



# LEAF LITTER

The leaf litter on a forest floor is a busy small world. In this North American forest, the many animals hide from predators and find food amongst fallen leaves.

Leaves collect under woodland trees – especially in autumn – and create a home for many bugs. What has this **American robin** found?

Little birds, like this **chickadee**, eat berries and bugs.

Leaf litter isn't just made up of dead leaves. It also contains soil, stones, tree roots and sticks. These hold plenty of air and water, making it a good home.

The foul-smelling **skunk cabbage** thrives in damp places. Some creatures think it smells good!

A **grey squirrel** is nibbling a pine cone to release the small seeds.

Fungi grow well in leaf litter, where there is plenty of water and rotting plants.

**Toads and frogs** keep their skin damp by lurking in decomposing leaves. **Can you find one?**

# ALPINE MEADOW

The sun is shining on a high mountain meadow in the Swiss Alps in southern Europe. Even a small area of the meadow is full of life. Flowers and fungi grow, bees buzz and crickets sing.

In spring and summer this meadow is carpeted with colourful flowers.

Marmots use grass to line their underground nests.

Apollo butterflies have eyespots on their wings. They look like the eyes of a larger animal to scare predators away.

Most salamanders lay eggs, but the Alpine salamander gives birth to its babies.

A dormouse has built its nest from meadow grass.

The soil is thin, so few trees can grow here. Small plants suit this habitat.

Ptarmigans build their nests on the ground. Their eggs are speckled, so they are hard to find.

A bumblebee buzzes around collecting pollen and nectar from flowers.

It's easy to hear crickets singing loudly in the meadow, but it's hard to see them hiding under leaves! How many can you find?

Salamanders eat bugs, like this longhorn beetle.

Ants collect seeds from plants and bury them to eat later.

Stoats have brown fur in the summer.

This hairy black caterpillar is eating the leaves of a yellow wood violet.



An oak tree's leaves are a popular food for many insects, including the caterpillars of the green oak tortrix moth.

It is summer now, but the oak tree changes with the seasons.

This jay is collecting acorns. It will bury them to eat in the winter. Can you find this bird's store?

Red squirrels scurry up and down the tree trunk with acorns. They store them in the ground below.

A pied flycatcher will eat almost any bug it finds in an oak woodland. What has the flycatcher spied?

Oak trees grow flowers and nuts, called acorns. A tree might be 50 years old before it produces its first acorns.

A great spotted woodpecker uses its strong beak to make a hole in the tree trunk.

## OAK TREE

This ancient oak tree is a busy, buzzing, small world. The tree is both a home and food for many creatures, and hundreds of species of animals and plants rely on it to survive.

The purple hairstreak butterfly lays its eggs on oak leaves.

When this tree's leaves fall to the ground in autumn, they will add to a thick layer of leaf litter.

Jays catch wood ants and rub them over their feathers. This probably makes the ants release their nasty acid before the bird eats them, rather than once they are in its mouth!



# GRAND CANYON RIM

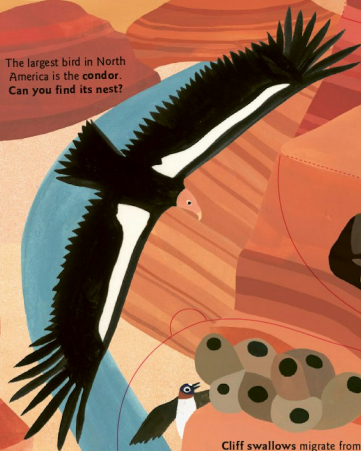
Steep cliffs line a deep river valley in the Grand Canyon in Arizona, USA. The high rims, or clifftops, of the canyon are where many creatures live. This environment can experience extreme heat and cold and sudden thunderstorms.

Mexican spotted owls nest on a ledge. They rest during the day.



Kestrels, eagles, hawks and falcons are birds of prey, and hunt other animals. They have superb eyesight, strong beaks and sharp claws called talons.

The largest bird in North America is the condor. Can you find its nest?



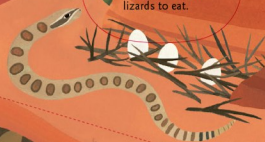
California condors soar high above the canyon looking for food below. They are scavengers and eat the remains of animals that have died.



The peregrine falcon is one of the fastest birds of prey.



Rattlesnakes are usually well-camouflaged against rocks. They search for eggs, chicks or lizards to eat.



Cliff swallows migrate from South America to the canyon to build mud nests where they lay their eggs.



The Utah agave plant survives dry summers by storing water in its plump leaves.



Fritillary butterflies seek out flowers growing on the cliffs and feed on the nectar. Birds such as cliff swallows hunt them.



This black tarantula spends most of its time in a burrow on a ledge.

