

Only one more sleep till Spring! Some animals, like Bear in the story, hibernate over the winter. This means they sleep all the way through, not waking up at all until the Spring. Can you find other animals that hibernate?

Sleeping bunnies!

All the 'bunnies' sleep on the floor, quiet and still, until they jump up and hop!

*See the little bunnies sleeping
'til it's nearly noon.*

*Shall we try and wake them,
with a merry tune?*

They're so still, are they ill?

Wake up soon...

[PAUSE]

Hop little bunnies, hop, hop, hop!

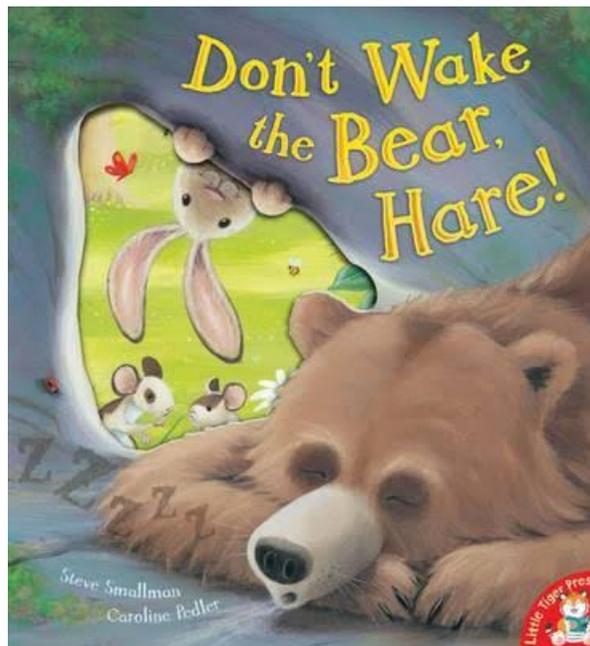
Hop little bunnies, hop, hop, hop!

Hop little bunnies, hop, hop, hop!

Hop, hop, and stop.

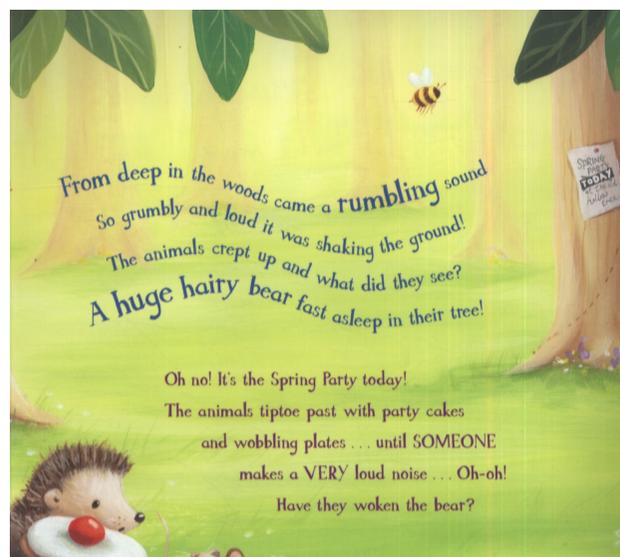
Other animals sleep too, so change the bunnies to a different animal- what action will they do?!

Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHcFQ9gaMF4>



Listen here, or mute and pause to read Steve Smallman's story yourself!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul43o-OxWZw>



The Spring, or vernal, equinox happens March 20th this year, but I have seen a few signs of Spring already. Have you? When you are out, see if you can see early signs of spring such as new growth – buds, bulbs and shoots.

RSPB's Garden BirdWatch

29-31st Jan!

Can you spend an hour watching and counting the birds that visit your garden? Head over to the RSPB site below to sign up and join in!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/>

Let's Play Musical Bumps!

