The Wonders of the Great Oak Forest

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

Read the report about the Great Oak Forest carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

The Great Oak Forest is a vast, ancient woodland that serves as a vital habitat for thousands of species. Rising high above the forest floor, the thick canopy acts as a protective umbrella, shielding the delicate ecosystem below from harsh weather. This dense layer of leaves also provides a secure home for birds and tree-dwelling mammals.

Beneath the towering oaks, the forest floor is a busy centre of activity. Here, decomposers such as fungi and tiny invertebrates work tirelessly to recycle nutrients back into the soil. This process is essential for the forest's health, ensuring that the giant trees receive the minerals they need to grow.

Many animals in the forest are nocturnal, meaning they are most active during the night. While the daytime is dominated by songbirds and buzzing bees, the night belongs to silent hunters and glowing insects. Because of its incredible biodiversity, the Great Oak Forest is one of the most important natural landmarks in the country. Protecting these woodlands is crucial for the survival of the many unique creatures that rely on its shelter, food, and complex web of life.

Word bank: habitat · canopy · ecosystem · biodiversity · nocturnal · invertebrates

1. According to the text, what is the main purpose of the forest canopy? (2 marks)

2. Name two types of organisms that act as decomposers on the forest floor. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the forest floor is described as a 'busy centre of activity'? (2 marks)

4. Explain why the author suggests that the night-time forest is different from the daytime forest. (2 marks)

5. Why is it important for us to protect ancient woodlands like the Great Oak Forest? Justify your answer using information from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of the Great Oak Forest, showing the underground root systems, the bustling forest floor, and the high leafy canopy where birds might nest.

Extension challenge: Nova the owl is planning a night-time expedition. Write a short paragraph describing three things she might see or hear while exploring the forest after dark.