

Into the Forest Activity Pack

Moors Valley Country Park and Forest



Inside Out Dorset is coming to Moors Valley Country Park and Forest in September.

One of this year's highlights includes artist **Luke Jerram's Gaia**. Marvel at an awe-inspiring sculpture of the Earth hidden in the woods surrounded by nature and complemented with a soundscape. Set amongst the Tree Top Trail, you'll have the chance to view Earth like never before. This seven metre installation is set to make young and old eyes widen in wonder.

In anticipation of this event we've been working with artist **James Aldridge** and the team at **Forestry England** to bring the magic of the forest to local schools and families.

This pack provides some fun activities for children and their families to explore their local forests and the wonder that is planet Earth.



Making Sense of Woodland

Our senses give us a way to experience our connection with the rest of nature, while art can help us to record, remember and share those experiences



1. Sit or stand quietly in the woods, your garden or a local park
2. What can you **hear** and **smell**?
3. How does the bark of each tree feel to the **touch**?
4. What shapes and patterns can you **see** on leaves and seeds?
5. How does this place make you **feel**?



Recording What You Notice

Try some of these techniques to record and share what you notice about local trees and woodland



Collect and compare the seeds and cones from a range of different trees, look closely with a magnifying glass and **draw** what you see.

Make a list of sounds that you hear, and smells that you've noticed, or create a short poem based on them.

Print with ink/paint or make rubbings with crayons, to record leaf shapes and patterns onto paper.



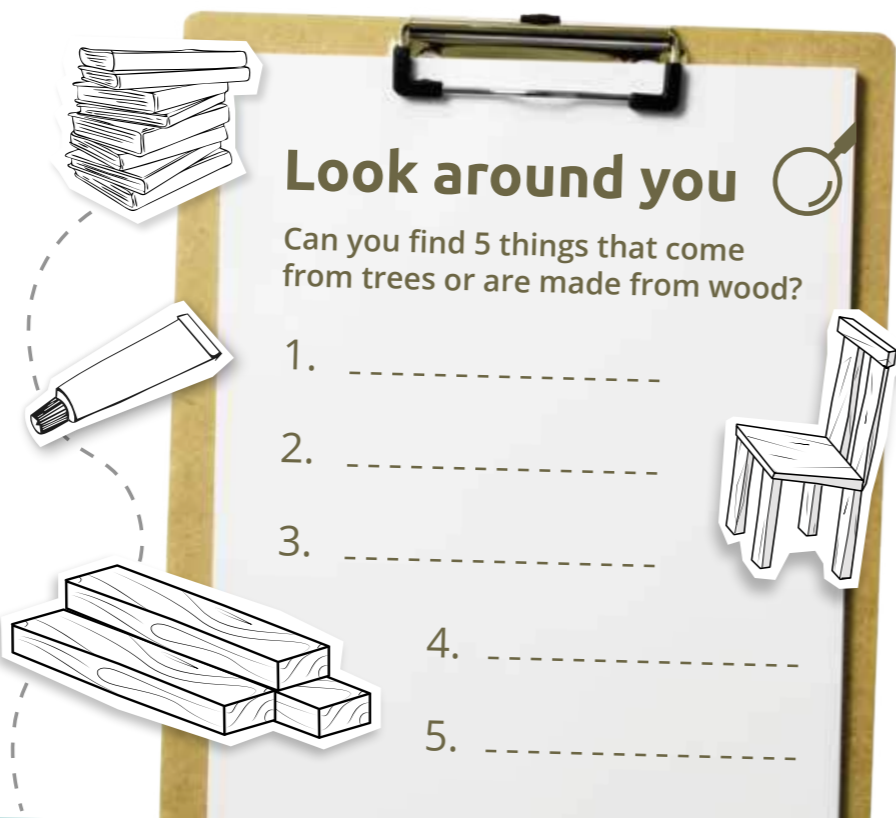
Gather the results of all these activities together in one place to create your own **Into the Forest** journal...





Fantastic forests

Forests are incredible places for lots of reasons. They provide homes for wildlife, a place to explore for you and your family, and they provide wood which we use in our everyday lives.



Look around you

Can you find 5 things that come from trees or are made from wood?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Wood products can have a long life and are often reused or recycled again and again. In fact, wood is one of the most sustainable materials and is a low-carbon alternative to plastic, concrete and steel.



When we harvest trees for wood, we plant more to make sure the forest's lifecycle continues.



How many trees do you think Forestry England has planted in the last 100 years?

- a. One hundred thousand
- b. Ten million
- c. One billion

(c - one billion)



Every part of a tree can be used to make different products. The parts we leave behind rot down to create soils that feed the next generation of forests, even log piles make great places for invertebrates, like beetles, to hide in!



Can you find all 10 forestry words in the word search?

How many of them do you know?

- Woodland** - An area covered in trees
- Bark** - The tough protective outer layer of a tree trunk
- Evergreen** - A tree that has leaves throughout the year
- Habitat** - The natural home of a plant or animal
- Sapling** - A young tree
- Trunk** - The main woody stem of a tree
- Ranger** - A person who works in the forest, looking after the trees
- Nursery** - A place where new trees are grown before they are planted in the forest
- Timber** - Wood that is ready to build with
- Pine** - An evergreen tree with long needle-shaped leaves

E	S	A	P	L	I	N	G	R	T
S	V	R	B	C	M	R	E	A	W
Y	Y	E	D	A	E	E	T	N	W
P	N	M	R	B	R	I	P	G	O
G	S	U	M	G	B	K	I	E	O
N	F	I	R	A	R	Q	N	R	D
G	T	G	H	S	G	E	E	E	L
T	R	U	N	K	E	B	E	T	A
E	H	A	G	Y	S	R	W	N	N
G	M	U	X	U	E	Q	Y	Q	D

See our planet differently

Gaia is a touring artwork by Bristol-based artist Luke Jerram. Luke is known globally for his innovative arts practice and large scale public artworks such as the 'Museum of the Moon' (you may have seen this in Dorset in 2019) and 'Park and Slide', a big water slide he installed in Park street, Bristol. Gaia has recently been presented in Hong Kong, Australia, Taiwan and at the Natural History Museum in London.