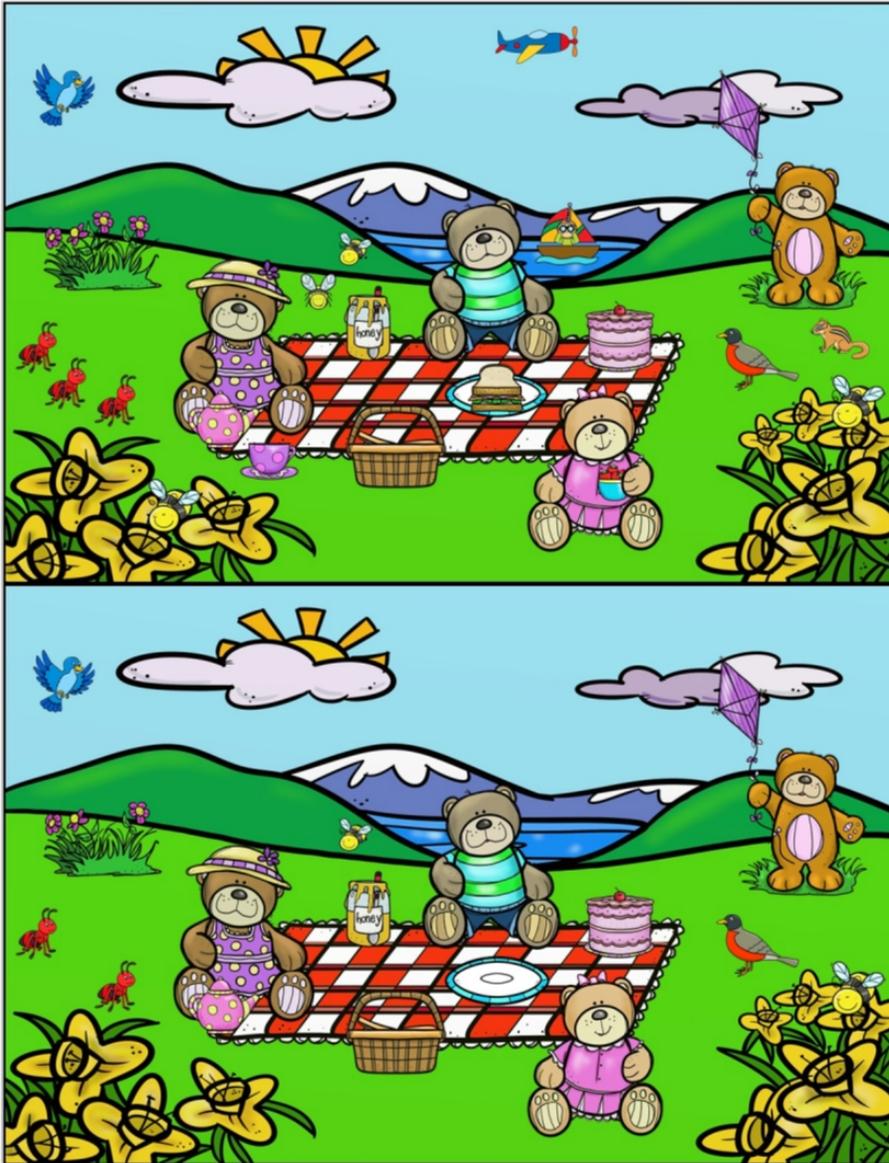
Play some music and dance away to your heart's content.

But keep an ear out for the music, because when it stops, you need to sit down as quick as you can!

When bunny blew up the balloon, it was small, medium, then big! Can you find objects and compare to see which is biggest and smallest, can you put them in size order?

Spot The difference!

Can you see 10 differences between the two pictures of the bears picnic?



Make a bird feeder!

This recipe is from the RSPB website and says to use a clean yoghurt pot, however you can smear pinecones with the mixture (as we have done in the woods!), or use a half coconut shell. Whatever you use, I am sure the birds will love it!

- String
- Scissors
- Mixing bowl
- Molds eg empty yogurt pots
- Lard to bind the other ingredients together
- Mealworms
- Mixed seed
- Nuts (unsalted)
- Raisins
- Hard cheese

1. Carefully make a small hole in the bottom of your mould or yoghurt pot. Thread string through the hole and tie a knot on the inside. Leave enough string so that you can tie the pot to a tree or your bird table.

2. If using lard, allow the fat to warm up to room temperature, but don't melt it. Then cut it up into small pieces and put it in the mixing bowl.

3. Add the other ingredients to the bowl and mix them together with your finger tips. Keep adding the seed/raisin/cheese mixture and squidding it until the fat holds it all together. This bit can get quite sticky!

