



# Welcome to the Forest



by Ruth Owen



**[Intentionally Left Blank]**



# Welcome to the Forest

by Ruth Owen



Published in 2016 by Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd.

Copyright © 2016 Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

Editor: Mark J. Sachner

Designer: Emma Randall

Consultant: Judy Wearing, PhD, BEd

Production: John Lingham

#### Photo credits

Alamy: 15 (center), 16, 24 (right), 25, 27 (top), 30; Corbis: 18 (top); FLPA: 9 (right), 11 (left), 12 (right), 13 (bottom), 17, 29, 30; Public Domain: 15 (top), 15 (bottom); Shutterstock: Cover, 2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8, 9 (left), 10, 11 (right), 12 (left), 13 (top), 14 (bottom), 14–15 (center), 18 (bottom), 19, 20–21, 22–23, 24 (top), 24 (left), 25 (bottom left), 26, 27 (bottom), 28, 30, 31.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2015916858

ISBN 978-1-910549-65-0

Printed and published in the United States of America

For further information including rights and permissions requests, please contact our Customer Service Department at 877-337-8577.









# Contents

Welcome to the Forest .....	4
Acorns, Shoots, Leaves, and Roots .....	6
Tree Trunk Nests.....	8
Life on the Forest Floor .....	10
The Forest at Night.....	12
Forest Minibeasts.....	14
Hungry Forest Babies.....	16
Becoming Part of the Forest .....	18
Forest Fungi .....	20
A Carpet of Moss .....	22
A Time for Seeds.....	24
Autumn in the Forest.....	26
Winter Comes Around.....	28
A Forest Food Web .....	30
Glossary .....	31
Index, Read More, Learn More Online.....	32



Words shown in **bold** in the text  
are explained in the glossary.



# Welcome to the Forest

Who and what lives in a forest?

This **habitat** is home to trees, moss, and **fungi**.

The residents of this habitat include raccoons, birds, spiders, and other animals.



Every living thing in the forest gets what it needs to live from its habitat.





A forest is a type of ecosystem. An ecosystem includes all the living things in an area. It also includes non-living things such as soil, rocks, sunlight, and rain. Everything in an ecosystem has its own part to play.

So let's find out what happens in this natural neighborhood ...  
... welcome to the forest!



# Acorns, Shoots, Leaves, and Roots

It's spring in the forest, and fat buds are growing on the branches of trees.

When the buds burst open, leaves uncurl from inside.

If you visit a forest, you might not notice the soil. Without it, however, the trees and other plants could not live. Plants take in water and **nutrients** from soil through their roots.

Bud

These tree roots grow deep into the soil.

Rainwater soaks into the soil.

Oak tree leaves





An acorn is buried in the forest soil.

Once the spring sunshine warms the soil, a **shoot** starts to grow.



Within a few weeks, the shoot grows into an oak tree seedling.

Once the oak tree is fully grown, it may live for hundreds of years!

In what ways do you think the forest trees are helpful to animals?