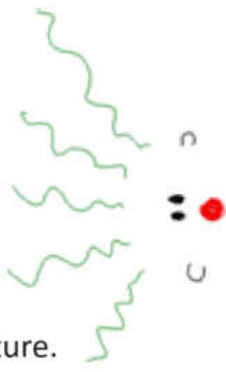


Welcome!



Dear Explorers,

this Nature Discovery Backpack will accompany you when you're out and about in nature. It's contents support and guide you when you're exploring the outdoors in more detail. How does all this exploring work exactly?

We packed a lot of fantastic things into this backpack so you can find out:

For example, there are several Identification Guides (folding leaflets in the plastic box). If you spot any beautiful and interesting animals or plants, you can look them up in the guides to find out their names.

With the magnifying glasses, the magnifier cups and the white dish you can even examine really small creatures that you carefully shake off leaves or catch in the water. You can also have a close look at plant parts.

If you feel like trying out more, you can check out the Explorer Cards. They are like a colourful surprise bag, full of ideas, riddles, tasks, games and craft instructions. The cards with a coloured edge are meant for specific seasons. The other cards with the grey edge you can use at almost any time of the year. You can use the soft ball for nature discovery games that you find on the cards or invent yourself.

Did you know that there is a special calendar that is guided by the growth of plants? It is quite different from the normal calendar we all know. In the backpack there is a wooden puzzle that shows you this special calendar and explains it to you.

Now, let's start by reading the Little Clown's story. He is so excited to tell you about his great adventure!

Wishing you a lot of fun:



Freilandlabor
Britz e.V.



Koordinierungsstelle
Umweltbildung
Neukölln



Stadtbibliothek
Neukölln



Verbund der
öffentlichen
Bibliotheken
Berlins



Bezirksamt
Neukölln



Umwelt- und
Naturschutzamt
Berlin-Neukölln

TIPS

Fair Behaviour out in Nature

The most important thing about exploring nature is not the discovery. Of course it's exciting to see what we find. However, it's even more important, **how** we find it! We should all protect nature so it's still there for us to also explore it tomorrow. Here we tell you how to do this:

Exploring Outdoors

- Attention, living creatures! We are careful when we observe them.
- We make sure that we don't hurt any plants and animals when we move.

Discovering Plants

- We only take what we need.
- We only take a few things or plants when there are many of them in a place.
- We leave protected animals and plants in place so they don't become extinct.
- We leave spring blossoms for the hungry insects. They feed on them after the winter.
- When we collect (pieces of) plants we cut them with a sharp knife or with scissors.
Ripping parts off hurts the plants and they can become ill.
- On a meadow or on bushes we leave enough food for hungry animals.
- We only collect or eat what we know very well. If we are not sure, we ask an adult and look at the Identification Guides.

Discovering animals

- We move slowly because we don't want to frighten animals and scare them away.
- We move carefully because we don't want to accidentally hurt an animal.
- Small creatures are easily crushed. We are extra careful handling them!
- We place the animals we collected into the shade so they don't get too hot.
After a few minutes we let them free because nature is their home.
- Do not feed! We don't want to make the wild animals sick. If we attract them with the wrong food, it may not be good for them.

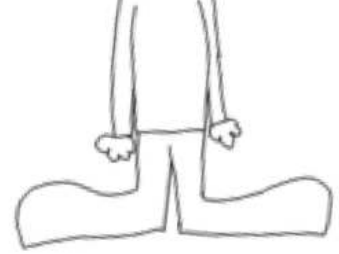
Identifying Plants and Animals

There are so many different living creatures in nature. It isn't always easy to find out their names. Apart from books and brochures you can also use some handy apps on your smartphone (these are in German but they also show the Latin names):

- **Naturblick** (for bird songs and plants),
- **Flora Incognita** (plants)
- **Picture Insect** (insects)



Instructions



Identification Guides

The Identification Guides (folding cards) show some of the most common animals and plants in Germany. Of course you won't find all of them on these cards because you would have to carry large and heavy books.

If you find something that isn't on any of the Identification Guides, you can borrow a book from your library. The librarian will be glad to help you find what you need.

Wooden Puzzle "Phenological Calendar"

The puzzle in the backpack helps you to learn about the plant calendar.

The seasons of the plants depend on the weather. They don't start on a specific date or end after a fixed period. Especially now with climate change their calendar has changed: nowadays, spring starts earlier and autumn ends later than it used to 50 years ago.

Pre-spring season begins sometime between mid or late February and ends in late March. When exactly this season takes place is determined by the indicator plant for this season. You find these plants on the puzzle (Snowdrops = pre-spring).

Explorer Cards

On the Explorer Cards you can find tips where to take a closer look. They also suggest experiments and other fun things you can do.

Some of the cards are made for the special seasons of the plant calendar. On the coloured strip on the left you can find the name of the season. It shows the indicator plant that you also find on the wooden puzzle. For example, it is a good time to find snowdrops and bumblebees in pre-spring. While the snowdrop flowers are gone after a few weeks, the bumblebees are around until the end of summer.

So you don't have to follow the cards word for word. If it suits, you can try out a suggestion for spring when it's already summer.

In addition, there are cards that don't belong to a specific season. You can recognize them by the grey strip on the left: there are no indicator plants and they only show a topic. You can use these cards almost all year round.

Just take your time to have a good look at the cards and choose what you want to try out. Have fun!



CONTENT

We put a lot of different things into this backpack that we made and selected with great care and motivation. Please be kind and respectful with them. Take care that they stay clean and tidy and don't get too wet.

Please check if all the things are in the backpack when you pick it up and give it back. Here is a list for you of all the things that should be there:

- 11 Identification Guides for plants and animals
- 3 magnifier cups (for insects, spiders and small molluscs)
- 2 strong magnifying glasses
- 1 white dish (for small water creatures)
- 1 soft ball (for games such as the Cuckoo-Game)
- 1 wooden puzzle: 11 pieces in a cloth bag
- 1 red plastic mat to put under the puzzle
- 1 story card with a leaf: "The Little Clown and the Linden Leaf"
- 1 x A5 small grey cardboard box with 20 Explorer Cards
- 1 x A4 bigger blue cardboard box for storing the other items
- 1 x A4 card "Welcome" and "Content"
- 1 x A4 card "Instructions" and „Tips“

A tip before you start: Carefully check the Explorer Cards at home. On some of them you will find instructions about what else you need to pack for your time outdoors. For some activities, experiments or games you need more things than we could provide: for example an old sock, pincers and coloured papers for spring activities, or some household items for the Story Bag, and so on ...

We wish you a great time out in nature!