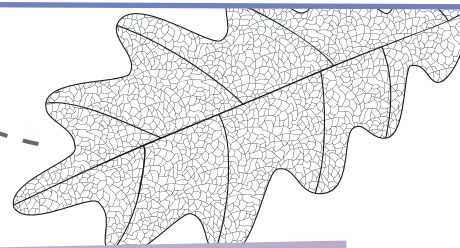




Forestry England



# Bluebells

## True or false



Bluebells are a great sign that spring is underway. This beautiful flower is often seen in great swaths described as a deep violet carpet on the woodland floor, providing a sweet smell as you walk past. Discover more about these iconic flowers with our True or False game.

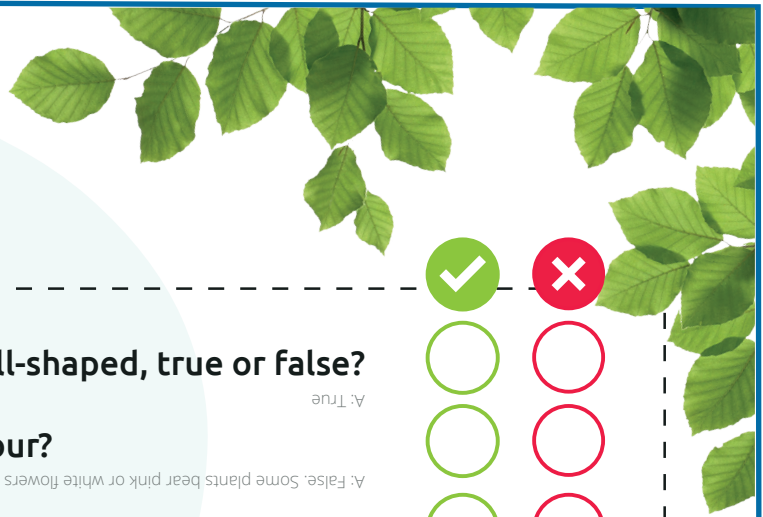
### How to play



Ask everyone to stand up, this can be in a group or a line. You are going to ask the group one of the following true or false questions. If they think the answer is true then they leap to the left, if they think it is false they leap to the right.

If you have more space or a garden then make it a little more active. Decide two points, one for true and the other for false. Ask the children to run to the chosen points.





## True or false



**Q: The flowers of a bluebell are bell-shaped, true or false?**

A: True



**Q: Bluebells are always blue in colour?**

A: False. Some plants bear pink or white flowers



**Q: The flowers have 6 petals?**

A: True



**Q: Insects don't like bluebells as they find it hard to fly into the flower?**

A: False. The flowers are a welcome treat as they are one of the first plants to flower in the Spring. Many insects like butterflies and bees feed on the nectar.



**Q: Bluebells grow from a bulb and flower in the Spring, April – June?**

A: True. The bulbs are small and white and contain starch which was used to stiffen the elaborate ruffs worn in Elizabethan times. Now is the best time of year to see them. On your daily walk look for them in hedgerows, woodlands or gardens.



**Q: Bluebells produce a sticky sap that was once used to glue feathers onto arrows?**

A: True



**Q: Its ok to dig up bluebells from the countryside and plant them in your garden?**

A: False. Its actually illegal. Bluebells are protected under The Wildlife Act 1981. This has stopped landowners from digging them up and selling them to garden centres.



**Q: The flowers on a bluebell cluster on one side of the stem, in groups of 5-15?**

A: True. Bluebells are native to British woodlands. The flowers cluster on one side and give the stem a distinctive droop or nod to one side. A similar species, the Spanish bluebell, are often mis-identified as native bluebells. They are actually escapees from people's gardens.



**Q: Up to half of the world's population of bluebells are found in the UK?**

A: True. You may have seen a woodland with a carpet of blue flowers. Forestry England looks after over 1500 woodlands many of which are home to these beautiful plants.



**Q: Bluebells are hardy flowers and don't mind people walking on them to get a closer look?**

A: False. One of the biggest threats to bluebells is when people crush the leaves with their feet. A crushed plant usually means it will die back and can no longer make its own food.



**Can you name the process when plants use sunlight, carbon dioxide and water to make their own food and release oxygen back into the atmosphere?**

(A: Photosynthesis)

**Q: Other names of Bluebells include cuckoo's boots, granfer griggles, fairy flower and crow's toes.**

A: True. There are many local names given to bluebells and many myths and legends associated with them.



## Our challenge to you

### The Spanish invader

The Spanish bluebell is more robust and can out beat our native ones. Can you research and draw the different characteristic between the two species and label the variations, for example the shape of the flowers and their smell.

