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Children's  
Books

# THE WILDERNESS WAR

## ACTIVITY PACK

With fun activities from the



WOODLAND  
TRUST

## A letter from JULIA GREEN

Wild places have a special magic. As a child, I played outside with friends and my sisters in our garden, in the fields and on the wild common a short walk from our house. We made a wonderful secret den in the woods, under an oak tree. The stories I loved were often set in wild places, too.

Now I'm grown-up (on the outside, at least!) I still love best the times I can be outside: walking along a huge empty beach by the sea, or on a cliff top, up a high hill, in fields or woodlands. Being in wild places seems to connect me with who I really am, makes me happy, calms me and helps me to see what really matters.

My story celebrates a wild place in the middle of a city, and a group of children who play there. It is inspired by a real place, and a real group of children, though I have taken many imaginative liberties with my fictional version.

When you have finished reading the story, I hope you will want to run and play outside, look at the sky, breathe in deep, build a den, climb a tree and NOTICE the beautiful, ordinary world all around us.

Julia Green



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**How to build a campfire**  
 Follow these easy steps to build your own campfire.



**Always** ask the landowner's permission before starting a campfire. Some landowners, such as the Woodland Trust, don't permit campfires in their woods.

# Build a campfire

**1. Choose the right space**  
 This is important. Your campfire space should be in a clearing at least three metres from any trees or shrubs that could catch alight.

**2. Prepare your area**  
 Clear a space about two metres wide for the fire, removing any grass, leaves and twigs. Then build a circle of stones around one metre across to contain your fire. Remember to keep water on hand in case you need to put the fire out.



**5. Lighting your fire**  
 Use a match to light the tinder. Once the tinder has started to burn, slowly add some small pieces of kindling, keeping the sticks close together but allowing space for air.  
  
 Gradually increase the size of the kindling you add to the fire. When you have a good fire going, slowly add the fuel one piece at a time in the same way as the kindling, creating a tepee shape.



Add one piece at a time!

**3. Gathering the wood**



**Tinder**  
 small dry twigs, leaves or grass.

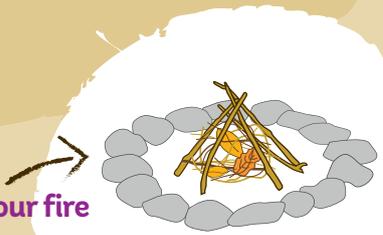


**Kindling**  
 thin dry sticks smaller than 2cm thick.



**Fuel**  
 larger pieces of dry wood.

**4. Constructing your fire**  
 Create a ball of tinder in your hands and place it in the middle of the stone fire circle. Then add the kindling, leaning it into a point over the tinder, like a tepee.



**Remember**  
 to fully extinguish the fire when you're done. Use plenty of water to make sure that no part of it is still burning.

**Make sure you have a grown-up on hand to help you build your campfire.**

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### Campfire bread twists

These delicious campfire treats are fun and really easy to make.

**Always** ask the landowner's permission before starting a campfire. Some landowners, such as the Woodland Trust, don't permit campfires in their woods.

### You will need:

- 500g self-raising flour
- 3 tablespoons of sugar
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- 300-500ml of water
- Optional: jam, honey or chocolate spread

# Campfire bread twists

**1** Mix the sugar, salt and flour in a large bowl. Once they're combined, add 200ml of water and mix. Keep adding small amounts of water and knead the dough so that it forms into one big lump. Keep kneading until the dough becomes smooth and springy – then it's ready!



