Autumn Nature Detectives with Nova the Owl

Learning objective: To identify and describe the changes in plants and animals as the seasons transition from summer to autumn.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of the seasons to answer. Think about how the environment changes as the weather gets cooler.

Word bank: deciduous · photosynthesis · hibernate · migrate · chlorophyll · dormant

1. Nova the Owl notices that many trees are changing colour. Explain why the leaves on deciduous trees change from green to brown, red, or yellow in autumn. (2 marks)

2. Some animals prepare for the colder weather by finding a safe place to sleep for the entire winter. What is the scientific name for this behaviour? (1 mark)

3. Look at the list of items below. Circle the items you would expect to see more of in a woodland area during autumn:
[Conkers] [Fresh green buds] [Fallen leaves] [Spring flowers] [Acorns] (2 marks)

4. Why do you think some birds decide to migrate to warmer countries when the weather turns cold in the UK? (2 marks)

5. If a tree loses all its leaves in autumn, is it dead? Explain your answer using the word 'dormant'. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a woodland scene in autumn. Include a deciduous tree with changing leaf colours, a pile of fallen conkers or acorns on the ground, and one animal preparing for winter.

Extension challenge: Research one animal that hibernates in the UK and write three facts about how it prepares its den before the first frost arrives.