Nova’s Autumn Adventure

Learning objective: To identify and describe the seasonal changes that occur during autumn.

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions using full sentences.

As the air turns crisp and the temperature drops, Nova the owl watches the forest transform. Autumn has arrived! The most noticeable change is the colour of the leaves on deciduous trees. During summer, leaves are green because they are full of a substance called chlorophyll. As the days grow shorter and the sunlight fades, trees stop making this green pigment. This reveals the hidden oranges, reds, and golds that were tucked away inside the leaves all along. Soon, these leaves will dry up and fall to the forest floor. Nova notices the animals are busy too. Some creatures, like hedgehogs, begin searching for cosy spots to hibernate for the winter. Meanwhile, many birds prepare to migrate to warmer countries where food is easier to find. The days become shorter and the nights feel longer. Nova loves this time of year because the star-filled sky is visible much earlier in the evening. It is a season of change, as nature prepares for the cold winter months ahead.

Word bank: deciduous · chlorophyll · hibernate · migrate · temperature

1. According to the text, why do leaves change from green to red or gold in autumn? (2 marks)

2. Name two things that animals might do to prepare for the coming winter. (2 marks)

3. Why do you think birds choose to migrate instead of staying in the forest all year? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what happens to the length of the days as autumn progresses? (2 marks)

5. Nova says she loves autumn. Do you think autumn is the best season? Explain your answer using a reason. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a forest scene showing deciduous trees with colourful autumn leaves, a hedgehog hiding in a pile of fallen leaves, and Nova the owl sitting on a branch under a night sky.

Extension challenge: Research one other animal that hibernates in the UK and write two facts about how it prepares its home for winter.