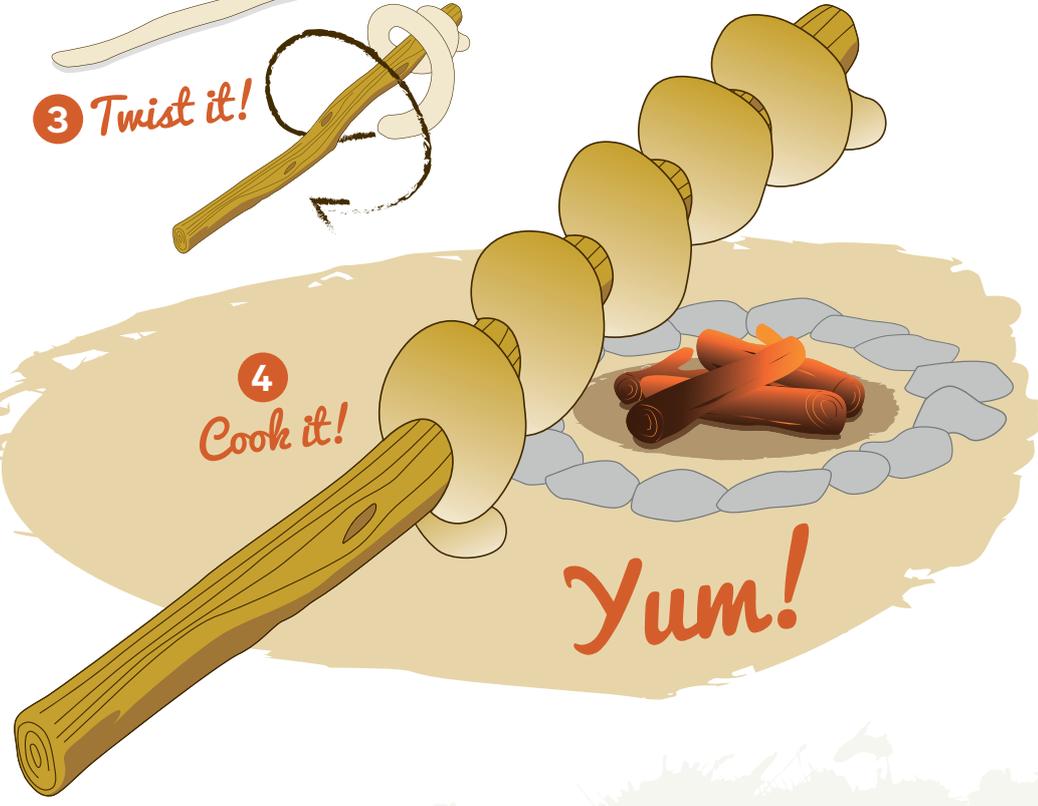
**2** Leave the dough to one side while you prepare your cooking stick. Choose a sturdy-looking stick, around 2.5cm thick, and strip off the bark and leaves.



**3** Now you're ready to get cooking. Grab a small handful of dough and roll it into a snake-like shape. This won't need to be very thick, as the dough will swell when cooking. Next, twist your dough onto the stick.



**4** To cook your bread, hold the stick over the embers of a campfire. If you hold it directly into the flames it's likely to burn. Once it starts to turn golden brown it's cooked and ready to eat. Your campfire bread twist will taste great as is, or with jam, honey or chocolate spread.



**Make sure you have a grown-up on hand to help you make your bread twists.**

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### Frog pond

Follow these simple steps to create a mini frog pond.

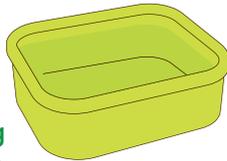
# Frog pond



## You will need:

- A shovel
- A large container
- Old bricks or bits of wood
- Some small pond plants

**1** Choose your container. This could be a washing up bowl, bucket or even an old sink. Keep in mind that this is something which will have to be strong enough to withstand bad weather.



