

THE WEEK
Junior



Science + Nature

MAKING SENSE OF THE UNIVERSE

FOCUS ON NATURE

Go wild with a camera in our
summer photo competition



**SCAVENGER
HUNT**
PHOTO
CONTEST 

2024
winner



2024
2nd prize



THIS SUMMER, GO WILD AND FOCUS ON NATURE

The Week Junior Science+Nature is challenging you to join our annual **Scavenger Hunt Photo Contest**. Taking part is simple. All you have to do is:

1

Track down 10 natural objects from our Scavenger Hunt list

2

Take photos that show nature's beauty

3

Upload your best photos to our website for a chance to win some amazing prizes

The competition opens **18 July 2025** and closes **25 August 2025**.

Look out for more details in *Science+Nature* (on sale 18 July), or visit the competition website sciencenature.theweekjunior.co.uk/scavengerhunt

It's time to ditch those devices and focus completely on nature.



SCAVENGER
HUNT
PHOTO
CONTEST

Join in our summer **scavenger hunt**
Scan this code to find out more



Nature and wildlife cameras

Canon

You don't need fancy equipment to join in the Scavenger Hunt Photo Contest. Whether you are using your own camera or borrowing an adult's smartphone, there are techniques that will help you get brilliant nature photos. This year, our partners at Canon UK have provided us with some incredible camera goodies for the first and second-placed winners.



**MEET AN
EXPERT**

Wildlife
photographer
and a Canon
Ambassador



Ellie Rothnie

What are your top tips for budding nature photographers?



Before you go out, check the weather.



Wake up early to get the first rays of light - it's when animals are more active and insects are drowsy.



Approach your subject slowly so you don't scare animals.



**WIN
EPIC
PRIZES!**



1ST PRIZE

- Canon EOS R50 Content Creator Kit
- Canon SELPHY CP1500 printer



2ND PRIZE

- Canon EOS R100 + RF-S 18-45mm lens
- Canon Zoemini 2 printer



To find out more about the camera kit up for grabs go to [canon.co.uk](https://www.canon.co.uk)



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Get brilliant shots every time with these top photography tips

TOP TIP

To get a clear shot, rest your camera on a beanbag.

GO LOW

It's all too easy to miss the amazing action going on at ground level. To create dramatic photos of little animals you need to go low. This often means getting on your tummy to snap your chosen subject. Being on the same level puts you into the world of little animals and gives an insight into their lives. Try to keep the lens level with an animal's eyes, or find a point of focus that will catch your viewer's interest.

SPINY ALL-STARS

Hedgehogs are speedy runners, careful climbers and surprisingly good swimmers.



Get brilliant shots every time with these top photography tips

TOP TIP

Avoid using a flash if taking pictures of owls after dark as bright lights can distress the birds.

WATCH & WAIT



Nature photography is all about patience. You should be prepared to sit around for ages waiting to get the perfect shot. Luckily, owls also like to stay put for long periods. Their nocturnal habits can make these birds of prey tricky to spot, but if you watch for the signs and wait for the moment, you could be rewarded with an amazing photograph.

NICE AND COMFY

If they feel safe, some owls will happily stay in the same spot all day



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TOP TIP

Pop your camera into a plastic bag to keep it dry if you're out in the rain.

GET INSPIRED



Not all nature photographs need to be of wildlife – a few droplets of water on a plant can be just as stunning as a bird in flight or a fox on the run. Green spaces are full of incredible sights, with stunning pictures just waiting to be discovered and snapped. Keep your eyes peeled for anything unusual – sometimes inspiration can strike in the most unlikely places, but you can also help that moment happen. Look for unusual angles, or imagine yourself as one of the tiny creatures that live in this green world.

GREEN WORLD

There are more than 11,500 different species of grass in the world



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TOP TIP

Practise zooming in and out until you can do it without thinking. This will make sure you don't miss unexpected moments.

ZOOM IN

With nature photography, less is definitely more. Zooming in focuses on your subject, meaning you get less distracting background in the frame. The zoom function also allows you to get a close-up picture of animals from a safe distance. While some creatures, such as urban foxes, are used to humans, most are more wary. To get the best shots keep your distance and try to keep movement to a minimum.

LISTEN UP

Foxes have great hearing – they can hear a watch ticking from 36 metres away.



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Get brilliant shots every time with these top photography tips

TOP TIP

Some cameras have an autofocus setting. Have this switched on to make sure you get sharp photos.

SEIZE THE MOMENT

Be prepared to catch a fleeting moment. Animals move quickly, and you could only have a second to get the perfect shot. Make sure your camera is set up and ready to go. If you wait until the animal is already there, then by the time you're ready it could have moved away. This picture of a kingfisher diving in the water to grab some fish is a perfect example of an incredible photo that might have been missed if the photographer wasn't prepared.

SAFETY SPECS

When a kingfisher dives underwater, it closes its third eyelid to protect its eyes. As the eyelid is transparent the bird can still see.



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Get brilliant shots every time with these top photography tips

TOP TIP

Make sure you're on location and are ready to shoot when the light looks its best.

CAPTURE LIGHT



Light can transform a photograph, and the best time to capture it is during golden hour. These are the moments just before sunset or just after it rises, when the Sun is low in the sky and has a lovely golden light. Photographing during this period is tricky because the Sun moves really quickly – you might only have 45 minutes of perfect light. So, don't hang around, get snapping!

WRAP UP

Pine trees have thick bark to protect them against the freezing cold of the winter.



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Get brilliant shots every time with these top photography tips

TOP TIP

If your subject appears too blurry, you might need more light.

SNAP THE ACTION



Now you see it, now you don't! You have to be quick to photograph fast-moving creatures like butterflies. If you watch an animal's movements carefully, you can anticipate when they're about to move and be ready to catch the perfect photo. Most smartphones have a special setting called burst mode, which shoots lots of images rapidly. Once you've finished, you can view your burst photos and choose the ones you want to keep.

FOODIE FEET

Butterflies taste their food with their feet.



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Get brilliant shots every time with these top photography tips

TOP TIP

Macro photography often works better in early morning or late afternoon light, or where it's shadier.

STAY FOCUSED



Creepy crawlies look astonishing in close-up photos. With most phone cameras, it's better to move closer to the subject than to zoom in. Zooming in often makes your image blurry and it loses detail. Being so close, it's easy for the camera to focus on something else, so remember to touch the screen to set your focal point before pressing the shutter.

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET

A ladybird's bright colours warn potential predators not to eat them because they taste disgusting!



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Get brilliant shots every time with these top photography tips

TOP TIP

Be careful that reflective or shiny material doesn't catch the light and give away your hiding place.

BLEND IN

Invisibility is your superpower when it comes to photographing wildlife. When you learn how to melt into the background you'll be less likely to scare away your subjects. There are lots of ways you can blend in. Wear clothes in similar colours to your surroundings, hide behind bushes and trees, and stay downwind of animals so they can't detect your scent. A simple form of camouflage is a car. Most animals don't recognise humans when they are inside a vehicle, so you have a better chance of getting close to them.

WIDE AWAKE

Red squirrels don't hibernate. In autumn they collect food; in the winter they are less active, but stay awake and moving about.

