

Report Writing: The Wonders of the Woodland Canopy

Learning objective: To identify the features of a formal report and interpret information from a non-fiction text.

Read the report below about the woodland ecosystem carefully, then answer the questions that follow. Ensure your answers are written in full sentences.

A report on the biodiversity of the Willowbrook Woodland, compiled by Nova the owl. The Willowbrook Woodland serves as a vital habitat for a vast array of species. The upper layer of the forest, known as the canopy, provides shelter for birds and insects. Observations show that the thick leaves protect smaller animals from the elements and predators. Below, the forest floor is home to mosses, fungi, and various beetles. Recent surveys indicate that the population of local honeybees is thriving, which is essential for the pollination of wildflowers. Environmental conditions in Willowbrook are currently stable, though human activity on the woodland edges requires careful monitoring. To maintain this balance, it is recommended that visitors keep to marked paths to avoid disturbing delicate root systems. Furthermore, the introduction of bird boxes could increase nesting success rates by up to 25%. In conclusion, Willowbrook remains a flourishing example of a balanced ecosystem. Continued protection and respectful exploration will ensure that this habitat remains a sanctuary for local wildlife for many years to come.

Word bank: ecosystem · canopy · habitat · observation · classification · biodiversity

1. According to the report, what is the primary function of the woodland canopy for smaller animals? (2 marks)

2. What specific suggestion does Nova make to help improve the nesting success of birds in the woodland? (2 marks)

3. Why might Nova suggest that visitors stay on the marked paths? (2 marks)

4. What does the text suggest about the health of the Willowbrook ecosystem? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important for children to learn about local habitats? Explain your reasoning using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the woodland layers as described by Nova, showing the canopy at the top and the forest floor at the bottom, labelling the different creatures found in each area.



Extension challenge: Nova wants to add a 'Cost of Conservation' section to her report. If one bird box costs £12.50, calculate the total cost to install 8 bird boxes in the woodland.