THE SCIENCE OF SENSE ENVIRONMENT

FORESTS

Our Forests are spaces full of trees and they're important ecosystems that support many different plants and animals. Trees reduce global warming and help combat climate change, by absorbing carbon dioxide (CO_2). A single tree will absorb more CO_2 than would be produced by a car travelling to Beijing and back. Ireland is currently the least forested country in Europe, however trees love the Irish climate so there are lots of opportunities for us to plant more trees.

WORD SEARCH

WHITETHORN INSECTS OXYGEN ECOSYSTEM
ELM NATIVE ELDER BUCKTHORN
HURLEY ROWAN WILD WEEDS

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

EXPLORING OUR ENVIRONMENT
CALL TO ACTION

Create a Hedgehog Highway!

One way to make a garden welcoming for a hedgehogs is to create a Hedgehog Highway. This helps the little creatures travel between other gardens at night so they can search for food and other mates. Your Hedgehog Highway can make a really difference in helping our hedgehogs thrive in our cities and towns.
Note: You will need the help of an adult to to do this. If you don't have your own garden this is a project you could also do in your school or with a community group. Here's how to do it:

You will need: Ruler / Pencil / Jab Saw / Sandpaper

Step 1: Get help with your project from an adult. Ask your adult to talk to your neighbour and get their permission if you are cutting a hole in a boundary fence.

Step 2: Measure and mark a 13cm x 13cm hole at the bottom of the panel of your fence.

Step 3: Ask an adult to cut out the marked hole using the jab saw. Do not do this yourself.

Step 4: If there are very rough edges, use sandpaper to smooth them down.

Step 5: You could make a cute little Hedgehog Highway sign and hang it above your own Hedgehog Highway hole. We would love to see your Hedgehog Highway! you can email us on **juniour@rte.ie** or if you want to post on social media just tag us on **@rtejr**

Professor Theodore Bumbledumm and a team of JuniorScientists have been busy exploring our environment in a 6 part radio series called the *Science of Sense Goes Exploring Our Environment* on RTE Junior Radio. This week presenters **Marco Acosta** and **Jack Ho** investigate our biodiversity with **Catherine Cleary** and **Amy Van Den Broek** from **Pocket Forests**.

HEDGEHOG CROSSING