

Winter wander advent calendar

Week 1 to 2

1

Try to catch a leaf as it falls from a tree. Make a wish for the new year if you do. Draw the leaf and write your wish on your card.

2

Make a spore print. Find some fungi with gills. Break a mushroom/fruit off and take it home and leave it on top of your card for 3+ hours.

3

Pay special attention to the texture and patterns of bark on different types and ages of tree. Make rubbings with a wax crayon and paper.

4

Find an acorn, or another seed, and bring it home with you. Draw it onto your card, and then pop it into a small plastic pot and leave somewhere cold.

5

Find some soil. Mash it up and add a splash of water. Dip a paintbrush into the soil and paint the tree you saw as it, and as you imagined its roots below.

6

Go on a feather hunt. Pin the feather up on your board and imagine and investigate which bird it came from. Write the type of bird you think it came from. Draw it if you like.

7

Take a pen out with you today and find somewhere comfy to sit down. Take in the world around you and write a haiku inspired by your surroundings. Use five syllables in the first and third line, and seven syllables in the middle line.

8

Try to find a pebble shaped like an egg. A nice smooth one. Keep it in your pocket all day to remind you of your wander. At the end of the day put it next to your display board.

9

Bring home the biggest leaf you can! Try to identify it. Look at its veins, its colouring, its edges and the way its curves. Write a description of your leaf onto today's card.

10

Go outside and take five minutes to draw a tree onto your card. It could be your favourite tree, or it could be one that you've never noticed before. Take some time to notice all the details and then try to replicate them on your card.

11

Find the smallest leaf you can, then pin it to your card and display it on your board. Try and identify it if you can!

12

Make a rain stick! Forage little seeds and tiny stones and leaves. Feed your leaves into a cardboard tube. Seal the open end of the tube. Decorate the tube if you like!

13

Light is our focus today as Christians mark St Lucy's Day, often pictured with a wreath of candles. Forage a few bits that you can place or bend around a candle in your home. Light the candle as early as you like to cosy into the dark of winter.

14

Using your piece of card, draw the first animal you see on your wander today.

Make sure you wear gloves when handling mushrooms and feathers

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Week 3 to 4

15

Do some wind marbling. You'll need different colours of chalk, water, paper and a bucket full of water. Go outside and grate chalk into the water. Lay the paper on top for a moment and let the wind move the paper around. Lift off the water, and lay flat to dry.

16

On your walk today, spend some time looking at and following a bird. Draw the bird on your card.

17

Find somewhere quiet and take a sound recording on your walk today. Listen to it when you're at home and get transported back to your quiet place.

18

Count how many doggies you see on your walk today! Draw the smiliest dog on your card.

19

Experiment with natural inks. Forage whatever you like: leaves, berries, fruit. Put in a pot with a cup of water, a pinch of salt, and a teaspoon of white vinegar. Heat in an old pan that you won't mind dirtying on a gentle boil for an hour, or until water takes on a deep colour. Use a strip of paper to test your ink.

20

Find a pine cone or two. Stuff the gaps with cotton wool. Draw two googly eyes, a pair of wings and a beak, and stick onto the pinecone so it looks like an owl!



Rainy day activities



- 1 Look around at all your foraged goods, and use them to inspire some homemade wrapping paper. Make potato stamps and stamp old bits of paper or use newspaper or old brown paper.
- 2 Hop outside and place lots of different sized glasses out in the rain. Bring them in once they've filled up a bit, and then tap them all with a teaspoon to make a rainwater glockenspiel!

21

Find another pine cone. Spread a layer of peanut butter on it, and stick lots of seeds to it. Go for a wander, and place the pinecone in a tree for the birds to tuck into.

22

Gather lots of small leaves, and use twine to tie them to a couple of pillar candles to add a cosy winter atmosphere to your home. Be careful to ensure the leaves don't touch the flame.

23

On today's walk look out for animal tracks and snuffles. Write down how many different tracks you find, and if you see a really nice imprint, copy it onto your card.

24

Now it's time to celebrate! Make a hanging star with twine and sticks. Gather five straight twigs. When you return home, follow our instructions on our web page.