Nova’s Autumn Discovery

Learning objective: To identify and describe the changes in the natural world during the season of autumn.

Read the story about Nova the owl carefully. Use the text to help you answer the questions below.

Nova the barn owl sat on her favourite oak tree, watching the woods change. It was autumn, the season that comes after summer. The air felt much cooler, and Nova noticed the temperature dropping as the days grew shorter. She watched the leaves on the trees turn from bright green to shades of gold, orange, and crispy brown. Soon, the leaves began to fall to the forest floor, making a satisfying crunching sound whenever a squirrel scurried over them. Nova spotted a hedgehog snuffling in the fallen leaves, searching for a cosy spot to hide. Unlike the birds who might fly to warmer places, the hedgehog was getting ready to hibernate for the long, cold winter ahead. Nova fluffed up her soft, white feathers to stay warm. She knew that nature was getting ready to rest. Even though the days were becoming darker, Nova loved the beautiful colours of the forest. She hooted softly to her friends, happy to observe how the world around her prepared for the change of season.

Word bank: autumn · deciduous · season · temperature · hibernate · crunchy

1. What happens to the colour of the leaves during autumn? (2 marks)

2. What is the hedgehog doing in the passage? (2 marks)

3. Why does Nova fluff up her feathers? (2 marks)

4. How do we know that the weather is changing in the story? (2 marks)

5. Do you think autumn is a good time for animals? Explain why. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of the forest in autumn. Include Nova the owl sitting in a tree and some colourful leaves on the ground.

Extension challenge: Go on an autumn walk with an adult. Collect three different coloured leaves and write down one sentence about how they feel or look.