



The "Mont des Sens"  
— Explorer's Journal —

**WHO STOLE NUTS' HAZELNUTS?**

**Explorer** (6-10 years) **Expert** (10 years +)

## WHO STOLE NUTS' HAZELNUTS?

When he woke up this morning, Nuts the squirrel made a terrible discovery: the hazelnuts that he'd hidden carefully at the base of an old oak tree had disappeared!

During the night, someone – or something – had dug up the ground. The leaves were all turned over, the moss moved and there were signs that someone had been busy...



But who could be behind this dreadful crime? What Nuts needs are some real detectives to help solve this mystery.

### THERE ARE TWO LEVELS TO THIS TASK:

#### EXPLORER (6-10 YEARS)



Use all your senses, look around you and touch things to find clues. The forest will show you the way!

#### EXPERT (10 YEARS +)



Use your powers of observation to analyse and cross-reference the clues. Then come up with the most plausible theory and eliminate the suspects, one by one.

Here are the six suspects who may have stolen Nuts' hoard of goodies. At each station as you go round the circuit, you'll find a clue that will help you to clear the name of one of the animals suspected. Each one of the six accused has a box next to its name: tick the box as soon as you are certain that that particular animal is not the guilty thief you are looking for.

When you get to the finish, there will just be one empty box left – and that's the animal who really stole the hazelnuts!