4. Fill your yoghurt pots with bird cake mixture and put them in the fridge to set for an hour or so.

5. Hang your speedy bird cakes from trees or your bird table. Watch for greenfinches, tits and who knows, maybe even great spotted woodpeckers if you're lucky!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/fun-and-learning/for-families/family-wild-challenge/activities/feed-the-birds/>

Hedgehog rolls!

Eaten on their own, filled, or dunked in soup, bread rolls are a great addition to a party or meal.

Why not use the recipe below and have a go at making your own?

The kneading is great for developing hand muscles and strength, and cutting the spines is a different way to practice scissor skills!

Let's get tracking!

Have the animals near you been having a party?

Use the animal tracks sheet to see if you can find any tracks when you are out and about. Are there any tracks you find that aren't on the sheet, such as cattle tracks, foot prints or tyre tracks?

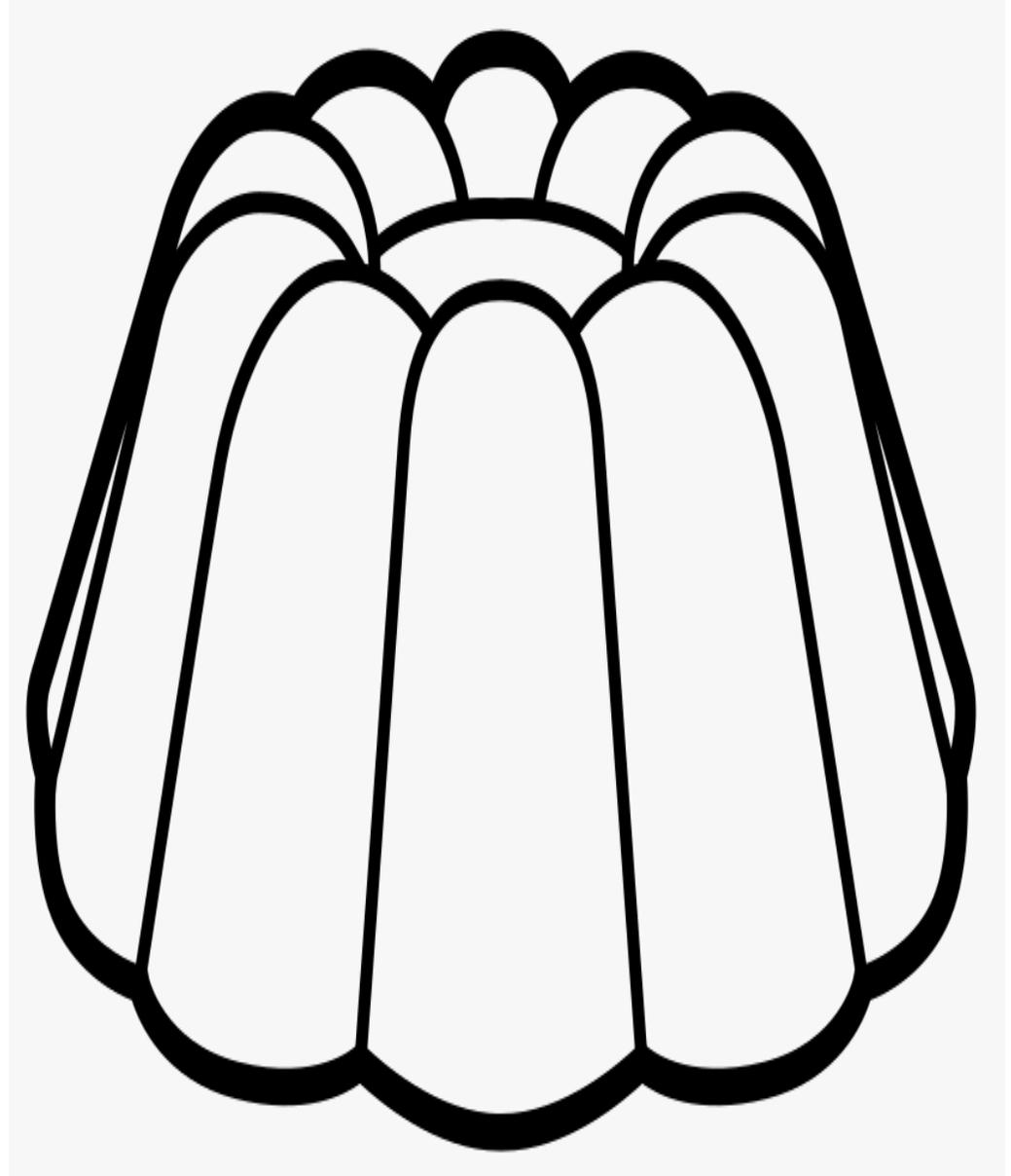
What shapes and patterns can you see, what are the similarities and differences, and how many prints are there?