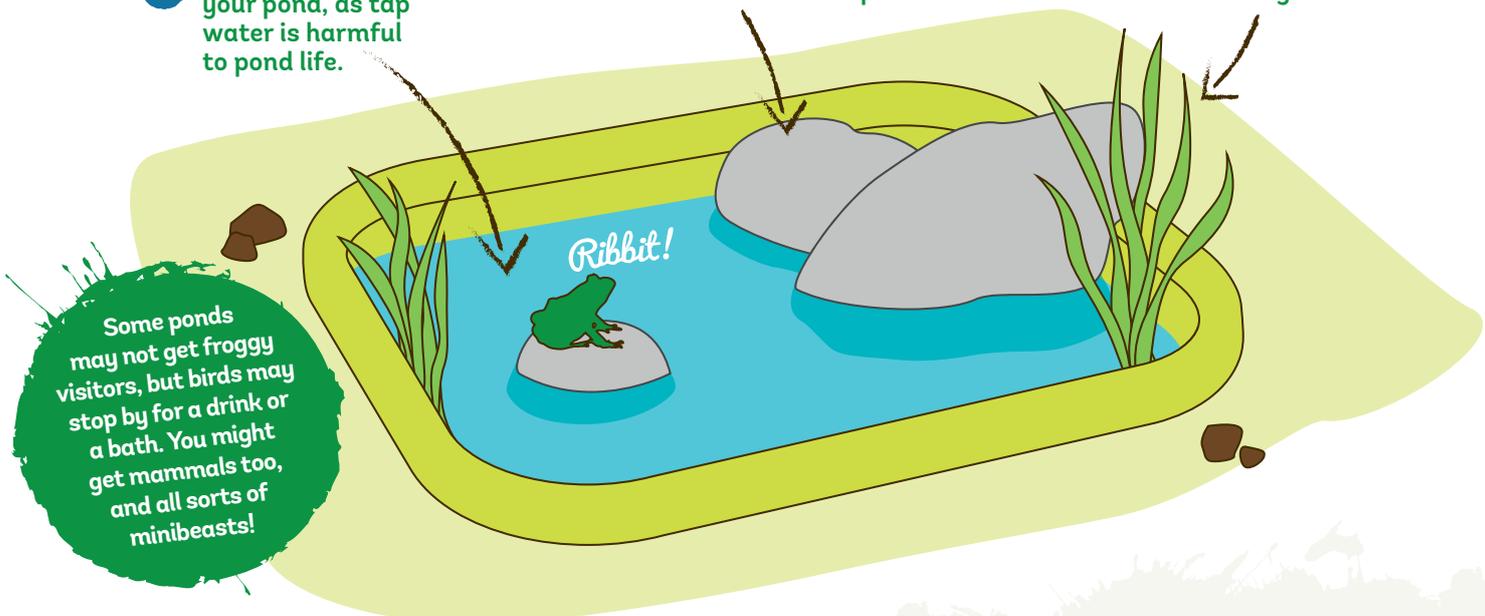
**2** Dig a hole and sink your container into the ground.



**3** Use rainwater to fill your pond, as tap water is harmful to pond life.

**4** Make sure that wildlife can get in and out – use bricks or wood to create stepping stones in and out of the pond.

**5** Add some finishing touches to your pond by adding some pond plants – you can find these in most garden centres.



Some ponds may not get froggy visitors, but birds may stop by for a drink or a bath. You might get mammals too, and all sorts of minibeasts!

If you're going to make a frog pond then make sure you have a grown-up on hand to help out.

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**Be a super spotter!**  
 How many trees can you identify?



Alder



Beech



Oak



Sycamore



Birch



Holly



Elder



Ash



Horse Chestnut



Rowan



Field Maple



Hawthorn



Hazel

**Found any other leaves? Do you know which trees they're from?**

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**Ready to get detecting?**

How many of these footprints can you find?



Squirrel



Deer



Badger



Fox



# Fantastic tracks!



Duck



Bird



Otter



Rabbit



Dog



Hedgehog



Look for prints in soft mud near a pond or lake, after rain, or in the frost and snow during winter.