FOX



GREAT RAVEN



BEAVER



ROE DEER

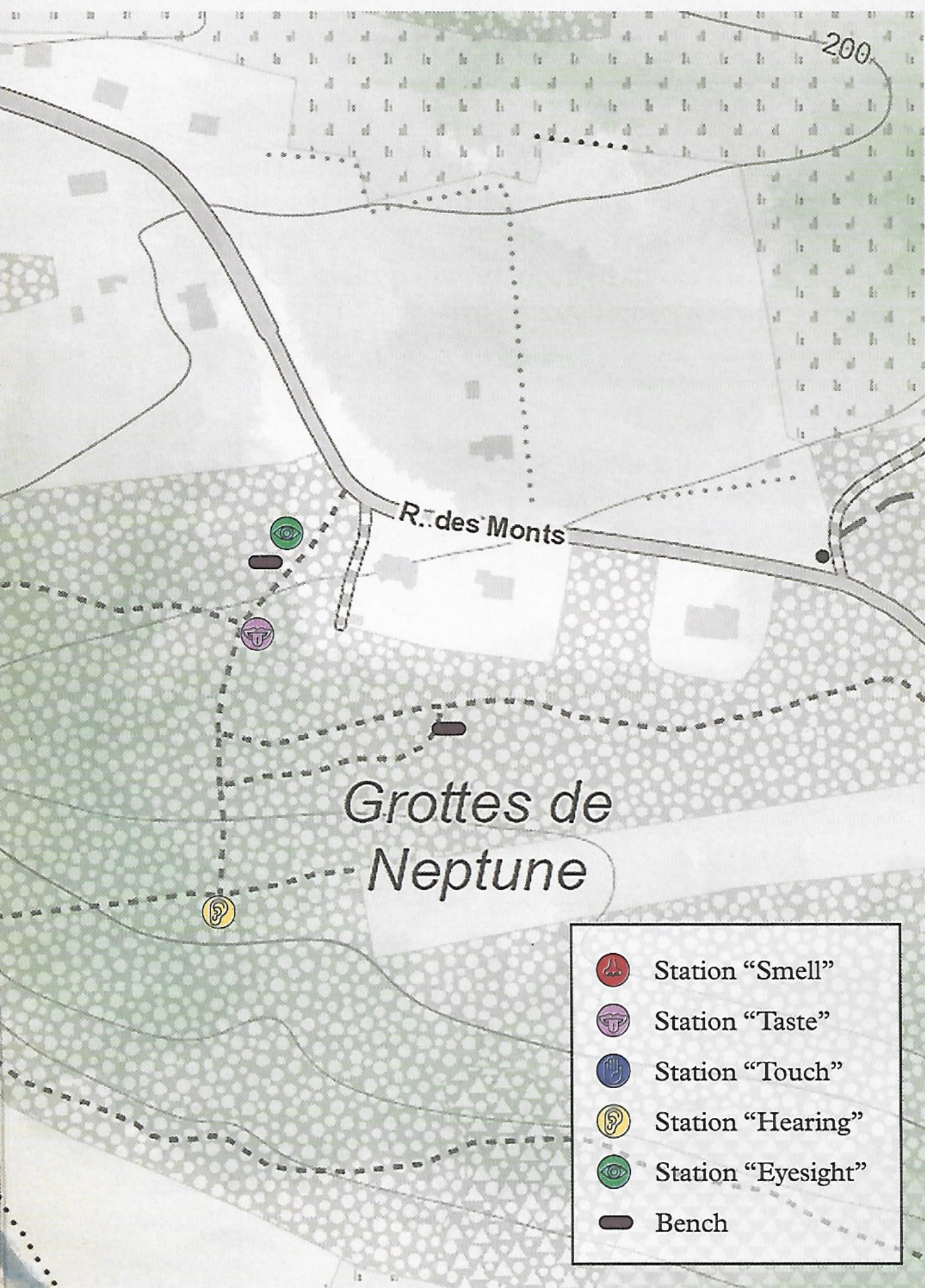


WILD BOAR



BAT





# STATION 1 - HEARING

## CHALLENGE

Place your ears close to the listening cone. Listen for 1 to 2 minutes. The quieter and calmer you are, the more powerful your ears will become. Then fill in the table with a sound you heard.

|                                                                                                   | DESCRIPTION | THE SOUND IS COMING FROM...<br>(WRITE: FROM IN FRONT/BEHIND, FROM THE LEFT OR RIGHT) | THE SOUND IS...<br>(VERY CLOSE, A LITTLE FURTHER AWAY, IN THE DISTANCE, ETC.) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NATURAL SOUND  |             |                                                                                      |                                                                               |
| ANIMAL SOUND   |             |                                                                                      |                                                                               |
| HUMAN SOUND    |             |                                                                                      |                                                                               |

## CLUE

Just like you when you took part in our challenge, the first suspect to clear is a keen hunter, always on the lookout for the slightest movements and faintest sounds around it... But this animal is not interested in things like dried nuts: they don't make enough noise to arouse this critter's curiosity. So it doesn't deserve to be a suspect in this investigation.



## CHALLENGE

Just as you do with your own ears, this animal pricks up its big ears to catch the slightest sound. It's known as the 'radar' of the forest. But it's not this animal that's listening today; it's you.

Stay still and in complete silence for 3 to 5 minutes. Direct your ears towards a particular area. Identify at least 4 different sounds from the following categories (vegetation, a small, unobtrusive creature, whether it's a mammal or a bird, and human activities). Try to estimate the approximate distance of the sound and the direction it's coming from.

|                                                                                                          | DESCRIPTION | DIRECTION | DISTANCE |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|----------|
| VEGETATION<br>        |             |           |          |
| SMALL ANIMAL<br>      |             |           |          |
| MAMMAL<br>OR BIRD<br> |             |           |          |
| HUMAN<br>ACTIVITY<br> |             |           |          |



## CLUE

If this predator pounces to catch prey it has identified by sound... so what would it do with a pile of hazelnuts lying on the ground making no noise at all? What do you think is the first animal that can be removed from the list of suspects?

## STATION 2 - EYESIGHT



### CHALLENGE

Take a good look at your surroundings through the binoculars. Are you as good as our second suspect at clearing its name when it comes to seeing things from a great distance?



### CLUE

Grab your binoculars and take a careful look – there's an animal hiding on the other side of the river. This one watched our squirrel hiding his hazelnuts from a good distance away. But this animal is not interested, because it doesn't like nuts much. So, which one can you let off the hook this time?





## CHALLENGE

Use the binoculars to carefully observe the animal that's hidden on the other side of the river:

- Does it have a beak or not?

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- Does it have a rounded or diamond-shaped tail?

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- Does it have hair or feathers?

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- Are they smooth or ruffled?

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## CLUE

Our suspect number two is the largest bird in the crow family in our region. This bird is an imposing black figure, with a diamond-shaped tail, ruffled neck feathers and a sturdy beak: and it watched and witnessed the hazelnuts being hidden... but these nuts aren't part of its diet.

Can you find out who this suspect is and clear it of any suspicion?

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## STATION 3 - TOUCH



### CHALLENGE

Take off your shoes and walk barefoot along our path.

Observe the ground carefully: anyone who walks along this path leaves a footprint.



### CLUE

All sorts of footprints were found at the location where the hazelnuts were stolen. So an animal that doesn't walk on the ground can't be the thief, surely...

This means that you can remove the animal that never puts its feet down from your list of suspects.

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## CHALLENGE

Explore the tree species that make up the railing and touch their bark. Classify the different trees from the smoothest to the roughest.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.



## CLUE

To rule out the third suspect, start by identifying the tree in seventh position. This tree is one with the night. What creature lurks in its shadow?

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## STATION 4 - TASTE (DIET)



### CHALLENGE

Use the 'food wheel' to match animals with what they eat:

Bat



\_\_\_\_\_

Roe Deer



\_\_\_\_\_

Beaver



\_\_\_\_\_

Wild Boar



\_\_\_\_\_

Great Raven



\_\_\_\_\_



### CLUE

Which of these animals is a fussy eater and wouldn't be satisfied with just a nut, because it's very picky about what it eats?

