

# NATURE TRAIL



## RESOURCE PACK FOR EYFS/KS1

**Suitable for:** Ages 4+

**Includes:** Visual extracts from the books + corresponding reading questions and activities

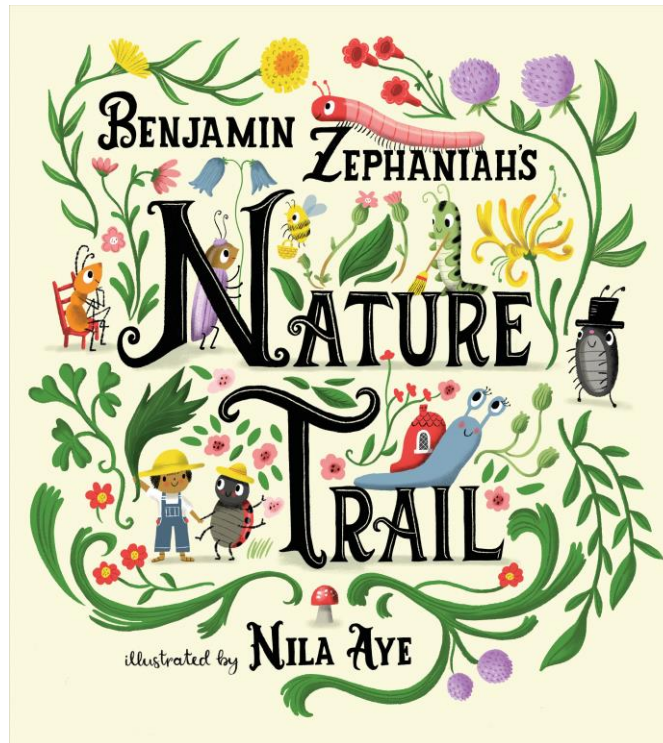
**Themes:** ✓ Understanding the World ✓ Exploring the Outdoors  
✓ Plants & Animals ✓ Habitats ✓ Poetry ✓ DT ✓ Sorting & Classifying  
✓ Creative Responses to Stories ✓ Speaking and Listening



Resources created by Shapes for Schools

# NATURE TRAIL

## ABOUT THE BOOK



*'The world outside you is full of wonder.*

*Why not step outside and take a closer look.'*

Inspirational poet Benjamin Zephaniah has created a celebration of the garden in this rhythmic, rhyming picture book poem. The vibrant, detailed illustrations by Nila Aye are bursting with life, just like the garden and are full of flowers and fruits, creepy crawlies, sly foxes and thieving squirrels!

***Nature Trail*** will excite and enthuse young readers to get outside, explore and protect the world around them, and imagine what nature might be getting up to right under our nose!

# NATURE TRAIL

## LESSON 1: THE GARDEN

**Objective:** To identify, sort and classify plants and animals.

**Outcomes:** A plants and animals sorting tray or sorting diagram; a mindful garden adventure trail.

Take a look at the first two double pages of *Nature Trail* or reference the page one of your extract pack.

### Discussion Questions

- Where is this poem set? Do you or a friend have a garden? What is it like? What do you do in it?
- What different types of plants and animals can you see here?
- What are the animals getting up to? How does this differ on the second spread of pages from the first?
- Would you like to visit this garden? Why?
- Benjamin Zephaniah is a poet. Have you read any poems before? What can you share about them?

### Key Vocabulary!

Learn some amazing words to wow your friends and family: MAMMAL, AMPHIBIAN, INSECT, and ARACHNID.

### Did you know?

An ENTOMOLOGIST is someone who studies insects!



## ACTIVITY: EXPLORING YOUR OUTDOOR SPACE

The child in the story is exploring their garden. Explore it with them and look carefully at the plants and animals hiding there in the illustrations. Then go outside and discover your own outdoor space.

- Make a list of all the plants and creatures you can see in the pages of *Nature Trail* and sort them into two groups – PLANTS and ANIMALS. You could sort pictures or toys in a tuff tray or use the Sorting Diagram on your activity sheet
- Next, try to sort the groups further - Can you sort the animals into birds, insects, mammals, arachnids, amphibians etc? Do you know what makes each of these groups special? You might want to look in other books or use the internet to find out more about them. Can you add any other animals you know to these groups?

### Mindful Nature Walk

- Now you have learned the names of garden plants and animals, you are ready to go outside and identify them. Head outside to a garden, playground or any outdoor space. Grab some magnifying glasses if you have any.
- Take a mindful nature walk and see what you can find. First, close your eyes. Can you hear any sounds of nature? Birdsong or rustling leaves? Open your eyes and take a moment to feel or smell the soil and notice the shapes of leaves or colours of flowers. Quietly and carefully look under logs or stones (but take care not to disturb any creatures you find).
- Take photos or make drawings of what you see.