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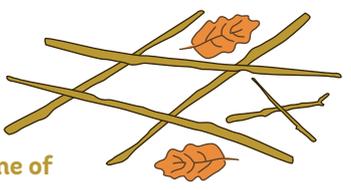
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**20 things to do with a stick**  
With a bit of imagination,  
a humble stick can be anything!

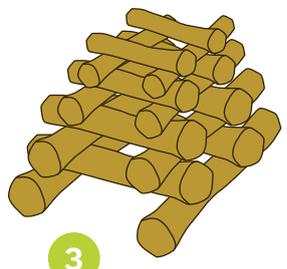
**1 Game**

Set up a game of woodland noughts and crosses. Use sticks to create a grid, and other sticks to make the noughts and crosses. Or use pine cones, leaves or flowers instead.



**2 Fetching stick**

Perfect for playing with the family dog!



**3**

**Twig tower**

Collect sticks from the woodland floor and layer them on top of each other to see how high you can build a towering twig tower.

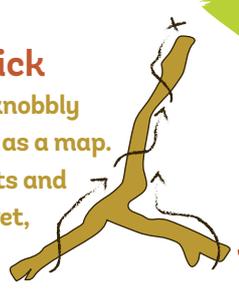
**10 An important sign**

Make a trail for your friends to follow through the woods. Or make up a secret code of arrows, crosses and other symbols.



**9 Magical divining stick**

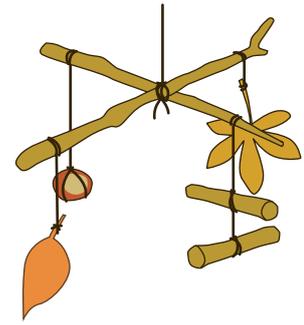
Find a bumpy, knobbly stick and use it as a map. Follow the twists and marks to a secret, magical place.



**4**

**Stick man**

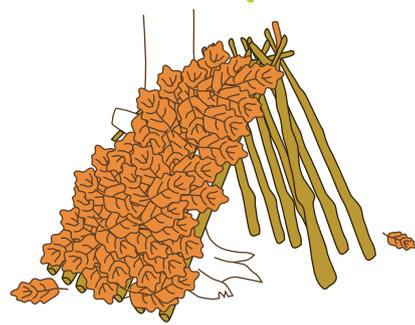
Use sticks for the body, leaves and grass for hair and clothes, and seeds for eyes, noses and ears.



**8**

**Twirling mobile**

Make a woodland mobile from sticks, leaves, autumn seeds and wood, and hang it from the trees.



**6**

**Den**

Use big sticks to make a den large enough for people to shelter in, or use little sticks to make a teeny tiny den for minibeasts.

**5**

**Catapult**

Find a strong forked twig and tie a length of elastic to each fork (a snipped elastic band is ideal). Ping berries or rolled up balls of grass at pine cones lined up in a row.



**7 Magic wand**

Use sticks to cast spells or freeze people in place.



**Remember, never fire your catapult at people or animals.**

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## 20 things to do with a stick

With a bit of imagination, a humble stick can be anything!

### 11 Broomstick

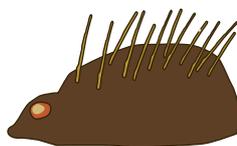
Collect a bunch of small, thin twigs and tie them to a much bigger, straight stick with string or sticky tape. Perfect for flying off in the moonlight!



12

### Sculpture

Create fantastic outdoor animal sculptures using sticks, leaves, seeds and petals. What will you make?



13

### Pooh stick

Make like Winnie-the-Pooh: find a bridge over a stream or river and drop sticks from one side of it. Race to the other side to see whose stick emerges from under the bridge first. Work out which way the water is flowing or your stick will go the wrong way!



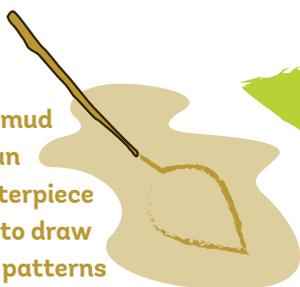
### 20 Poo investigations

If you spot some poo, break it apart with a stick to find out what the animal has been eating.



