

OCTOPUS BAG



The Bag

- How does the bag feel?
- What animal is this? (octopus)
- Find the animal in the wall (it is on the corner of a case in the Temperate zone of the Living Planet wall. There is another, pickled, one in the Explore gallery)
- Use three words to describe the animal.
- What type of place does this animal live? (the sea)
- What colours can you see in the animal?
- How does this animal move? (it swims)

It actually pushes itself along by squirting out water which acts as a jet



Shells

- Do you know what these are? (scallop shells)
- Two shells together protect the animal inside. The scallop moves through the water by opening and closing its shell.*

- Feel the shells. How do they feel inside and out?
- What do the shells look like?
- Where might you find shells? (on the beach; in the sea)
- What do you think these have to do with an octopus? (octopus eat scallops)
- What else do you think an octopus might eat? (e.g. crabs, fish)



Tentacle hat

- Somebody try this hat on.
- How do they look?
- What are the parts hanging down? (tentacles; arms)
- How many arms does the octopus have? (8)



Have a look at the arms on the octopus on display.

- what can you see on the inside of the arms? (suckers)
- Why do you think the octopus has suckers on its arms? (to grab things and taste)
- What can you see on the side of its head? (eyes)
- Can you find another animal that is the same colour?

Camouflage activity

An octopus can change the colour of its skin to blend in with many different backgrounds.

Move the octopus around the different squares.

- Where is it easiest to see?
- Why is it hard to see on some of the squares? (because it is made from the same pattern and blends in)
- What is it called when an animal blends in to the surroundings? (camouflage)
- Why would it be useful to be camouflaged? (to escape from predators— animals hunting the octopus)
- How would you camouflage yourself in
 - the sea?
 - the jungle?
 - the desert?
 - the city?



Weather hat

The octopus is in the Temperate zone of the wall. Temperate means the weather is not extremely hot or cold and changes throughout the year.

England has a temperate climate.

Someone put on the weather hat.

- What is the weather usually like when you see a rainbow?
(sun and rain together)
- Can you remember the colours of the rainbow?
(red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet)
- What is the weather like at the moment? What season is it?
- Can you find any animals that are as colourful as the rainbow? (e.g. parrot, peacock)
- How do you feel when you see a rainbow?
- Can you find an animal in this part of the Living Planet wall that you would see in the wild, in England? (e.g. seabirds, fox, hedgehog)



POLAR BEAR BAG



The Bag

- What animal do you think this is on front of the bag? (polar bear)
- Do any other animals have noses like this? (dog, other bears)
- Where do you think it lives? (somewhere cold, the North Pole, the Arctic)
- Find the polar bear in the display
- What other animals can you find that live in the same kind of place (eg reindeer, arctic fox)
- Why is the polar bear furry? (to keep warm in the cold weather)
- Why do you think it is white? (to blend in with the snow)



The fur of a polar bear is actually transparent (see through) so that the sunlight can get through to the skin to warm it up.

- Can you guess what colour the skin is? (It's black—which helps the polar bear stay warm)

Paws

There are two of these. Somebody put them on.

- Think of three words to describe these paws.
- Compare these feet to those of the reindeer: What is the same? what is different?
- These paws are very good for walking in snow—what is special about them? (pads to stop slipping, large to spread out the weight on the snow, claws for gripping)
- What does walking on snow feel like (slippy, you can sink in etc)
- What could you do to *your* feet to make them better at walking on snow? (make them larger, have grips on the bottom, have claws)
- What else do you think the Polar bear uses his paws for? (killing, defending, swimming, scratching)
- Compare your hand to the size of the paws.



Mask

Somebody wear the mask.

- What do they look like?
- The polar bear has a very good sense of smell. Why do you think this is important? (to find food)
- What other senses do you think a polar bear needs? (sight for finding food, listening for danger and prey (animals to eat))
- Can you see another animal that has a good sense of smell? (eg fox, wolf.... link back to the nose on the bag!)
- Polar Bears are predators. What is a predator? (an animal that hunts and eats other animals)



Seal

- What is this animal? (a seal)
- How does this animal move? (swims in water and crawls on land)
- Can you find a baby seal in the gallery? (in the case next to the touch screen)
- How do you think this relates to the polar bear? (it is food for the polar bear)
- How does it make you feel to think that polar bears eat seals?



