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mix of the  
**ENCYCLOPEDIA**  
& fairy tale



# Observing the Animals of the Forest




## with Red Riding Hood



B4U Publishing

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It was a mischievous squirrel! Red Riding Hood decided she would outsmart it. She placed some mushrooms, raspberries, nuts, and other treats into its house, and the squirrel left her alone in return. Looking for these goodies had made Red Riding Hood tired, however, so she decided to have a short rest. She laid down on a soft moss cushion near a well, her eyes were droopy, and she fell into a deep sleep. When she woke up, all the contents of her basket had disappeared! What happened? The ants had a sweet tooth and had eaten the very last crumb of the plum jam cakes and drank every last drop of the lemonade! "What can I do?" Red Riding Hood thought: "I'll at least bring my grandma a few mushrooms for soup and a handful of blueberries for dumplings. And for drink..." Something buzzed behind by her cap. "I know!"

## Forest butterfly species

### The clouded

#### Apollo

The homeland of the clouded Apollo are sparse forests and their edges. It needs the sun to live. Each morning, it intensively **sunbathes with its wings wide open**.



### The Eurasian white admiral

It enjoys **muddy forest paths**, on which it sits gracefully and in large flocks. During courtship, males wait for females at the ends of the branches of higher shrubs.



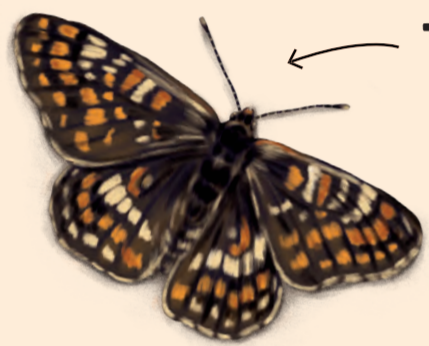
### The heath fritillary

It also thrives in wet and dry places. Its caterpillars feed on plantain and other forest herbs. It lives in a **house made of dry leaves** in the winter.



### The scarce fritillary

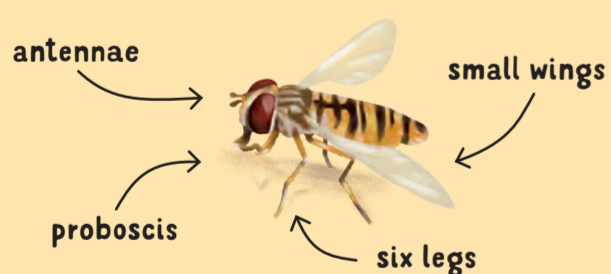
It inhabits clearings and sparse deciduous forests rich in plants from which it can suck nectar. It is an **endangered** butterfly species - you have to be truly lucky to see it!



## Insects in the forest

**Buzz-buzz!** What makes that buzzing sound? When you listen to the silence of the forest, you find that it is not quiet at all. Even ostensibly quiet needles are full of life. You can see small animals and forest insects everywhere. The difference between insects and other animal species in that they have six legs and their bodies are made up of three parts: a head, thorax and an abdomen.

### MARMALADE HOVERFLY



## Butterflies

When you think of a butterfly, you picture a meadow, but the forest is also full of these ethereal creatures, forest butterflies. Like the meadow butterflies, they go through **four developmental stages**:

### 4. adult butterfly



### 1. egg



### 3. pupa



### 2. caterpillar



## Large earth bumblebee

Bumblebees **nest deep in the ground**, especially in empty mouse holes. They have a short proboscis but they can **pollinate flowers** even on cold days when bees do not fly.



## Other forest insects

### Dark bee

Bees are not only found in beehives made by humans. They also live wildly in the woods where they **dwell in the hollows of old trees**. There, they hide their **honeycombs** full of sweet honey.



### Stag beetle

It is one of the **largest European beetles**. The males have huge **jaws** on their heads to win over the females in a fight. Adult beetles lay eggs in rotting trees or logs.



### Carabus coriaceus

This large black beetle with wing cases, which resemble skin, spends its day **hiding under rocks**. At night, it goes hunting. It enjoys earthworms and snails.



## Red-brown longhorn beetle

You can recognize it by its **long tentacles** and slim body. It likes to **disrupt the surface bark of spruces** and thus speeds up the death of trees weakened by ingrowing fungi or rot.