### 19 Sketcher

Turn a blank mud canvas into an outdoor masterpiece – use a stick to draw pictures and patterns or write messages in mud.



# Super Sticks!

14

### Pair of antlers

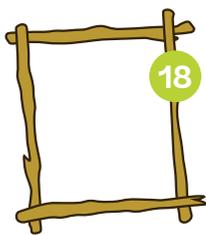
Pretend you're a stag living in the woods. Find some sticks that look like antlers and hold them up to your head, then leap gracefully through the trees.



18

### Picture frame

The only way to frame an outdoor art masterpiece.



16

### Wind chime

Hang sticks of different lengths and thicknesses from a branch and listen to them gently knock against each other in the breeze.



15

### Stirrer

Perfect for mud soups, flower petal perfumes or magic potions.



17

### Marshmallow fork

Perfect for toasting gooey marshmallows over a campfire.



## Make sure a grown up helps you toast the marshmallows!

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Small and delicate or big and bright?  
Can you tick off all 9?



Honeysuckle  
June-August



Ox-eye daisy  
May-July



Foxgloves  
June-September



Common spotted orchid  
June-September



Bramble  
May-September



Teasel  
July-August



Wild strawberry  
April-July



Poppy  
June-August



Bugle  
April-July

Which was your favourite?

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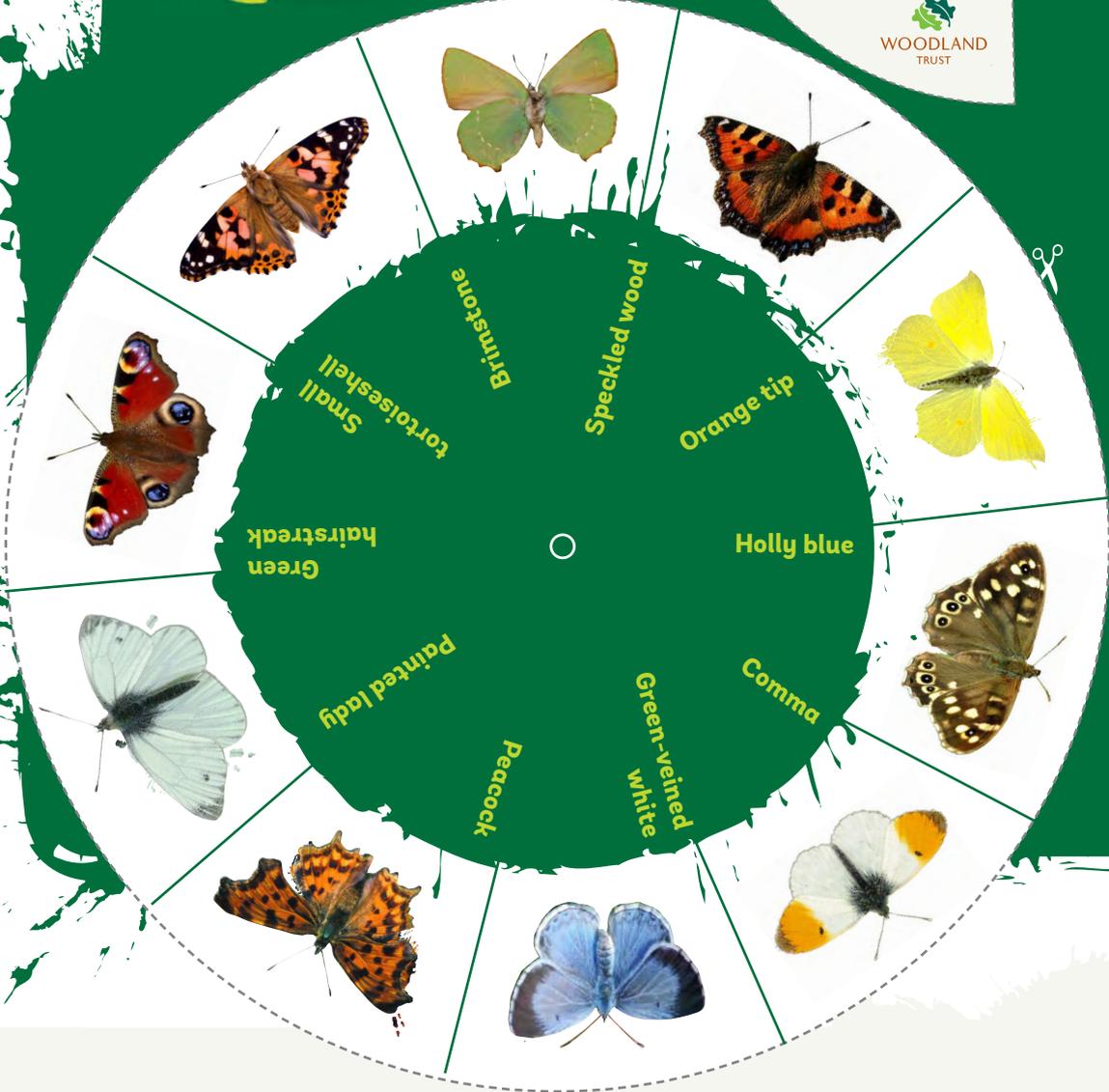