What do you hear?

The animals could hear a loud, rumbling in the forest as the bear was snoring. Take a moment to be quiet, and listen to what noises and sounds are around you. Can you identify them? How do they make you feel?

What can you hear when you are outside, or even at home? Can you hear the weather, the trees or plants? Can you hear any animals or insects?

Badger's huge Jelly desert went "SPLAT!", can you colour in and create your own jelly dessert? Maybe even make one to enjoy!



Hedgehog rolls, modified from <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/easy-bread-rolls>

- 500g strong white bread flour , Or 250g white and 250g wholemeal, plus extra for dusting
- 7g sachet fast action yeast
- 1 tsp white caster sugar
- 2 tsp fine salt
- 1 tsp sunflower oil, plus extra for the work surface and bowl



• **STEP 1**

Lightly oil your work surface and tip the dough onto it. Knead the dough for at least 10 mins until it becomes tighter and springy – if you have a stand mixer you can do this with a dough hook for 5 mins. Pull the dough into a ball and put in a clean, oiled bowl. Leave for 1 hr, or until doubled in size.

• **STEP 2**

Lightly oil your work surface and tip the dough onto it. Knead the dough for at least 10 mins until it becomes tighter and springy – if you have a stand mixer you can do this with a dough hook for 5 mins. Pull the dough into a ball and put in a clean, oiled bowl. Leave for 1 hr, or until doubled in size.

• **STEP 3**

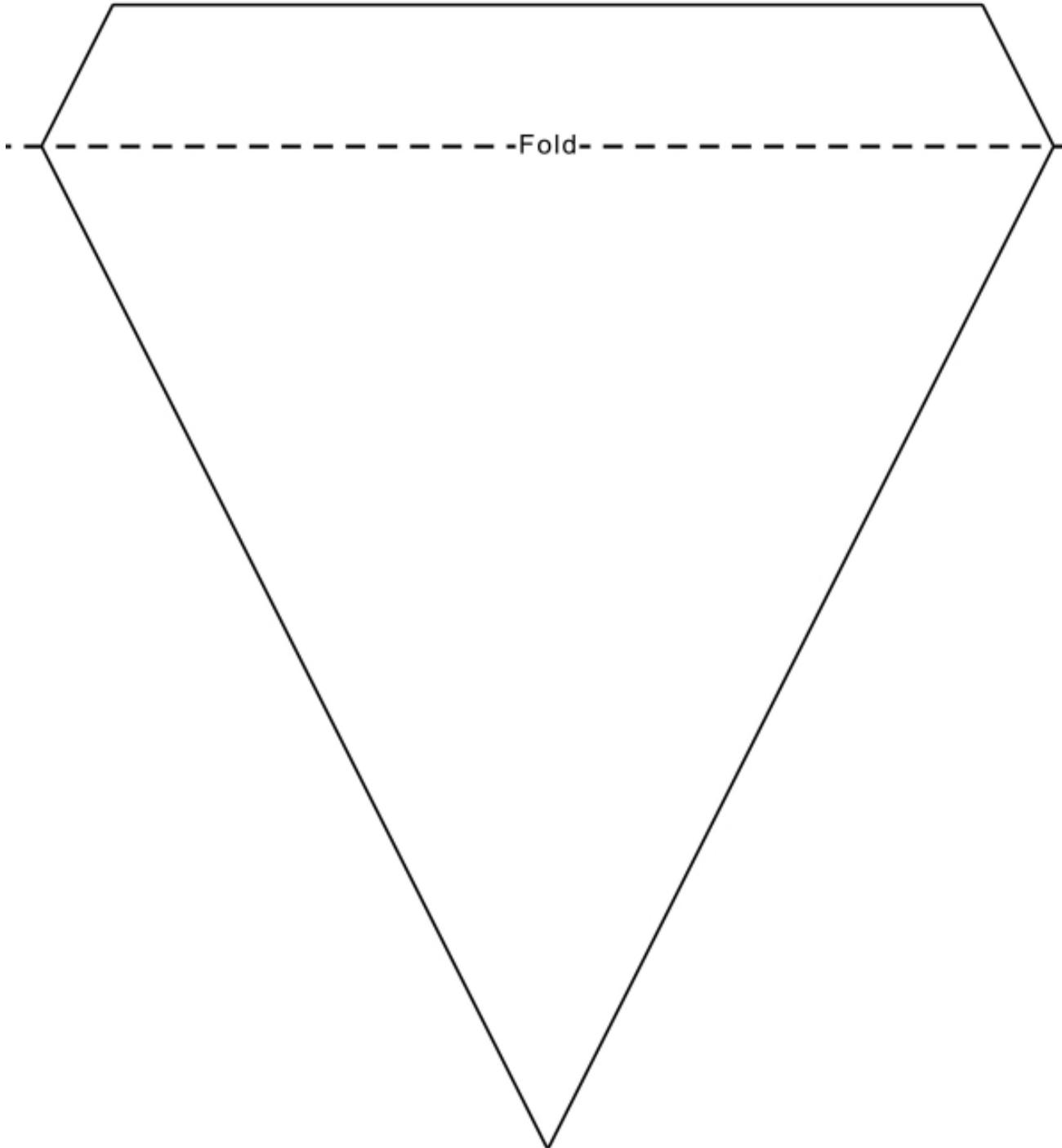
Tip the dough onto a lightly floured surface and roll into a long sausage shape. Halve the dough, then divide each half into four pieces, so you have eight equal-sized portions. Roll each into a tight ball, Now make it hedgehog-shaped by pulling one side out a little and squeezing it gently into a snout. Be quite firm or it will bounce back, and put on a dusted baking tray, leaving some room between each ball for rising. Cover with a damp tea towel and leave in a warm place to prove for 40 mins-1 hr or until almost doubled in size.