# FOREST INSECTS

## Life in an anthill

You have definitely encountered a strange **stack of needles and twigs**. That's an anthill - a home for ants. Ants often build it **on the site of a decayed tree stump**, inside which a queen ant establishes a colony. A complex network of corridors and chambers runs from the centre of the anthill deep under the ground. It can be up to **two metres deep!**

## The red wood ant

Who would have said that this tiny animal is a **great builder, gatherer, hunter and breeder**. But it never works alone. It lives in large colonies where all the ants help each other.

## Ant work

Ants are extreme **team players**. They cooperate much better than humans. They **communicate** by smell, touch of the antennae or gentle creak that is given out by a special organ on their buttocks. Every ant has an important role in the anthill.

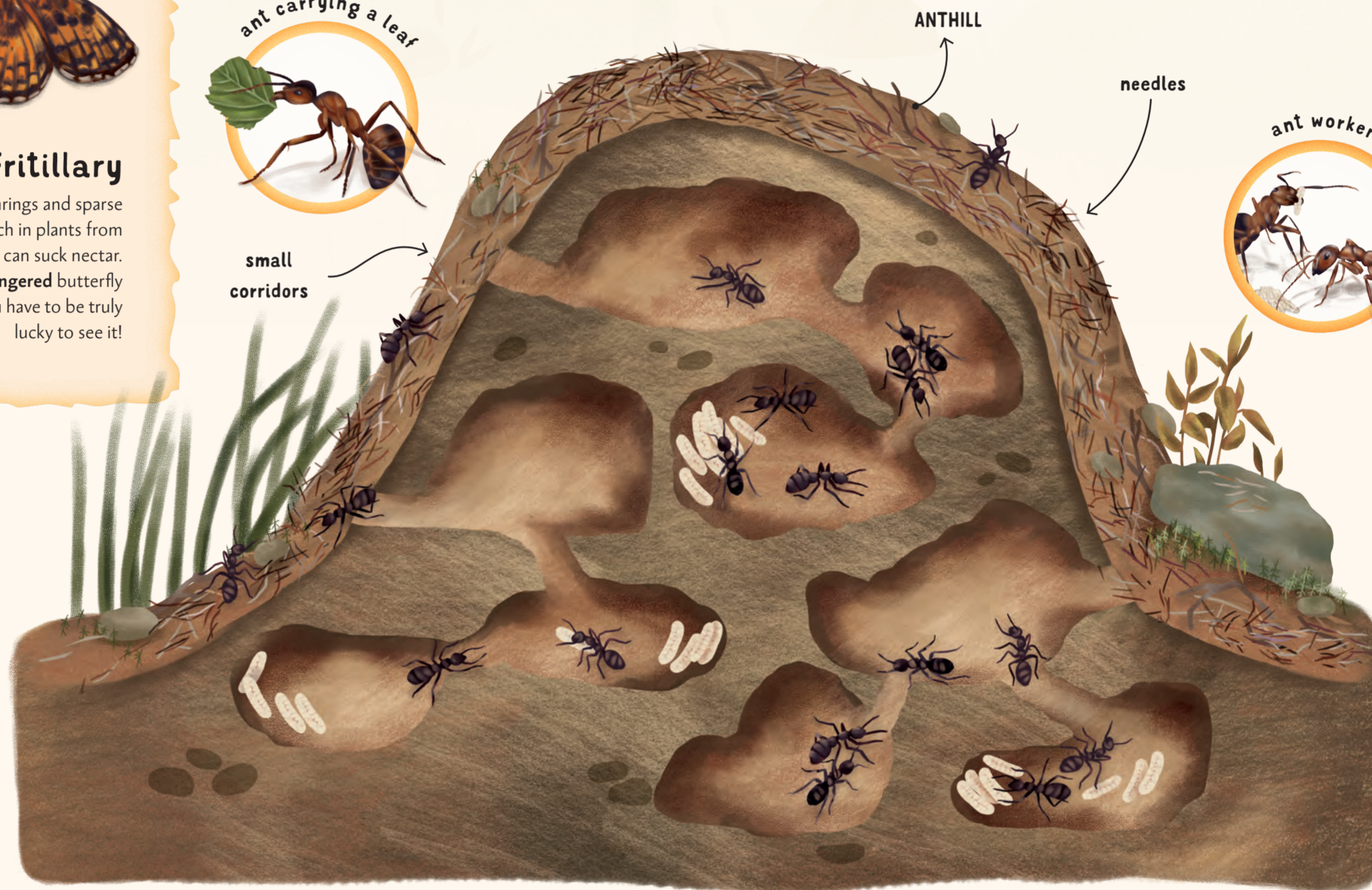
### ant queen



### ant carrying a leaf



### small corridors



## Ants breeders


Yummy, sweet **honeydew!** The ants just love it. Ants herd and care for an entire flock of **aphids** in the anthill because they secrete the honeydew which is exuded through their bum. They protect them from predators, carry them carefully to places with plenty of food, and when they tap on their backs, the aphids secrete a drop of sweet juice.



### aphids

## Why are ants important for our forests?

Forest ants are not messy at all, quite the contrary. On their way from and to the anthill, they like to help **clean up** dead animals that they feed on, thus naturally cleaning and protecting the entire forest. In addition, when building anthills, they constantly improve drainage and **aerate the soil**, which they mix with plant remains and their droppings turning them into fertilizer for the soil.



The forest was engulfed in pitch-black darkness and the first stars began to appear in the sky. Although she didn't want to admit it, Red Riding Hood was a little bit afraid in the night forest. Spooky sounds echoed through the forest and something big flew past her. Hoot... Hoot... it was hooting ominously. Could it be a ghost? Red Riding Hood stepped carefully, taking care not to make any noise. The hooting echoed from the hollow of a nearby oak. "It's not a ghost at all!" said Red Riding Hood staring at the night predator. At the edge of the forest, there was another surprise waiting for her... It seemed as if a thousand stars had descended from the sky and shone on the path to her grandmother's cottage.