Weather hat

- What type of weather is this showing? (snow)
- What time of year do we have weather like this? (winter)
- How long does the winter last in the Arctic? (6 months—at the north pole it is dark for 6 months)
- What do some animals do in the winter to avoid the cold? (hibernate, migrate)
- Think of three words to describe how you feel when the weather is wintry?
- What do you do to keep warm in the winter?
- What do you think that polar bears do? (they have thick fur, plenty of body fat and they hibernate)



THORNY DEVIL BAG



The Bag

- What body part do you think this is? (tail)
- How would you describe the tail?
- What animal could it be from? (it is from a thorny devil which is a type of lizard)
- Can you find the thorny devil on display?



Show pupils the picture of the thorny devil. You will need to go upstairs in the gallery to the left end of the wall. The thorny devil is in a glass tank at the World Cultures end of the Living Planet balcony

- What does habitat mean? (a place where an animal or plant lives)
- What type of habitat do you think this animal lives in? (desert)

The Mask

Someone put on the mask

- What do they look like?
- What parts of the face are shown on the mask? (nose, eyes, ears, thorny spikes)
- Why do you think this lizard has thorny spikes? (to protect itself)
- Can you find another animal on display that has spikes? (e.g. porcupine fish, hedgehog)
- Can you find some other lizards on display?



Feely bag

- How does this feel?
- What do you think is inside? (sand)
- Why is this in the Thorny Devil bag? (because it lives in the desert where there is lots of sand)
- What other animals live in the desert? (e.g. gazelle, meerkat, snakes)
- What does camouflage mean? (blending in)
- Do you think the thorny devil would be well camouflaged in the desert?



The ants

- What do you think these are? (red ants)
- How do you think these link to the Thorny Devil (its food)
- How many legs do they have? (6)
- What other animals have 6 legs? (all insects—beetles, flies, butterflies)



Ants don't have a skeleton inside but have a hard outside called an exoskeleton

- Can you find any other animals that have tough skin, scales or a shell?
- How many ants do you think a Thorny Devil could eat in a minute (45)
- Part of its body is specially adapted for catching them. Can you guess which bit? (it has a long sticky tongue)

The weather hat

Someone put the weather hat on

- What type of weather does this show? (sunny weather)
- What type of places have very hot weather? (deserts, places south of the equator, places you've been on holiday)
- How do you feel when you are in the sun for a long time?
- How do you keep cool when it is very hot? (drink water, stay in the shade, wear light clothes)
- What do you think the thorny devil does? (hides in shade, moves slowly)
- Have you seen the live bearded dragons downstairs in the Living Planet gallery? They live in hot, dry places too and can climb trees to get off the hot sand. What is the same and what is different about the bearded dragons and the thorny devil?



KESTREL BAG —UPLANDS



- What season (time of year) do you think it is on the front of this bag? (winter)
- What makes you think that? (colours, bare trees)
- What type of animal is this? (bird - it is called a Kestrel and lives at Alston Moor)



Find the Uplands (hills and mountains) part of the gallery

- What do you think it would be like here? (bleak, cold, windy)
- Find the kestrel in one of the two cases that surround the hide (it is sitting on a wooden post)

There are other birds of prey in the case such as the Merlin.

- What is special about all the birds of prey? (Sharp claws, sharp pointy beak)
- How many different Birds of Prey can you see in here? (about 7)

Wings

Somebody put the wings on

- What do they look like? Think of three words to describe them? (anything to do with colour, shape or texture)
- What would the real wings be made of? (feathers)
- Why do you think they are this colour? (For camouflage/to blend in to the environment)
- Kestrels are fantastic at hovering above their prey (animals they are hunting). Do you think they would need to flap their wings slow or fast to hover? (fast)
- Have you ever seen a bird hovering?
- What other animals have wings? (other birds, bats, insects such as butterflies)





Heather bag

- How does this feel?

This shows what the ground might be like in the uplands.

- What type of plant is on the front? (heather)
- Can you find a plant like this in one of the cases? (In the case that does not contain the kestrel)
- Can you find some other plants or pictures of plants that have purple flowers?
- What other plants can you find in the cases to show what grows in the uplands?

Stoats



- Can you find an animal that looks like the white one of these? (it is in the same case as the kestrel with a black spot on the end of its tail)
- What part of the body are these finger puppet missing? (tails)

These are stoats—the white one is called a stoat in ermine and it is the way a stoat looks in winter. The brown one has its summer coat.

