

# HEROES AND VILLAINS

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**Overview to read out:** The aim of the game is to learn about common animals we find in the garden and decide if they are good (a hero) or bad (a villain) for the garden.

Your job is to tell me what each animal is called. Then decide if they are a hero or a villain!

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Choose an animal picture.
2. The children guess what the animal is.
3. Then the group decides if it is a Hero or a Villain for your garden.
4. Then discuss why it is a Hero or Villain.



# FROG

**HERO**

## WHY?

I eat common garden pests like slugs and snails

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **ENCOURAGE** MORE OF ME?

- Create a cool, dark, wet place for me
- Build a pond or leave a large container of water out, but be sure to create a ladder or place rocks for me to get in and out!



# APHID

**VILLAIN**

## WHY?

I like to eat the sap from leaves and stems of your crops and can build a whole community of friends who will drink all the sap from your plants!

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **DISCOURAGE** ME?

- You can encourage animals that prey on me, such as ladybirds or spiders.
- I don't like garlic or basil, so you can make a spray of water and garlic or basil and spray me with it!



# BUMBLEBEE

**HERO**

## WHY?

I like to eat pollen and nectar, so I'm great at pollinating your plants

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **ENCOURAGE** MORE OF ME?

- Plant flowers that I enjoy eating – like bluebells, poppies and lavender
- Make a house for me out of cut up bamboo and I will make your garden my home



# CATERPILLAR

**VILLAIN**

## WHY?

I like to eat leaves and I can be very hungry so I will eat through a lot of leaves very quickly

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **DISCOURAGE** ME?

- You can encourage animals that prey on me such as birds, frogs and beetles.
- You can build a barrier around your plants using protective fleece so that I can't get in.
- You can collect me and move me somewhere else far away from your vegetable plants.



# WORM

HERO

## WHY?

I'm really good at making your soil healthy and full of nutrients for your plants to grow

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **ENCOURAGE** ME TO HELP YOU?

- I will live in your wormery and you can feed me leftover food and scraps. I will make lovely 'worm tea' (worm pee!) that you can use as fertilizer



# GROUND BEETLE

**HERO**

## WHY?

I like to eat the pests that live in your soil and eat your vegetables – like slugs, caterpillars and aphids

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **ENCOURAGE** MORE OF ME?

- Plant some long grasses and don't be tempted to cut them. I like to hide in the grass until night time when I go hunting, so be careful not to tread on me during the day!



# HEDGEHOG

**HERO**

## WHY?

I like to eat slugs and snails and stop them eating your plants

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **ENCOURAGE** MORE OF ME?

- Create a shelter for me out of old bits of wood and leaves.
- I hibernate during winter, so make sure this is a quiet place where I can hide and get some good sleep
- Leave me some water out overnight in a saucer so I can have a drink



# HOVERFLY

**HERO**

## WHY?

I like to eat pollen and nectar, so I'm great at pollinating your plants.

My larvae will also eat pests like aphids, so they're great at protecting your crops

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **ENCOURAGE** MORE OF ME?

- Plant flowers that I enjoy eating – I like daisies and other little flowers as I only have a small tongue!
- I like to lay my eggs in compost, so be sure to fill your compost bins!



# LADYBIRD

**HERO**

## WHY?

I like to eat pests like aphids and mites – and so do my larvae – so I will protect your crops

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **ENCOURAGE** MORE OF ME?

- I eat lots of pollen, so I like flowers – in particular I like fennel, marigold and geranium flowers
- You can build me a house out of bamboo so that I make your garden my home.



# MOUSE

**VILLAIN**

## WHY?

I like to eat seeds and fruit. So if you sow your seeds I might dig them up over night.

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **DISCOURAGE** ME?

- You can protect your fruit and seeds by building barriers out of netting for fruit bushes, or protecting your seeds in the greenhouse or underneath covers.



# SLUG

**VILLAIN**

## WHY?

I like to eat plants and their leaves. I can eat a huge amount in one go, so you might find your new plants have been munched by the morning!

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **DISCOURAGE** ME?

- You can encourage animals that prey on me such as birds, frogs and beetles.
- I don't like some plants like mint, so you can grow a barrier of mint around your vegetable plants and I will stay away.



# SNAIL

**VILLAIN**

## WHY?

I like to eat leafy plants and will happily munch through lots of salads and lettuces. I really like eating seedlings (small plants) as these are very sweet and juicy

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **DISCOURAGE** ME?

- You can encourage animals that prey on me such as birds and frogs.
- I don't like rough surfaces, so you can put out egg shells or rough grit around your plants and I won't slide over it.



# SPIDER

**HERO**

## WHY?

I like to eat insects and pests like greenfly and aphids that would otherwise be eating your plants.

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **ENCOURAGE** MORE OF ME?

- Leave out some cut grass or dead leaves for me to live in and hide underneath.



# FOX

# VILLAIN

## WHY?

I like to poo in gardens to scent-mark my territory. I also sometimes dig in soil to look for insect larvae to eat.

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **DISCOURAGE** ME?

- There's not a lot you can do to discourage foxes but making sure that your shed and greenhouse doors are closed and that there are no piles of rubbish nearby (for scavenging or den building) should help.
- Try building a structure to protect your crops.
- Crushed garlic cloves could also work as a deterrent.



# SQUIRREL

**VILLAIN**

## WHY?

I like to eat anything I can get my paws on in the garden, especially your tasty fruit!

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **DISCOURAGE** ME?

- Squirrels are clever little creatures and are tricky to discourage, but try to build a structure that will keep them off your crops.
- They don't like spicy food so you could try putting some chillies or cayenne pepper around your beds.



# CAT

# VILLAIN

## WHY?

I like to use your raised beds as my toilet.

### FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **DISCOURAGE** ME?

- Cats like pooing in exposed soil so fill your beds with plants and mulch any empty areas.



# BUTTERFLY

**HERO**

## WHY?

I fly from plant to plant spreading pollen so that flowers, fruit and vegetables can grow.

## FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)

### HOW CAN YOU **ENCOURAGE** MORE OF ME?

- Plant pollinator friendly flowers and don't use any harmful chemicals
- Butterflies like wild spaces so leave some areas of your garden overgrown.



# BIRDS

**HERO**

**VILLAIN**

**AND**

## **WHY?**

I eat common garden pests like slugs and snails

## **WHY?**

I also enjoy eating some of your crops, like cabbages, broccoli and berries

## **FOLLOW UP QUESTION (KEY STAGE 2)**

### **HOW CAN YOU ENCOURAGE MORE OF ME?**

- Leave out bird food and water for me especially during the cold winter months

### **HOW CAN YOU DISCOURAGE ME?**

- Put out netting around your crops so I can't reach them