• **STEP 4**

Heat the oven to 230C/210C fan/gas 8. Using clean scissors, carefully snip into the dough to make the spikes on the backs of the hedgehogs. Press raisins in for the eyes and push a flaked almond into the end of each snout. When the hedgehog is ready, you can dust each one with a bit more flour, or can glaze them with milk or beaten egg, and top with seeds.

• **Step 5**

When the dough is ready, Bake for 25-30mins, until light brown and hollow sounding when tapped on the base. Leave to cool on a wire rack.



Decorate your own bunting!

Use the template to draw and cut out your bunting 'triangles' – you can use coloured, patterned, or plain paper.

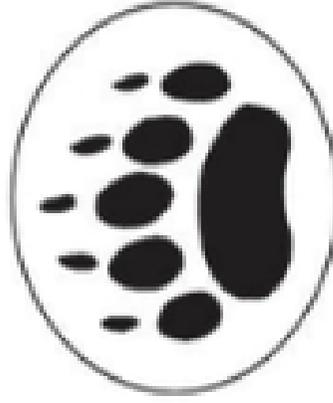
Then decorate however you like – draw or paint designs, decorate with stickers, or stick things on that you find on your walks such as leaves or feathers.

Fold the 'triangle' along the dotted line and secure it onto string. Repeat until you are happy with your string of bunting!

What else could you add to your bunting? Perhaps ribbon, tassles, or pompoms!

We can't wait to see what you do!

Tracks hunt sheet



badger



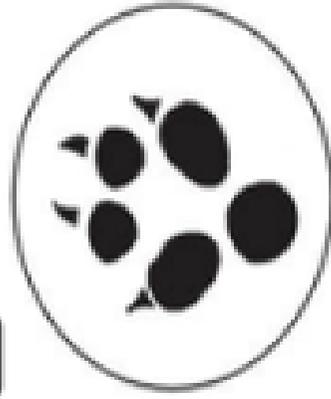
deer



dog



duck



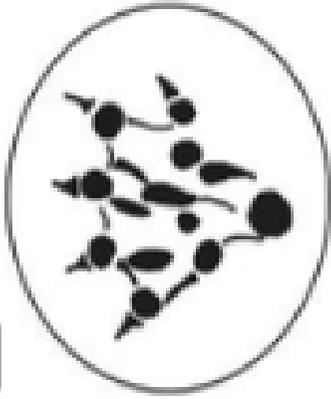
fox



heron



otter



squirrel

