



## Mammal Day

### Book this module if:

Your group are 1st class (6-7yrs) or older and preferably have done our *General Nature Explorer Day* prior to this. A great day for looking at this animal group in more detail with lots of different options depending on the age of the group. This day is particularly useful for follow up work in class where projects, stories and art could be used to explore the theme further.

(These are recommendations only - modules are open to all groups)

### Learning Outcomes: what we hope the children in your class will gain from the module:

1. An introduction to what mammals are and some of the mammals found in Glenveagh through a range of outdoor and indoor activities designed to foster their own investigations and discovery.
2. A supervised encounter with a small woodland mammal through our trapping and surveying project.
3. The opportunity to find mammal tracks and signs and have a go at identifying species.
4. Encouragement to use the library to find out more about mammals and their homes, habits and behaviour.
5. Support in learning about the role of mammals in the park, their place in the food chain and the need to protect them.
6. Space and time to make a memento of their day, either in the form of a mammal journal or tracks and signs poster.

## Methods of teaching and activities: what children will experience:

1. A guided walk exploring the habitats of mammals and looking for tracks and signs of species such as fox, badger and deer.
2. Checking small mammal traps that we will have set the night before to see if we can find who lives in the park.
3. Games that illustrate how mammals are part of and form food chains and webs.
4. Art activities to reflect on learning, including writing, drawing and paint stamping into hand made mammal booklets.
5. Self guided research and reading - use of the library to find facts and pictures about mammals.

## Suggested preparation activities to do in school:

- Cover what mammals are and discuss all the different types, sizes and where they live around the world.
- Use the internet with the class to research Irish Mammals.
- Get the class to think about what mammals there might be closer to school or in their gardens.
- Explore what mammals need to survive and how some of them change their behaviour over the winter months.

## Suggested follow up activities to do after your visit:

- Choose one of the mammals discussed on your day at Glenveagh and do a class project on it.
- Get the children to finish their mammal books and do further writing and drawing in them. Young children could cut out and stick in pictures of mammals.
- Older groups could look at the Irish Mammal Atlas project (see web link below) and discuss why some mammals are more widespread than others. Compare this site to the UK version.
- Explore the history of mammals in Ireland. Discuss extinction, what this means and what can cause it.

## Useful references for further information:

<http://mammals.biodiversityireland.ie/>

<http://www.mammal.org.uk/nmap>

<http://www.mammals-in-ireland.ie/species>



Nature Education Programme  
Glenveagh National Park, Churchill, Donegal  
Tel: 00353 (0) 761 002691 / 3 E-mail: [glenveagh-education@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:glenveagh-education@ahg.gov.ie)