

**Spooky
Halloween
nature hunt**





Can you Find.....

A SPOOKY SPIDER WEB?

FACTS

Spiders are arachnids.

They are named after Arachne, a weaver in Ancient Greece who was changed into a spider.

Spiders have 8 legs while insects only have 6.

Spiders are found on every continent in the world - except Antarctica.

Almost all spiders are predators, and eat insects and sometimes, other spiders!

There are approximately 1107 species of arachnid native to Ireland (that's a lot of legs).

a tree
With a Face?



FACTS

Just like people, trees need water to survive - and they drink a lot of water! A large tree can get through over 300 litres a day.

Trees are important because they take in water and carbon dioxide and give out oxygen.

Trees can live for thousands of years.

The heaviest living thing on earth is a tree. The giant sequoia can weigh more than 6000 tons.

There are about 100,000 known species of tree in the world but there are also thought to be thousands of undiscovered species in the rainforests and other uninhabited places in the world.

The image shows a close-up, top-down view of a thick layer of fallen autumn leaves. The leaves are predominantly maple-like in shape, with prominent veins and lobed edges. The color palette is rich and varied, ranging from bright, sunny yellows and oranges to deep, dark browns and near-black tones, suggesting a progression of decay or different leaf types. The lighting is somewhat uneven, with brighter areas where the leaves are more densely packed and darker shadows in the recesses between them. The overall texture is busy and organic.

a leaf the colour
of a pumpkin?

FACTS

All the leaves you'll find on the ground after falling belong to deciduous trees. Deciduous trees lose their leaves every autumn and grow new ones in the spring.

Leaves will change colour through the seasons before they fall off the tree.

Sunlight is captured by the leaves using a chemical called chlorophyll which makes the leaves green. Chlorophyll turns the sunlight into food to help the trees grow.

When there is less sun the trees break down the chlorophyll and the green colour disappears from the leaves. The leaves will then turn yellow, orange or red depending on the chemicals found in the leaf.

some fairy wings?



FACTS

The seeds of the sycamore tree are also known as helicopters because of the way they spin when falling.

One tree can produce up to 10,000 seeds per season.

The tree is fast growing and can reach a height of 30 metres.

The Sycamore tree is not native to Ireland and no one is quite sure when it was introduced to the country. It originated in Europe but is now found all over the world.

The Sycamore is said to symbolise strength, protection and eternity.

**the blackest
crow?**




FACTS

Crow is the common name given to a Corvid, a group of birds which includes Magpies, Hooded Crows, Jackdaws and Rooks.

They are very social birds as well as being very intelligent. They have the largest brain to body size ratio of any bird!

Crows can have accents! Two different populations of crows can have slight differences in their calls, just like humans who live in different areas.

Crows will gather together to fight off any predators.




*a pine cone nibbled
by some sharp
teeth?*

FACTS

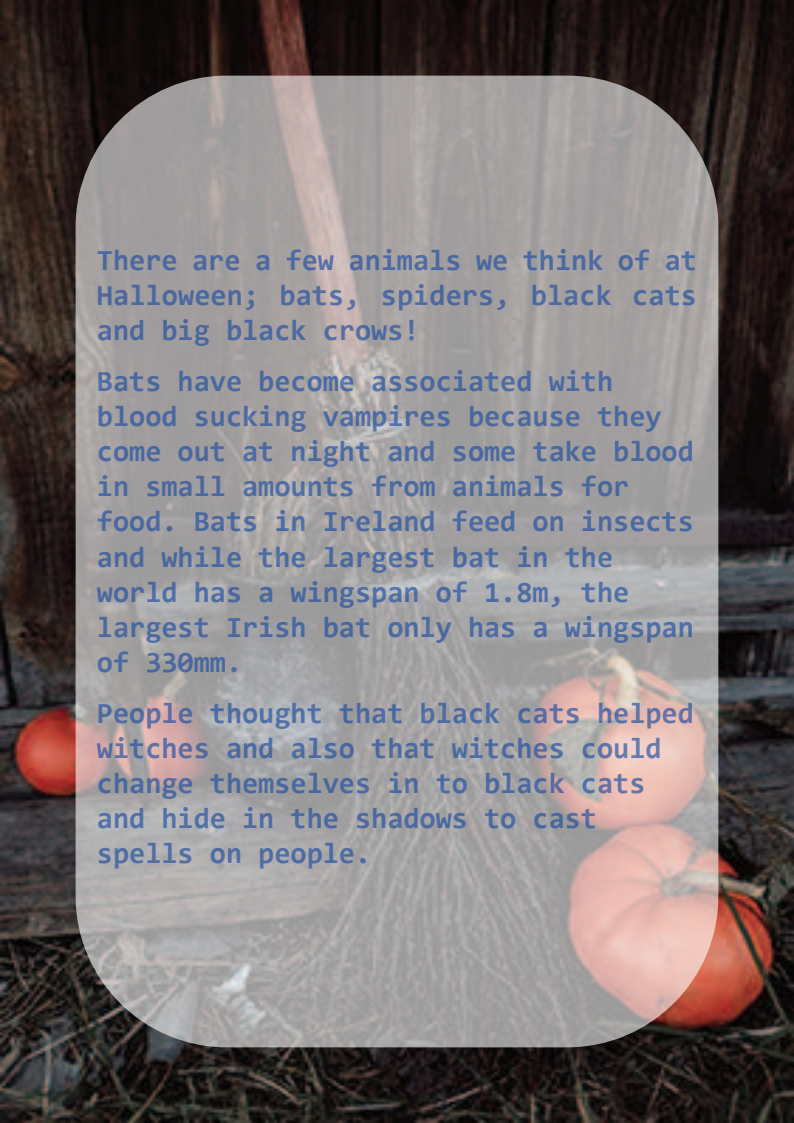
Both male and female cones grow on the pine tree. Usually the male cones grow on the lower branches and they're smaller than the female.

In spring and early summer the male cone releases tiny grains of pollen. The wind carries the pollen to the female cones higher up in the tree.

Pine cones are the flowers of the pine trees. The seeds are inside the female cones and when it's warm and dry enough they are released to grow into new trees.

A rustic scene featuring a broom made of twigs, several pumpkins, and a dark pot on a wooden surface against a dark wood background. The broom is the central focus, with its handle extending upwards and its head resting on the ground. The twigs are dark and appear to be made of dried branches. To the left of the broom, there are two small pumpkins on a wooden ledge. To the right, there are two larger pumpkins on the ground. A dark, textured pot sits on the wooden ledge behind the pumpkins. The background is a dark, vertical-grained wooden wall.

twigs
from a
witch's
broom?



There are a few animals we think of at Halloween; bats, spiders, black cats and big black crows!

Bats have become associated with blood sucking vampires because they come out at night and some take blood in small amounts from animals for food. Bats in Ireland feed on insects and while the largest bat in the world has a wingspan of 1.8m, the largest Irish bat only has a wingspan of 330mm.

People thought that black cats helped witches and also that witches could change themselves in to black cats and hide in the shadows to cast spells on people.

Wexford Wildfowl Reserve
North Slob, Ardcavan

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