## Forest owls

### Long-eared owl

Where are the ears of the long-eared owl? It is not the **long feathers** that grow on its head, they are hidden under them. Although they are not visible, they can capture even the quietest sound of a vole.



### Eurasian pygmy owl

This tiny owl, which makes a whistling sound, is **as small as a human palm**. It is a forest record holder, however, that can kill prey much larger than itself. They like to nest in the hollows of old trees.

### Tawny owl

Hoot hoot! That's exactly how the tawny owls communicate. These cute little owls are savvy hunters and **ardent defenders of their own nests**. Whoever dares to intrude on their little ones will not escape the mommy owl's beak.



### Barn owl

Its face is adorned with a **beautiful heart-shaped veil** with a brown edge. It can be seen in the forest, but it also dwells in church towers or in attics. They lay eggs in a dark space surrounded by pellets.

### Boreal owl

This handsome owl is one of the highly protected species. It lives in old coniferous forests, where it likes to move into nests which were abandoned by the black woodpecker. It is a **great hunter in flight**.



### Little owl

It likes to fly up to the top of a tree, from where it looks down carefully with its stern yellow eyes. It is a **curious owl**, attracted by the lights of human homes. They feed on smaller rodents, lizards and frogs.

### Eurasian eagle-owl

It is nicknamed the King of the Forest. This giant owl typically has a **wingspan of up to two metres**. It has bright, fiery orange eyes and above them distinct long feathers resembling ears. It is brave enough to hunt predatory hawks or young roe deer.



## Bats

Bats are very ancient creatures who have lived on our planet for 50 million years! They mainly feed on insects but also spiders. They **hide under the bark of trees or in caves**, where they hang from the ceilings in tightly packed masses to keep each other warm.



### Brown long-eared bat

Before it hibernates, the brown long-eared bat **folds its large ears under its forearm** so that no wind can get into them. It sleeps hanging upside down.

### Soprano pipistrelle

This tiny and highly protected species **loves water**. It seeks out shelters in damp alluvial forests, where it listens for mosquitoes and mayflies.