What is Gaia?

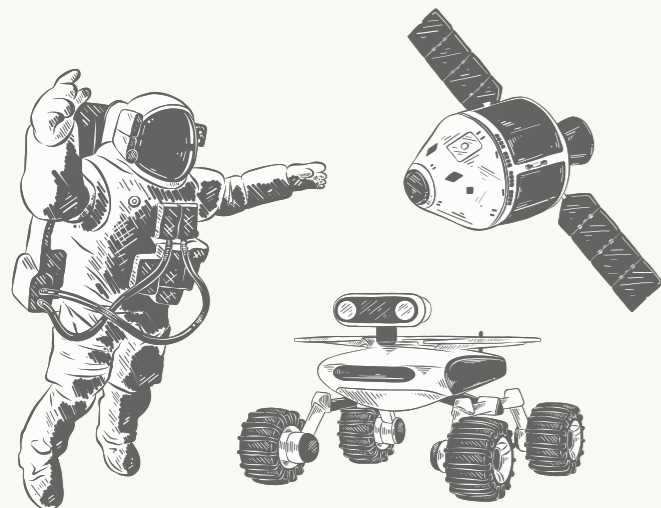
In Greek mythology, Gaia also spelled Gaea, is the personification of the Earth. Gaia is the ancestral mother of all life: the primal Mother Earth goddess.

What is the scale of this artwork?

The artwork is 1.8 million times smaller than the real Earth with each centimetre of the internally lit sculpture describing 18km of the Earth's surface. By standing 211m away from the artwork, you will be able to see the Earth as it appears from the moon. The Earth here is 7m in diameter. If the Sun were made to the same scale it would be 2820m in diameter. The sun would be 300km (186miles) away from where the Earth sculpture is now.

Where did the imagery come from to make this artwork?

The satellite imagery for the artwork has been compiled from NASA's Visible Earth series.



Why was this artwork made?

The first time humankind got to see our planet in its entirety as a blue marble floating in space was in 1972 with NASA's Apollo 17 mission. At this moment, our perception and understanding of our planet changed forever. Hanging in the black emptiness of space the Earth seems isolated, a precious and fragile island of life. From a distance, the Earth is just a pale blue dot. The installation creates a sense of the Overview Effect, which was first described by author Frank White in 1987. Experienced by astronauts, they describe this as feeling in awe of the planet, gaining a profound understanding of the interconnection of all life, and a renewed sense of responsibility for taking care of the environment.

What is Earthrise?

Earthrise is a photograph of Earth and parts of the Moon's surface that was taken from lunar orbit by astronaut Bill Anders in 1968, during the Apollo 8 mission. It was on 24 December 1968, exactly 75 hours, 48 minutes and 41 seconds after the Apollo 8 spacecraft lifted off from Cape Canaveral en route to becoming the first manned mission to orbit the moon. At the beginning of the fourth of 10 orbits, their spacecraft was emerging from the far side of the moon when a view of the blue-white planet filled one of the hatch windows.

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DID YOU KNOW

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What is The Blue Marble?

The Blue Marble is an image of planet Earth taken on 7 December 1972 by the crew of the Apollo 17 spacecraft at a distance of about 29,000 kilometres (18,000 miles) from the surface. It is one of the most reproduced images in human history. Earth is revealed as both a vast planet home to billions of creatures and a beautiful orb capable of fitting into the pocket of the universe.

Apollo 17 was the last manned lunar mission. No human since has been far enough from Earth to photograph a whole-Earth image such as The Blue Marble, but whole-Earth images have been taken by many unmanned spacecraft missions.



Gaia, 2019, Hong Kong, Photo (c) Lee Tung Avenue.



Gaia at Natural History Museum, 2018.

DID YOU KNOW

The Gaia artwork is 1.8 million times smaller than the real Earth.

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InsideOut

DORSET

Inside Out Dorset is an international outdoor arts festival that returns to wow audiences this September. Expect live performance in unexpected places – in town centres, by the sea, on hilltops and in woodland – for everyone to enjoy.

Some of Dorset's most remarkable urban and rural spots will be transformed with experiences that touch hearts and minds like nothing else.

- 1 **Moors Valley:** 17-19 September
- 2 **Poole:** 18 September
- 3 **Christchurch:** 19 September
- 4 **Weymouth:** 24-26 September
- 5 **Symondsburry Estate:** 24-26 September

At the heart of what we do is a belief that performing arts should be accessible for all – no matter what your experience or background. Therefore, much of **Inside Out Dorset is FREE to attend.**

For full details of the Inside Out Dorset festival programme, please visit our website.



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This pack has been created by **Activate Performing Arts**, producers of Inside Out Dorset, in collaboration with artist **James Aldridge** and **Lost & Found Creative Communications**. Special thanks to **Forestry England** for the contribution of additional material.

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