

Topic: Plants – potential dangers posed by fauna and flora

Year 6

Linked to Science

What I should know

- Name a few common poisonous plants that may be found at Forest School.
- Name arachnids, insects and reptiles that pose dangers to humans.
- The effect of some poisonous plants.
- Some plants are harmful if eaten and others are harmful if handled.
- What to do if you suspect skin or eye irritation by a plant.
- Have an understanding of hay fever and its triggers.

How I will develop understanding

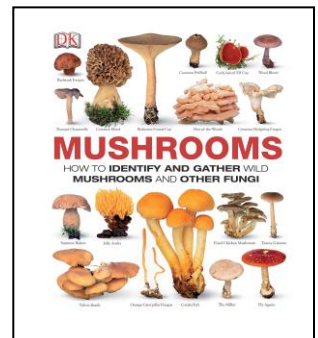
- Visit local forest areas, such as Dalby Forest, which is home to an abundance of internationally important wildlife species.
- Foraging in local areas, hedgerows and country lanes.
- Visit Burton Riggs Nature Reserve and take part in community projects.
- Visit Flamingo Land Zoo to look at different species of mammals, reptiles and birds (guest speaker).

Key Vocabulary

- **Bracken** (*Pteridium Aquilinum*) – a coarse, vigorous growing fern, that is found almost everywhere except wet boggy ground and on limestone, and is poisonous if eaten.
- **Elder** (*Sambucus Nigra*) – a common deciduous shrub found on waste ground and in hedgerows, with pointed oval leaves in opposite pairs and small, creamy-white flowers which become small purple fruits hanging in bunches. These raw berries are poisonous if eaten.
- **Horse Chestnut** (*Aesculus Hippocastanum*) – this well-known tree has palmately compound leaves, with 5-7 leaflets. The flowers are usually white with a small red spot. Only 1-5 fruit develop on each panicle, and this is a green, softly spiky capsule containing one (or rarely two or three) conkers or horse-chestnuts. When young and not quite ripe the conkers can be poisonous if eaten.
- **Ivy** (*Hedera Helix*) – a tolerant evergreen climber of trees, walls and fences, but can also form ground cover especially at the base of trees and in hedge bottoms. Poison ivy is a common poisonous plant that causes an itchy skin rash. Tips to identify poison ivy are compound leaves with three leaflets (leading to the saying ‘leaves of three, let it be’). The stalk of the middle leaflet is much longer than the stalks of the two side leaflets. The edges can be smooth or coarsely toothed and the surface can be glossy or dull.
- **Fungi** – made up of different microscopic thread-like bodies called hyphae, which collectively form mycelium.

How to identify:

- Fruit – shape, colour and size.
- Gills – in particular, how they attach to the stem. A spore print can also be taken.
- Stem – shape, colour and size.
- Smell and texture.
- Habitat.



What I will know

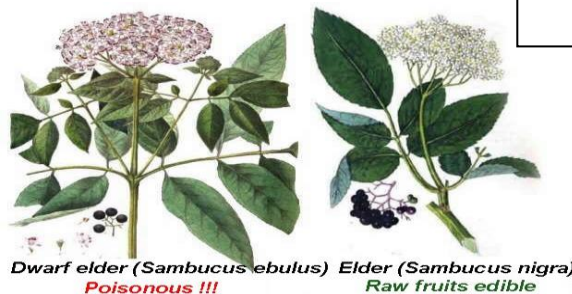
- Expand knowledge and awareness that some plants and fungi, both cultivated and wild, may contain poisonous properties from different places including wet and dry land.
- Develop an understanding of First Aid and know what to do if you suspect that someone is suffering from eating a poisonous plant.
- Explain the importance of fauna and flora identification.



Bracken



Horse Chestnut



Dwarf elder (*Sambucus ebulus*) **Poisonous !!!** Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) **Raw fruits edible**