

Nova's Fall Nature Explorer Record

Learning objective: To observe and describe the seasonal changes in the environment during fall and identify how living things respond to the change in temperature and daylight hours.

Go outside to a garden, park, or woodland area with Nova the owl. Use your senses to observe the signs of fall. Fill in each section below to record your scientific findings. Use the word bank to help you describe what you see, hear, and feel.

Word bank: deciduous · chlorophyll · dormant · migration · photosynthesis · temperature · habitat · hibernate

1. Tree Observations: Describe the changes you can see on the leaves of deciduous trees. Why do you think their colors are changing at this time of year? (3 marks)

2. Animal Behavior: List two animals you might see preparing for winter. What are they doing to get ready for the colder weather? (2 marks)

3. Temperature and Daylight: How has the air temperature felt today compared to the summer? How do shorter daylight hours affect the plants you have observed? (3 marks)

4. Seed Dispersal: Look for seeds or fruits on the ground (like conkers, acorns, or berries). Explain how these seeds are moving away from the parent tree. (2 marks)

5. Scientific Conclusion: Based on your observations today, why is fall an important season for the lifecycle of plants and animals? (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Nova wants to know: choose one animal that hibernates in the UK. Research what it eats before it goes to sleep and draw a 'Winter Menu' for it in your science book.