

Key Stage 1 & 2

Descriptive writing task

Learning objective:	To write a descriptive piece based on what you might see or do in a woodland.
You will need:	The Woodland Life poster.
Activity:	Explain that pupils are going to use the poster as the basis for writing a description about what they would actually see if they go down to the woods.
Starter:	Encourage pupils to look at the poster and think about all the things they can see in the picture. What would they be able to hear? How would it smell? How would they feel in the woods?
Development:	<p>Encourage pupils to generate different vocabulary that might help in describing a woodland.</p> <p>In pairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• choose an animal and describe it to each other without using the animal's name. Guess each other's animal.• play 'hide and seek' by imagining you are hiding in the woods and describing where you are in the picture.• give each other instructions for how to climb a tree. What would you feel, see and do?• ask pupils to write down as many adjectives that they can that could help in describing a wood• for older children, ask pupils to choose an animal and write down five words to describe it. Then pick a pupil and ask them to describe their animal to the class without using any of those five words. <p>Choose pairs to come up to the front and demonstrate their work to the class.</p> <p>Write relevant words that come up on the board.</p> <p>Once children have done the pair work set them a writing task of describing woodlands and things they might see and do there starting with "If you go down to the woods today..."</p>

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Descriptive writing task *(continued)*

Development continued:

For older children make this an exercise in writing a diary. Ask them to write a diary entry imagining an afternoon in the woods. Share the golden rules for descriptive writing:

- Write in the first person
- Use all your senses: sound sight, smell, touch, taste
- Include interesting words to help bring the woodland to life

Plenary:

Play a game of “If you go down to the woods today, you’ll see a…” where children each add their own idea of what you might see.

For older children this should be alphabetical and they have to remember the list as they go along.

Further ideas:

Use the poster as the basis of learning about food chains and the difference between carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Use the poster to look at the specific habitats that different animals live in.