

Woodland Faces



You will need

- Natural Materials (Leaves, Twigs, Feathers, Stones)
- Wobbly Eyes

Before you begin

Locate a suitable outdoor space like a woodland, park or common where you can find natural materials. Perhaps your garden is big enough if you don't want to go out for a walk with your family.

Have a go

If you are going to an outdoor space, take some time when you arrive to quietly soak up the sights, sounds and smells of nature.



Many years ago, people believed in friendly woodland spirits that controlled the the natural cycle of growth and rebirth in the forest. They were represented by the Green Man, a man made of leaves and other greenery.

1. Look around the ground to find natural materials to make your own Green Man Woodland Face.
2. Collect only materials that have fallen from trees or are naturally on the ground – do not damage any living plant or animal.
3. Create your Woodland Face – you can use wobbly eyes if you want to “bring your Green Man to life”.

*“Hear the Green Man in the trees
speak in hushed tones
of how the forest
is the most ancient of places”*

- Old folklore poem -

Additional Information

Once you have completed your woodland or “Green Man” face, make sure you photograph it as a memory and then leave it in the place for others to enjoy or for nature to reclaim it.



Reflection

During this activity you will learn how people, in the past, expressed their love of nature – stories about the woodland spirits showed the wonder of nature.

- Why do you think people are awestruck by nature?
- Why do you think people of the past believed in woodland spirits?
- Why did you create the face that you have?
- What do you think will happen to the faces once you have gone?

Remember: It's important to be respectful of nature and not damage any living plant or animal.

Remove the eyes from your woodland face once you have photographed it and take them home to use again.

Safety

Outdoor activities: You must have permission to use the location. Always check the weather forecast and make sure it is safe to visit your planned location.

Gardening and nature: You must wash your hands after the activity has finished. Wear gloves if needed.



All Activities are taken from the Scout Association's Great IN Doors programme.