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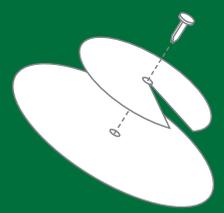


**Be a real Nature Detective**

Can you spot these fluttering butterflies?



Cut around the dotted lines then attach the top piece to the bottom piece using a split pin



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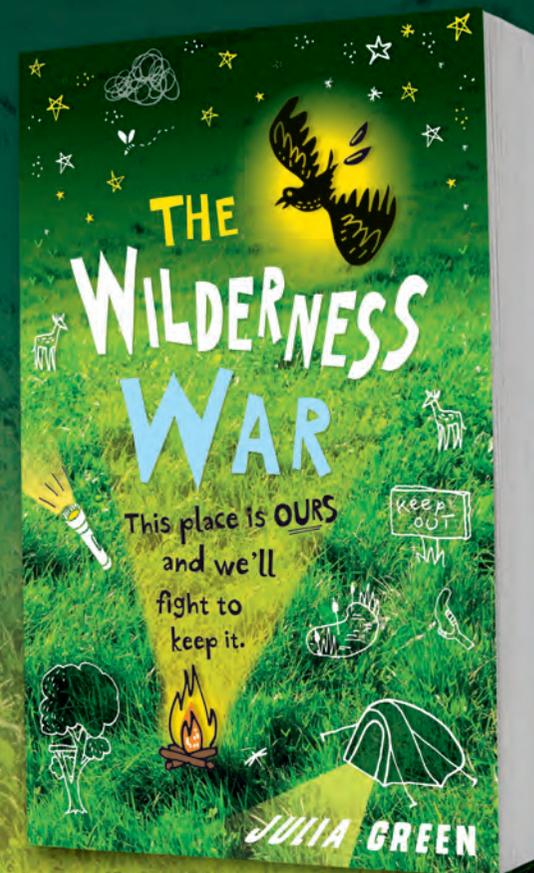
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- A BEAUTIFUL CELEBRATION OF THE **WILD SPACES** AROUND US.
- JULIA GREEN EVOKES THE NATURAL WORLD WITH HER WONDERFULLY **LYRICAL** WRITING STYLE.
- EXTRA MATERIAL AT THE BACK OF THE BOOK INCLUDES **FUN IDEAS** ON HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF OUR WILD SPACES.



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