

Background information to be used in conjunction with the 4 minute Wild Words video

Animal	Facts
Blue tit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common in British gardens</li> <li>• British Blue Tits seldom move far from where they have hatched</li> <li>• They usually lay 7-13 eggs in one clutch</li> <li>• They favour living in broadleaved woodland but are very adaptable</li> <li>• They eat insects in summer and a mix of seeds and insects in winter</li> <li>• Domestic cats are their main predators in urban areas</li> </ul>
Marsh Harrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The largest of the harriers found in the UK</li> <li>• Its future in the UK is now more secure due to conservation efforts</li> <li>• Impressive courtship rituals as male and female partners twist and tumble through the sky</li> <li>• They prey on small birds and mammals as well as reptiles, insects and carrion</li> <li>• Habitat tends to be reed beds and farmland</li> </ul>
Woodlouse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They live in dark and moist places, often under logs and stones</li> <li>• They have a tough outer shell called an exoskeleton which they shed every two months</li> <li>• Woodlice have 14 legs</li> <li>• They use a pair of antenna to sense and navigate</li> <li>• Most species are nocturnal</li> <li>• They eat dead and decaying leaves, roots and fruit</li> <li>• They are predated by shrew, toads, centipedes, millipedes and spiders</li> </ul>
White-tailed sea eagle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At 1m high with a 2.5m wingspan they are the largest eagles in Europe and the fourth largest in the world</li> <li>• They eat fish and birds</li> <li>• They often eat in mid-flight</li> <li>• This rare bird's UK home is northern Scotland</li> </ul>

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Hedgehog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A group of hedgehogs is called an 'array' but hedgehogs are usually solitary creatures</li> <li>• They have between 5,000 and 7,000 quills</li> <li>• They have poor eyesight so rely mostly on hearing and smell</li> <li>• They are lactose intolerant so should never be fed milk</li> <li>• They are noisy insect eaters (mostly beetles and caterpillars); they also like worms and sometimes eat bird's eggs</li> <li>• Not all hibernate, but if they do, it is between November and March</li> </ul>
Ladybird	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They feed on aphids and scale insects</li> <li>• They often lay their eggs (hundreds of them) in colonies of aphids or other plant-eating pests, which they immediately begin to feed on when they hatch</li> <li>• Not all ladybirds have spots, some are striped or all one colour</li> <li>• They are eaten by birds, reptiles, some insects, amphibians and small mammals</li> </ul>
Red Kite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifiable by their angled wings and deeply forked tails which they use to steer through the sky</li> <li>• They mainly eat carrion – especially road kill – and worms but they will take small mammals</li> <li>• This bird of prey has been successfully saved from national extinction by one of the world's longest-running protection programmes</li> </ul>
Red Squirrel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers of red squirrels in the UK have fallen dramatically since grey squirrels were introduced in 1870s</li> <li>• They can still be found in Scotland, Northern England, Wales, Northern Ireland &amp; on the Isle of Wight</li> <li>• They live in woodlands and eat seeds, berries, fungi, bark and sap tissue</li> <li>• Over autumn they store surplus food just below ground or in gaps in tree trunks to see them through the winter</li> <li>• They live in a nest up a tree, known as a 'drey', which is made up of twigs and lined with moss and grass</li> </ul>