*Note: If you do not have a suitable outdoor space, this could be recreated in the classroom using images, video and tuff trays to explore soil and plants.*

# NATURE TRAIL

## NATURE SORTING DIAGRAM

PLANTS

TREES

FLOWERS

FUNGI

BIRDS

INSECTS

ARACHNID

MAMMAL

AMPHIBIA



## LESSON 2: HOME SWEET HOME

**Objective:** To explore the habitat and microhabitats of a garden.

**Outcomes:** A bug hotel; bird food pizzas!

Take a look at pages 7–10 of *Nature Trail* or reference page two of your extract pack.

### Discussion Questions

- When will the caterpillars fly?
- Why do you think the cats are waiting under the tree?
- What is 'home'? How many different types of homes can you find in the book?
- What is a habitat? Can you guess what a microhabitat is? Look through the book and see how many different microhabitats you can find.

### Key Vocabulary!

HABITAT, MICROHABITAT, ENVIRONMENT



## ACTIVITY: EXPLORING HABITATS

There are many different microhabitats within the garden habitat, as each plant and animal likes its own special conditions to live. You can encourage a variety of wildlife to the garden by creating the conditions they like.

### Design a habitat for bugs and create your own bug hotel

- Find a wooden box then fill it with canes, sticks, pinecones, leaves and even bricks to provide the damp environment that insects like. You could even join your 'rooms' together to create a whole class bug hotel

### Encourage birds to your outdoor space with a bird feeder

- Create some 'bird pizzas' for the birds in the book having a party. Spread a circle of wood or even a slice of apple with peanut butter or banana. Then sprinkle with seeds as a topping. Place them in a high place, preferably on a bird table. The birds will love them! Watch the birds visit your 'pizza', how many different types of birds can you count?

You could also create a place for bees by planting a wild-flower area in your outdoor space



## LESSON 3: ODE TO NATURE

**Objective:** To use adjectives and alliteration to create a new poem.

**Outcomes:** A completed nature poem presented in a creative way.

Take a look at pages 13–14 of *Nature Trail* or reference page three of your extract pack.

### Discussion Questions

- The illustrator makes the squirrels look like robbers. Why?
- What word in the text tells you they have stolen something?
- What type of tree do acorns grow on?
- Why are the bees described as busy?
- When words next to each other start with the same letter or sound this is called alliteration. Can you find an example on this page? How does it feel to say this phrase out loud?

### Key Vocabulary!

ADJECTIVE, ALLITERATION, POEM



## ACTIVITY: CREATING POETRY

Using Benjamin Zephaniah's poem and your own creative ideas as inspiration, write, then perform or display a nature trail garden poem.

Use adjectives to describe each animal and challenge yourself to use some amazing alliteration too! This could be a class poem, you could write with a partner or create your own.

- To plan your poem, create a list of garden animals and words that describe them (use the book for inspiration). Then, combine adjectives and animals to make poetry pairs. If you want some ideas, use the poetry word cards provided and match them to construct your poem.  
e.g. At the bottom of my garden is... *A happy hedgehog; A leaping frog*
- Now present your poems:
  - You could add artwork: handprint hedgehogs, hanging spiral worms, collage snails in the style of artist Henri Matisse or printed caterpillars.
  - You could perform your poem: Why not add a musical instrument or sound to represent each animal like in the famous piece of music 'The Carnival of the Animals?' You could add actions or movement and perform your poem.
  - Allocate recorded poems a QR code each and create a 'Poetry Nature Trail' around the school or local area for parents, carers and the wider community to enjoy.

# NATURE TRAIL

## POETRY WORD CARDS

At the bottom of my garden...

### ADJECTIVES

happy

leaping

dancing

slow

armoured

chomping

wiggly

creeping

swooping

lazy

sly

fierce

scavenging

buzzing

shy

### NOUNS (ANIMALS)

mice

beetle

butterfly

squirrel

bee

dragonfly

snail

woodlice

caterpillar

hedgehog

frog

Daddy  
longlegs

worm

cat

fox

Come on my Nature Trail...

# NATURE TRAIL

## LESSON 4: OUR NATURE TRAIL

**Objective:** To explore and enjoy the world around us.

**Outcomes:** A Nature Trail designed for others to explore.

Take a look at pages 21–22 of *Nature Trail* or reference page four of your extract pack.

### Discussion Questions

- Why does the poet think you will never be alone if you have a garden?
- Does a garden have to be a space outside your house? What different kinds of gardens are shown on these pages?
- Benjamin Zephaniah ends the poem saying, 'And I believe we all should have a garden of our own.' Do you agree with him?

# NATURE TRAIL

## ACTIVITY: CREATE YOUR OWN NATURE TRAIL

There are all sorts of ways to create a trail. There could be clues to follow, pictures, objects or facts to find, or a set path to follow using chalk or paper to add arrows.

Create a Nature Trail of your own for your family or friends.

- Create riddles or clues using what you have learnt to help people follow the trail
  - e.g. Go to the tree where acorns grow. When they reach the oak tree another clue will be waiting.
- Draw pictures of creatures for the book and hide them for others to find. You could make a map and mark where they can find them.
- Use sticks to create arrows on the ground to create your trail. You could hang facts or poems around the trail for visitors to read.

