



**Derbyshire**  
Wildlife Trust

# Wild Schools

*At Home*

**Natural  
symmetry**

## *Symmetry hunt*

*Numeracy*

Something is symmetrical when it is the same on both sides. A shape has symmetry if a central dividing line (mirror line or line of symmetry) can be drawn on it, to show that both sides of the shape are exactly the same.

The patterns on the wings of butterflies are symmetrical. Can you find any natural objects that are symmetrical? When you find something draw it here:



Now draw on the line of symmetry. How many natural things can you find that are symmetrical? Do any of them have more than one line of symmetry?



## Nature clay symmetry prints

*Numeracy, Art and design*

To make these you will need:

- \* Air drying clay, salt dough or plasticine shaped into a flat disc.
- \* Natural materials such as leaves, sticks or pine cones.
- \* A pencil.
- \* String or thread.

Once you have moulded the clay into a disc carefully lay on your natural objects to create a symmetrical pattern. You could use one line of symmetry or more. Gently press the natural materials into the clay and then lift them off to reveal a print. Use the pencil to make a hole in the top and then leave it to dry completely. Once dried you can paint it or leave it plain. Thread some string through the hole so you can hang it up.



## Natural Art: symmetrical leaf fireworks

*Art and design, numeracy*

Gather together lots of natural materials such as leaves, sticks and stones. Now create your very own firework by arranging objects on the floor in a symmetrical pattern.

Start by laying down a long stick to help you find the line of symmetry and then creating the same pattern either side of the stick. Once you finish remove the stick to reveal your firework. If you get good at this you could try with 2 lines of symmetry by laying down 2 sticks in a cross and then creating 4 areas with the same pattern.