- Why do you think they might change the colour of their coat in the winter? (white coats in the winter to blend in with snow)
- What do you think a stoat has to do with a kestrel? (it is a kestrel's prey/animal that a kestrel eats)
- What do you think this animal eats? (small mammals, insects)

SQUIRREL BAG—WOODLANDS



- What animal is on the front of this bag? (squirrel)
- What does habitat mean? (a place where an animal or plant lives)
- What habitat does this animal live in? (woodland)
- What is it like in this habitat? (fully of trees, shady, damp, colourful etc)
- Have you been anywhere like this?
- What season do you think this bag shows? (autumn)
- Why do you think that? (colours of leaves)
- There are two different types of squirrel—red and grey can you find them in the gallery?
- What are the differences between them?



Tail

- Somebody put on the tail
- What do they look like?
- Why is it useful to have a tail? (balance, for climbing, to keep warm)
- Go to the tree trunk by the woodland hide and feel in the holes in the trunk. Can you find something that feel likes a squirrel tail?
- Find some other animals with different types of tails (bird, shrew)
- Can you find an animal that is using its tail to keep warm? (badger)



Leaves

These leaves come from a broadleaf tree

- Scrunch them and describe the sound
- What time of year do you see leaves on the ground? (autumn)
- What shapes are these leaves?
- Can you find pictures of other leaves that are this shape?



There are two types of trees—broadleaved and coniferous (evergreen)

- What is different about coniferous and broadleaf trees? (conifers have needle like leaves and stay green all year; they are often very tall trees. Broadleaved trees often lose their leaves in winter)

Acorn

- What do you think these are? (acorns)
- What tree do you think they are from? (oak tree)
- What do squirrels do with these in the summer? (store them for winter)



Grey squirrels eat acorns but red squirrels prefer to eat seeds from pine cones

- Can you find some pine cones?
- Can you find another animal that might eat seeds? (birds, especially the crossbill)

Nest

- What do you think this is? (nest called a dray)
- What would it really be made of? (sticks, plant material)
- Where would it be well camouflaged (blended in)?
- What other animals build nests? (birds, small mammals like mice)
- Have you ever seen a nest in the wild?
- There are some different type of nests in one of the other hides in this gallery. See if you can find them. (there are some in the lowlands hide)



SEAL BAG—COASTS



- What animal is this? (seal)
- What does habitat mean? (where a plant or animal lives)
- What habitat does this animal live in? (the coast)
- What type of animal do you think this is - fish, mammal or reptile? (mammal)

There are two types of this animal that you can see in this gallery



- What are the two different kinds called? (common seal and harbour seal)
- Can you compare them? What things are the same, what things are different? (colours, shapes of body parts such as the nose)

Mask

- Someone should put the mask on
- What do they look like? Use 3 words to describe the mask.
- Seals have a good sense of smell, why do you think this is important? (to find food and be aware of danger)
- Can you find some other animals that have whiskers?
- The seals whiskers are very good for sensing things in the water, which sense is this? (touch)
- Why would seals need to rely more on smell and touch than sight? (if the water was murky, if it was dark)



Feely bag

- What does this feel and sound like? (stones)
- Can you find some more of these in the coastal hide? (in one of the drawers)
- What else can you find on a beach? (shells, big rocks, sand)
- What beaches have you been to?
- What do you like to do on the beach?



Flippers

Someone put these flippers on (there are two)

- What do they look like?
- Look at the flippers of the seal in the case, describe them.
- How are these helpful to the seal? (to swim well and move around on land)
- What else is special about the seal that helps it to survive in the sea? (webbed feet for swimming, thick fur to keep warm)
- Can you find some other animals that have special arms or legs that are suited for the water? (birds with webbed feet)



Fish

- What type of fish do you think this is? (plaice but flounder is fine too)
- Think of at least three different words you can use to describe it.
- Why do you think this has been put in a bag about seals? (seals eat them)
- What might this fish eat? (smaller animals and plants—plankton)
- Why do you think it is so flat? (so that it can hide on the bottom of the sea)
- Why is it this colour? (camouflage/blend in to the bottom of the sea)
- How is this animal suited to living in the water? (tails and fin to swim, gills, streamlined body)
- Can you find some other things around the gallery that a seal might eat? (other fish)