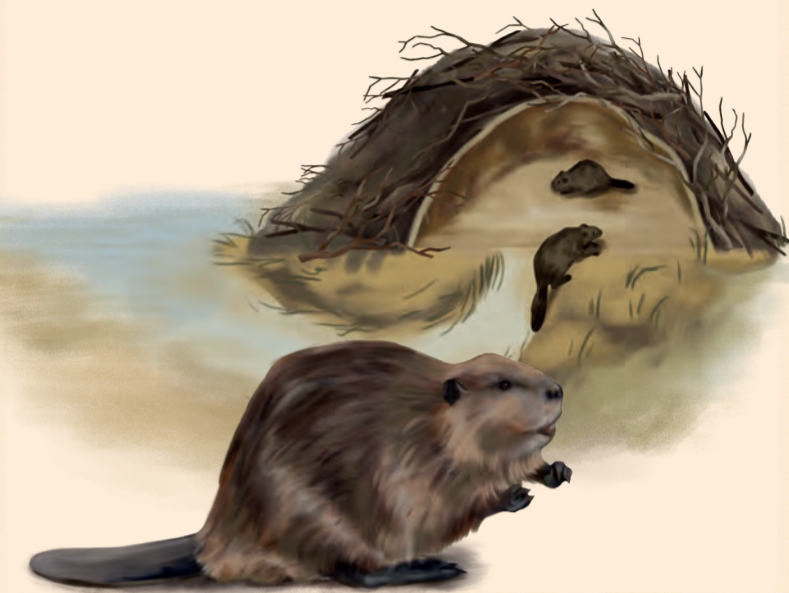


### Shh!

Even bats don't like being woken up. Usually we see them **sleeping upside down**, hanging from the ceiling suspended by the four claws of its hind feet. Caves are an ideal bat home; they are neither too hot nor cold for them. **They remember their favourite places**, which they like to return to with centimetre accuracy!

## European beaver

You won't find a better builder near a forest river. During the nights, it **constructs long dikes** and **beaver castles** from mud and branches and can gnaw through the trunk of a tree without a problem. Its sturdy body is well adapted to **life in the water**: it bounces up from the bed of a river using its rear webbed feet, its eyes are protected by transparent eyelids and it does not even need a raincoat when diving. Its fur is almost waterproof!



# NOCTURNAL FOREST ANIMALS

**K**nock knock, who lives there? Red Riding Hood knocked near a tree cavity. A hoot was an answer and two large orange eyes peered out from the tree curiously. Can you guess which owl has such eyes?

### Owl's diet

Owls are predators and they eat mostly **insects, rodents, lizards, frogs or smaller birds**. Undigested rests of bones, feathers and hair are vomited in the form of little **pellets** which immediately tell you what the owl just had for dinner!

### I can see you!

Owls have terrific vision. Their perfect eyes are placed right next to each other and **can see perfectly in the dark** and over long distances. They struggle, however, to detect objects very close to their eyes, almost as if they need glasses. They can twist, however, their head almost completely upside down!



BARN OWL

owl's pellet

excellent sight

Owls can rotate their heads 270 degrees.

## Forest at night

The night forest is full of **mysterious sounds and lights**. The branches crack gently in the wind, the mosquitoes whisper quietly around your ears, and sometimes you can even hear the stomping of a hedgehog or an owl's hoot. Fireflies glow around in their beautiful swarms of flickering lights...

### Hedgehog

A solitary hedgehog can wander throughout the whole night. Its body is covered up to **8 thousand prickly quills**. No beetle or earthworm can escape its sensitive snout.

Hedgehog puffs and stomps at night.



### Firefly

**What makes fireflies light up?** They are able to glow thanks to the **luminous pigment** that is formed in the back segments of their abdomen. They glow for a while and then stop. That's how they talk.

Fireflies use light communication.



### Black arches

It blends easily with the **trunk of a tree**. Its finicky caterpillars enjoy fresh green leaves and juicy needles. They can easily eat over a thousand of these.



antennae

## Observing the Animals of the Forest with Red Riding Hood

Text by Jana Sedláčková & Štěpánka Sekaninová  
Illustrations by Linh Dao & Alžběta Božeková

Once upon a time, there was a very curious little girl with a red cap whom everybody called nothing else but the Red Riding Hood. You may have heard about her going to the grandmother's and meeting the wolf on her way there. But only few people know that on her adventurous journey she met also other forest animals like singing birds, a squirrel, deer, ants and many others. What are these animals and how do they live? You can find out on the pages of this richly illustrated book *Observing the Animals of the Forest with Red Riding Hood* which uniquely connects the famous fairy tale with an encyclopedia full of the most interesting information about animals of the forest and its surroundings.



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WARNING:  
Choking hazard.  
Not suitable for children  
under 36 months.

