

Welcome

IN THE FOREST



Last winter,



a thick layer of white powder covered the Black Forest and every night the frost linked up icy puddles and drew patterns on the ground in tiny needles of ice. Everything was peaceful and quiet. Occasionally, the wind played its games, blowing through the icicles hanging from the branches or knocking the snow off the tops of the mountains.

I'm sure you are wondering what our little band of DIY enthusiasts got up to in these conditions. Winter is a difficult time for animals so some of our forest friends prefer to shelter in safety and wait it out. Voytek the bear and Iggy the hedgehog were sleeping soundly in their burrows. Hania the squirrel only hides away when the freeze is at its very worst. She spent her winter days digging out the supplies that she buried in autumn but unfortunately she is quite forgetful so she could not find all of her hiding places! What about Anna the owl? Our winged friend surveyed the area from a hollow high up in her tree. She strained her eyes, trying to see spring coming in over the treetops.

Then, out of the corner of her eye, she spotted Hania the squirrel who has been running round the copse willy-nilly for several minutes.

"Hania, what are you up to? Isn't the frost biting on your paws?" Hooted the owl.



"I'm looking for my grey winter coat. I can't remember where I hid it. And now it's high time to put it on!" Replied the exasperated squirrel.

"Don't worry! I remember exactly where it was. You're already very close to your hiding place. I've got an excellent view of the area from my hollow, here. I'll try to direct you."



It's a snowy maze!



Anna the owl has a good view of the area but her eyesight is poor in daylight. Try to help direct Hania the squirrel through the maze of snowy trees to find her hiding place with her winter coat.



Meanwhile, the noise had reached Iggy's burrow. But the hedgehog hadn't been asleep for the past few hours anyway. As he was drifting off into his hibernation, he was disturbed by funny noises coming from Voytek the bear's burrow: a humming and whizzing sound every minute.

"What is going on? What is this racket?! If that carries on, I will never get to sleep and I will be tired when spring arrives," Iggy thought to himself, annoyed.

The hedgehog decided to go and see his neighbour and find out what was causing this din. He dug himself out of his leafy hiding place and set off. The closer he got to Voytek's lair, the louder the noise became. When he got there, he could not believe his eyes. The entrance was wide open and Voytek was fast asleep, snoring so loudly that the walls were vibrating!

"Voytek, Voytek! Wake up! It looks like the hinges have fallen off your door. The sound of your snoring is waking up the whole wood!" Iggy shouted, concerned.

"Oh dear! Is it spring already?" Replied the sleepy bear.

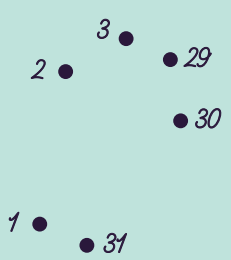
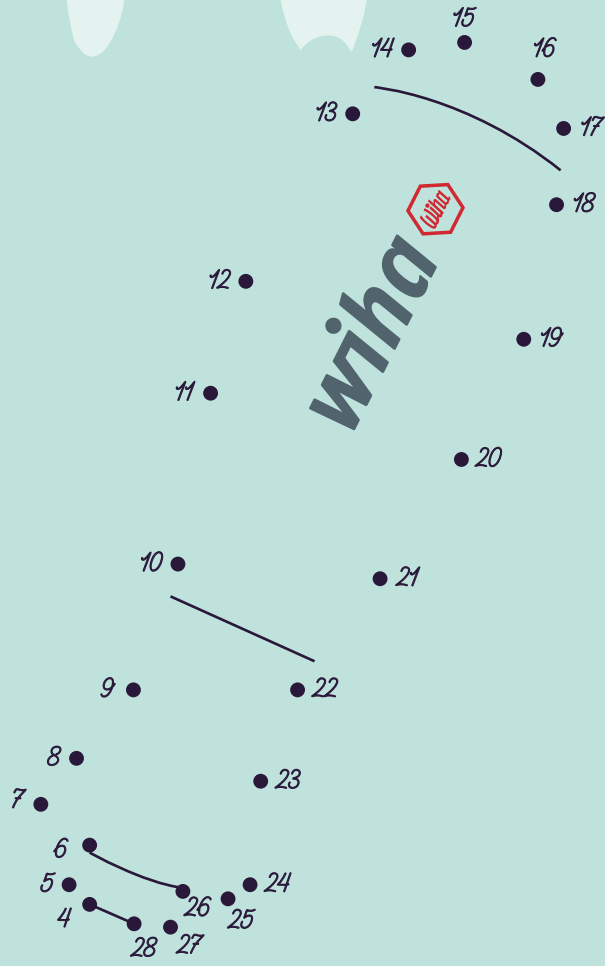
"No, Voytek. Spring is still a long way off. We need to fix your door. Have you got tools to hand?" Iggy asks.

"No..." yawned Voytek, "but I can see that you are prepared to deal with any unexpected repairs, Iggy, just like always."



Now, where did it go?

Iggy never goes anywhere without his full toolkit. Help the hedgehog to find the right tool so that he and the bear can fix the door. Join the dots. What is this tool called?



With your help, our forest friends quickly managed to fix the door. Problems like this happen to even the most expert DIY-ers and professionals so it is best to deal with them quickly.

This surprise visit had Voytek the bear wide awake. He suggested a walk through the Black Forest to his friend the hedgehog, so the two set off on a stroll through the snow drifts. Voytek looked around the area curiously. Just then, fine snow started to fall from the sky.

“Iggy, what is this?” Asked an inquisitive Voytek.

“These tiny star shapes are snowflakes. They fall from the sky and land on the ground, covering our forest.”

“It looks so nice,” replied the bear.



