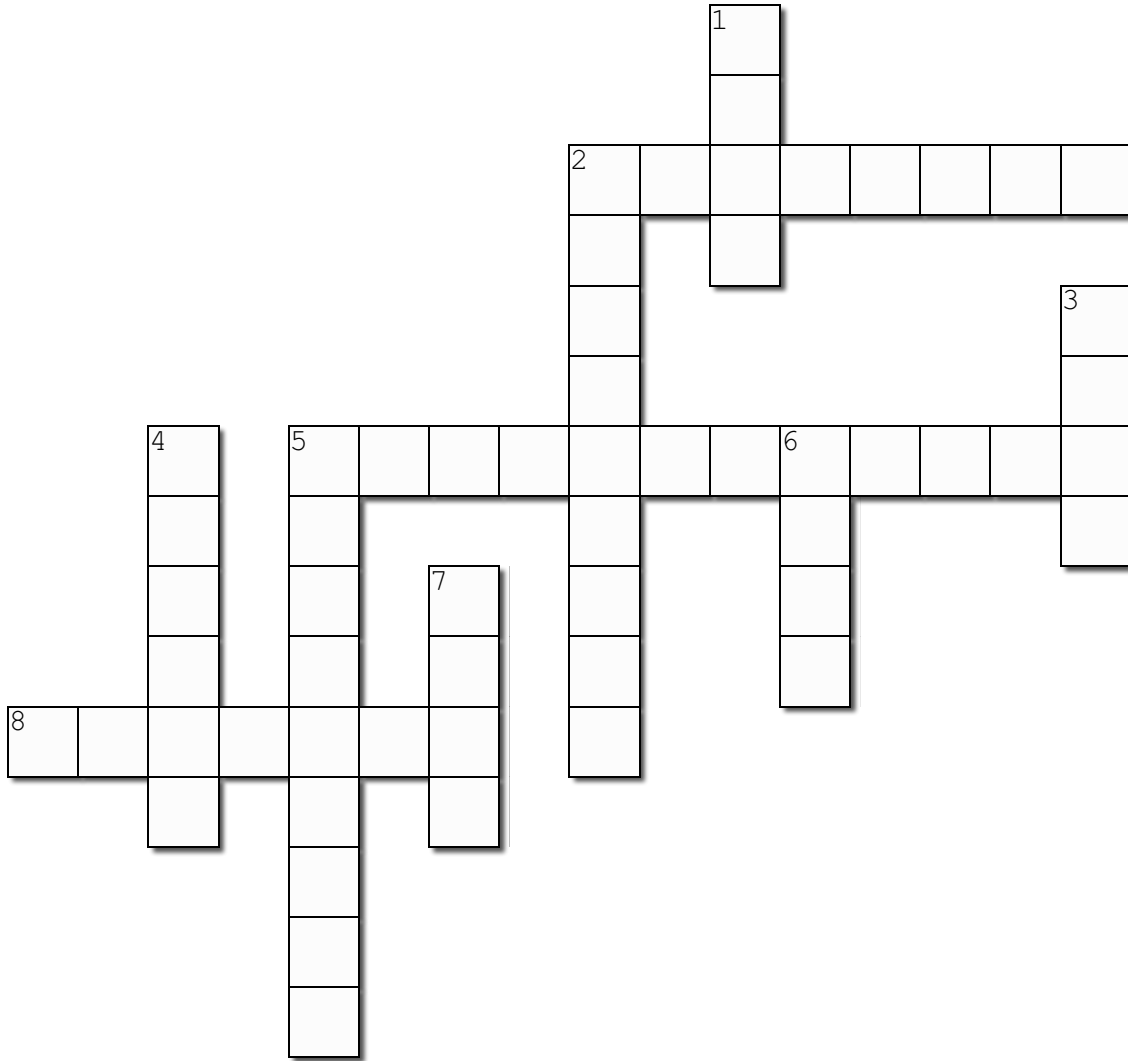
Red Deer

Pipistrelle Bat

Wood Mouse

Spring Cryptic Crossword

See if you can work out the answers to these Spring-themed cryptic clues!



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

- 2. A series of lovely tweets! (8)
- 5. Who could forget these flowers? (6-2-4)
- 8. Pretty flowers of a fruit tree (7)

Down

- 1. As mad as a march ____! (4)
- 2. A moth covered in colour, and butter! (9)
- 3. Where a female bird lays a clutch (4)
- 4. A daft person, or a clock, or a bad parent! (6)
- 5. Jellied eggs, future tadpoles! (9)
- 6. Did these come first, or the chicken? (4)
- 7. Bleats and gambles, a very woolly baby! (4)