

Working together to give nature a home:



# BROWNIES TAKE ACTION FOR NATURE



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## About this meeting pack

### What is it?

Take Action for Nature is a resource developed for leaders as a partnership between Girlguiding LaSER Champions and RSPB. This is for leaders to use in online or face-to-face unit meetings to learn about some of the threats to nature in the UK and encourage your unit to take action for nature.

When you have completed the activities, you will:

- Understand some of the threats to nature in the UK.
- Be able to identify at least two animals/birds/insects at risk.
- Know what you can do to help outdoors or in the local community.

### How do I use the meeting plan?

This meeting plan is aimed to be used by leaders and is designed to be done over the course of one meeting but can be split into two. Not all activities will be suitable for everyone and might need to be adapted.

Complete one activity from each section; Starter, Hands on, Use your voice, How did it go.

### COVID Safety

Please follow the current guidance for your area.

### Who are the LaSER Champions?

The Girlguiding LaSER Champions are a group of 16-26 year olds who ensure girl-led advocacy and campaigning is at the heart of what we do.

We create, plan and deliver campaigns about issues we feel passionate about.

The LaSER Champions are always looking for new recruits. If you're interested in joining us please head to <https://www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/what-we-do/champions>

### The RSPB Partnership

The RSPB exists to help our birds, other wildlife and natural places survive and thrive. Since 2015, the RSPB has been working in partnership with Girlguiding LaSER to increase opportunities for girls to interact with, enjoy and learn about nature. The partnership also aims to empower girls and young women to take action and speak out for nature.

### Take Action and tell us!

We've had great fun creating this resource and hope you'll have fun using it too. We would love to hear what you think and how you have taken action for nature.

We have a feedback form on the website or you may prefer to email us via [chairofchampions@girlguidinglaser.org.uk](mailto:chairofchampions@girlguidinglaser.org.uk). You can also find us on social media:

- Instagram: @Girlguiding\_LaSER\_Champions
- Facebook: @LaSERChampions
- #TakeActionForNature

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## 5 Key facts on nature under threat:

- 1) Many wild animals in England, like hedgehogs, bats, birds and butterflies, are in trouble. Some of the problems are the way land is farmed (such as the use of chemicals to kill bugs and weeds), climate change, pollution, and house and roads being built on green spaces.
- 2) House sparrows, starlings and song thrushes are all birds which we might see in towns and gardens, but there are fewer of them than there used to be. Thrushes find food and make their nests in hedgerows and woodland, but many of these have been cut down to make way for bigger fields or for new roads or houses.
- 3) There are fewer hedgehogs than there used to be. In towns, gardens and grassy parks provide food for hedgehogs, like worms, beetles and slugs. When these areas are built on or paved over - or when grass is well cut and weeded - there is less for hedgehogs to eat.
- 4) Moths, like the Garden Tiger moth, are being affected by climate change. The caterpillars, known as woolly bears, like long cold winters, so they don't do well in the warmer winters which we get now.
- 5) Plastic rubbish breaks into tiny pieces which is harmful to animals (like seabirds) when they eat it. The plastic can make them feel 'full up' so that they don't eat enough food. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals can also be hurt when they become trapped in plastic rubbish.

## Nature in decline and threats to nature:

Nature needs our help. Lots of plants and wild animals, like hedgehogs, bats and many birds and butterflies, are in decline. There are many threats to nature such as:

- Houses and roads being built on green spaces, where wildlife would have made their homes.
- The way land is farmed. For example, using chemicals to kill bugs, like caterpillars, means less food for animals like hedgehogs.
- Burning coal and gas to make electricity, and burning oil to power cars, leads to climate change and harmful gases in the air, both of which are problems for wildlife.

The good news is that, in our country and across the world, people are working hard to protect wildlife. We can all do our bit to help nature.

## References for further reading:

- <https://www.rspb.org.uk/>
- <https://butterfly-conservation.org/>
- <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>



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## Starter activity

Begin your session with a quiz to get warmed up!



Download our ready made quiz from the Girlguiding LaSER website or make your own.



**TOP TIP:** Check out the RSPB Website for lots of interesting facts.

## Hands on activity

One way you can help is to feed the birds. By feeding the birds all year round, you'll give them a better chance to survive food shortages whenever they may occur.

### You will need:

- Garden wire or wooden kebab stick
- String
- Bird Kebab Food (Hard Cheese/ Raisins/Apples/Bread)

1. Have an adult help you cut your Bird Kebab food into small chunks.
2. Carefully thread the bird kebab food onto the wire or kebab stick.
3. Tie string to your kebab stick or wire and hang outside.



**TOP TIP:** If you are using wire, you can bend it into a shape like a circle!

**Bird Spotters Guide - Which birds have come to eat your Kebab?:** <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/>

### OR

### **Make a Hedgehog home**

Complete the Hedgehog home UMA.

- Use a cardboard box to make a hedgehog house. It will need a door, air vents and torn up newspaper inside to keep the hedgehog warm.
- When you have made it, put your hedgehog house near a hedge and cover with leaves, twigs and dry grass.



**TOP TIP:** Recycle a plastic bag to help keep the hedgehog home dry. Open up the plastic bag and attach securely to the top by weighing it down with stones.



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## Use your voice!

Climate change is one of the biggest threats facing wildlife, people and the planet – and it affects all our lives. It can be easy to feel discouraged by the scale of the challenge we face, but small actions really can have a big impact. Here are some ways you can use your voice and take action for nature.

### Send a card or letter

Tell someone you know in a card or a letter about what they can do for nature. You could use the facts in the pack or what you have learnt in the quiz or activities. You may want to research on the RSPB website.



**TOP TIP:** You could write to your MP or to your head teacher.

**OR**

### Make a poster

Make a 'Champion for Nature' poster to put in your window - draw on your favourite animals and tips for helping.

**OR**

### Make a Badge

Badges are a good talking point. Make and wear (or distribute) 'Champion for Nature' button badges.

## How did it go?

- Talk about what you learnt that surprised you.
- What could/will you do to be a Champion for Nature?

