



Flipping Through Nature:
Card Decks to Guide Outdoor Exploration

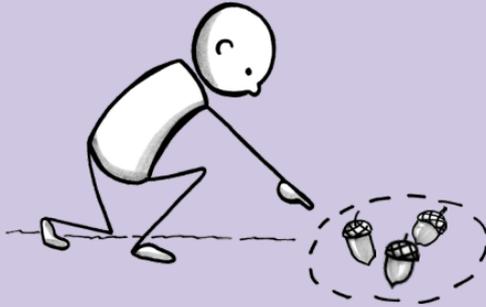
Exploring Acorns



Explore acorns
and learn more
about why they're
important.



Find a few interesting acorns.



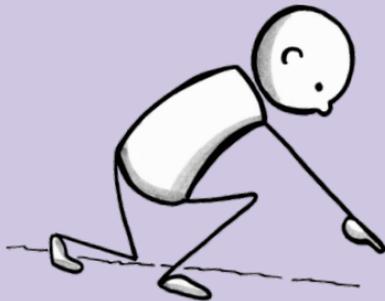
What do you notice about them?



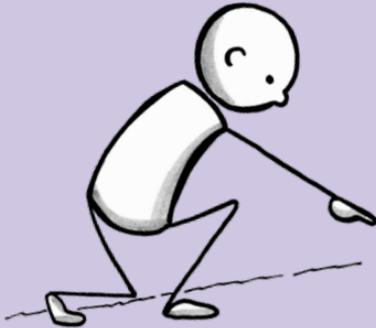
Can you find big and tiny acorns?



Can you find acorns with openings?



Can you find acorn caps?

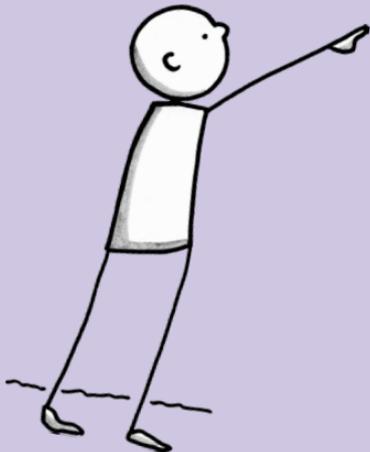


Can you find . . .

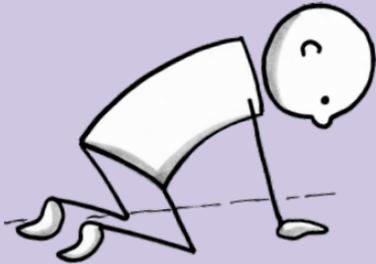
... baby acorns?



... old acorns?

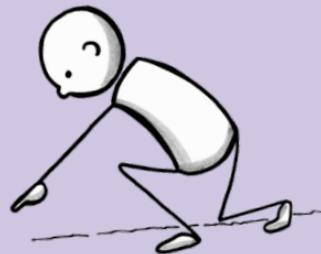


Can you find sprouting acorns?



What time of year might be best for finding sprouting acorns?

Can you find acorns that have grown into oak trees?



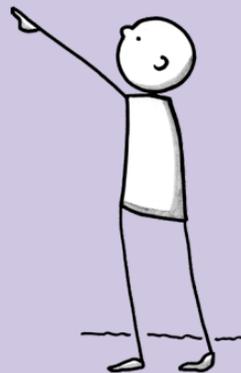
Acorns are oak tree seeds.

Can you find . . .

... acorns in trees?



... acorn caps in trees?



What animals might eat acorns?



Can you see any animals eating or gathering acorns?



Can you find evidence of acorns being eaten?

Jays and squirrels bury acorns to eat later.

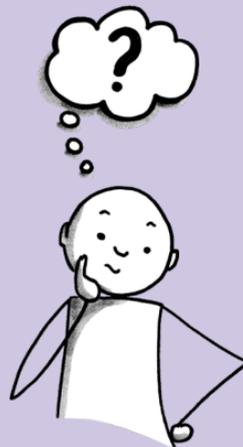


One jay can bury more than 3,000 acorns per year.

The acorns they forget may grow into oaks.

Oak trees support *many* living things.

How many things can you think of?



All these animals eat acorns!



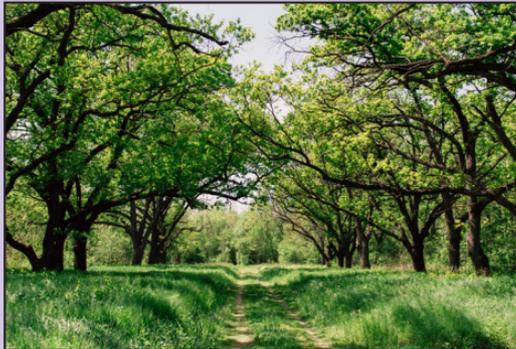
Oaks are superstars for supporting ecosystems!

Acorn woodpeckers can store thousands of acorns in trees, fences, or buildings.

Have you ever seen holes where woodpeckers store acorns?

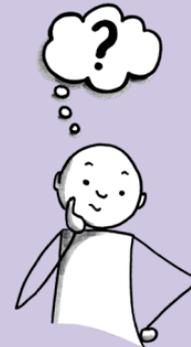


Oaks communicate with other trees.



Do you see trees around you that might be communicating underground?

Fungi connect their roots. They share nutrients and even send warnings.



**“Planting an oak is
one of the best things
you can do to support
your ecosystem.”**

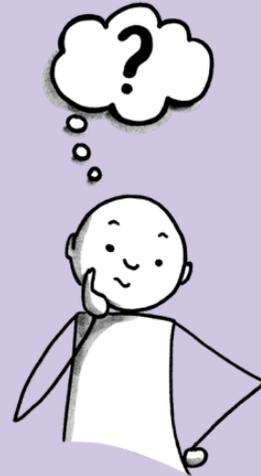
–Doug Tallamy, entomologist

young oak

acorn



Is there anything in your home or school that used to be an acorn?



What questions do you have about acorns?

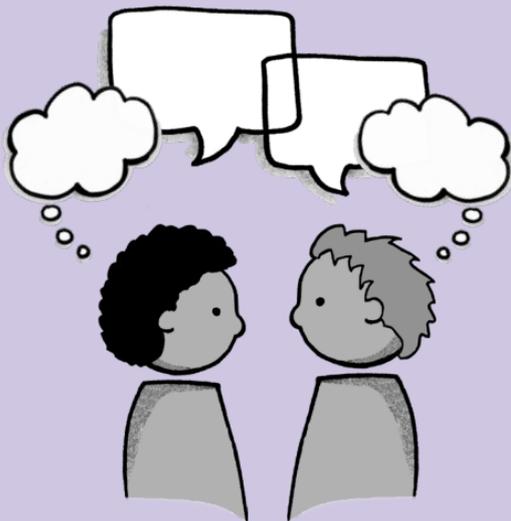


How might you look for answers?

Where else could you observe acorns?



Think back on your experience.



Think about or discuss:

- What have you learned about acorns?
- What did you do that helped you learn about acorns?

To see more *Flipping Through Nature: Card Decks to Guide Outdoor Exploration* activities, visit lwrnce.org/center-for-environmental-learning. There you will also find guides for using the *Flipping Through Nature* card decks, photo acknowledgments, and more information.



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