Patterned snowflakes

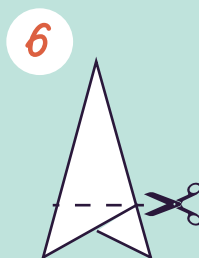
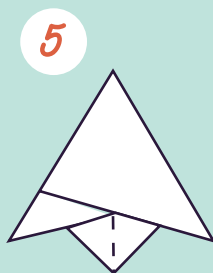
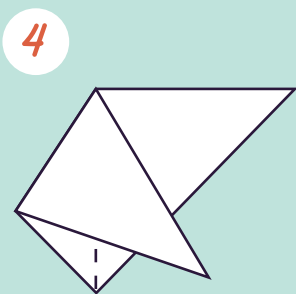
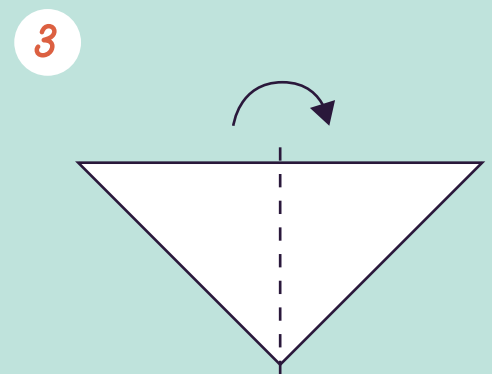
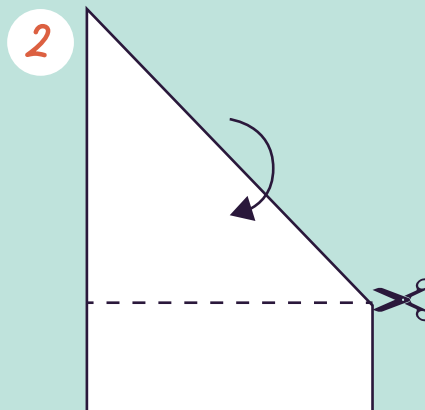
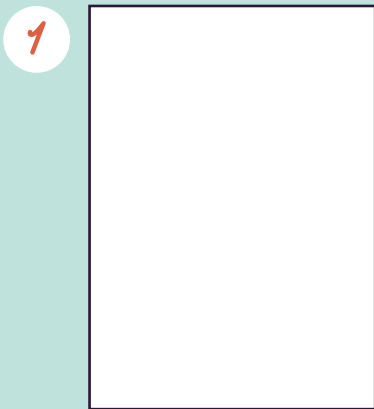


Did you know that every snowflake is a unique shape? Nature creates these incredible patterns, meaning that we will never find two snowflakes the same. Try to make your own snowflake.



Instructions :

1. Use A4 paper and follow the illustration.
2. Fold the top right-hand corner to the left-hand edge so that the short edge meets the long edge. Cut off the excess at the bottom in a straight line.
3. You should now have a triangle. Fold it in half.
4. Open up the last fold and it will give you a guide line. Fold the left-hand edge of the triangle to this line, as shown on the illustration.
5. Then do the right-hand edge.
6. Cut off the corners with scissors.
7. Now our triangle is ready to cut into snowflakes.
8. Time to cut out the pattern.
9. Finished!



Hania the squirrel and Anna the owl spotted their friends as they were out catching snowflakes and they decided to join in the game! Anna leapt into the air and a few moments later, she landed lightly in a drift of snow near the group. It wasn't quite so easy for Hania – she had to run down icy trails. Iggy the hedgehog saw that someone was approaching. He turned towards the squirrel and poked out his spikes.

“Stop there! Who are you and what are you doing in the forest?” Iggy called.

“Iggy! It's just me, Hania. Don't you recognise me?” The squirrel was confused.

“My friend Hania has red fur. You're grey.”

“But it's still me,” giggled the squirrel. “Winter is cold for me in my red coat so I change it for a thicker, warmer one.”

“She's telling the truth,” said Anna the owl, “most of the birds I know change their feathers in winter, too.”

Our band of forest friends were finally all together. Voytek the bear told the story of his broken door and told the others how attentive Iggy the hedgehog had been. Hania the squirrel thanked Anna the owl for helping to find her coat. They all enjoyed the winter landscape and then Voytek the bear suggested another game.

“Can you see those clear shapes hanging on the branches?” He asked, eagerly.

“They're icicles, dear bear!” Answered the friends in unison.

“Ah, icicles! Let's use a measuring tape to see how long they are. Whoever finds the longest piece of ice, wins.”



*Join our forest friends and
look for some icicles!*



Use the Wiha measuring stick provided or another measuring tool in the tool kit. Mark the longest icicle, measure it and write the answer below. Be careful – icicles are very brittle and can fall to the ground even if you only touch them very lightly.



The friends' snowman



The sun started to sink slowly behind the mountaintops. Winter days are quite short but even in that little time, there is still opportunity to play together and learn new things. The friends started to head back towards their shelters but before they got home, they wanted to make a snowman. Voytek the bear quickly made some huge snowballs, so the rest of the gang started looking for decorations.

They need your help to decorate their snowman. You will need:

- cotton wool,
- glue,
- plasticine,
- crayons.

Instructions:

Put some glue on the snowman's belly. Stick the white cotton wool in the right place. Make buttons, eyes, a mouth and a nose from the plasticine. Draw on arms. What else do you think a snow-handyman or snow-handywoman should have?





As the Black Forest slowly settled into the winter night, our forest friends all went their separate ways to their hiding places. They are all very grateful to you for all of your help today and for playing with them. Iggy the hedgehog and Voytek the bear have returned to their hibernation. Hania the squirrel and Anna the owl will have to be patient and wait for spring when there will be more new challenges and adventures. The friends cannot wait for you to come back to the forest.

See you in spring!



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