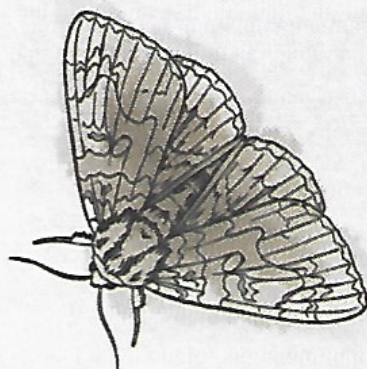
Once you've found it, don't forget to take it off your list!

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





## CHALLENGE

Put the pieces of our 'food wheel' back together. This will help you identify the fourth animal to eliminate.



## CLUE

- I don't eat insects or meat.
  - I like to select the food I eat.
  - I prefer quality to quantity.
-

## STATION 5 - SMELL

### CHALLENGE

This time, it's your nose that's going to help you in your investigation.

Some animals rely more on their sense of smell than their eyes to locate food, as well as to find their friends... or to know if there's an intruder in the vicinity. Identify the three smells/scents we have to offer you.

1.

2.

3.

### CLUE

One of the smells is very special: it comes from a semi-aquatic animal that uses it to tell others, 'This is my territory!'.

- It's a very strong smell.
- It can be smelt from a long way away.
- This smell wasn't anywhere near where the hazelnuts disappeared.



## CHALLENGE

This time, it's your sense of smell that's being put to the test!

Some animals use their nose more than their eyes to locate what's going on around them, to find prey... or even their rivals. You need to identify the three smells that we have to suggest. One of them is very special: it comes from a substance produced by a semi-aquatic animal to signal its presence to others of its species.



## CLUE

It's a very distinctive scent, almost musky, which can be detected from a distance. This smell wasn't found at the place where the theft took place. This means that the animal that produces this smell can be cleared of all charges.



# THE BIG REVEAL

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SO, YOU'VE REACHED THE END  
OF THE CIRCUIT...  
HAVE YOU FOUND THE CULPRIT?



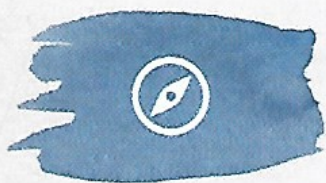
Remember: Nuts had carefully buried his hazelnuts under an old oak tree...

What do we find at the foot of the oak tree in autumn? Acorns...

Which animal constantly rootles around, turning over leaves and digging with its powerful snout to find its favourite treats? And which could easily confuse hazelnuts and acorns simply because it's greedy and just loves its food?...

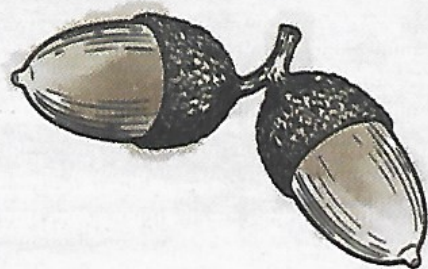
THE GUILTY PARTY WAS THE...

(TURN THE PAGE TO FIND OUT WHO THE CULPRIT IS.)



Now, let's go back over the facts. The hazelnuts were buried under an old oak tree.

But in the autumn, there are also lots of acorns on the ground under most oak trees.

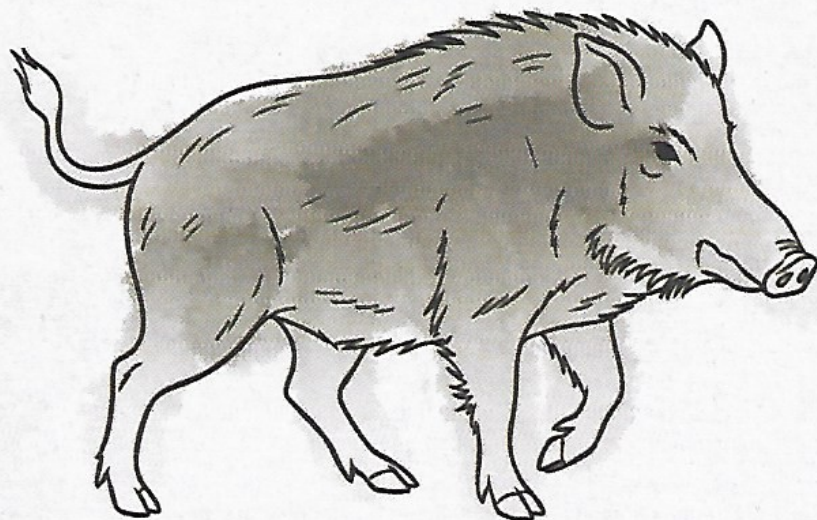


Out of all our suspects, there's only one which:

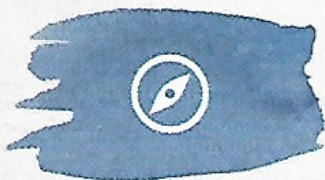
- DIGS METHODICALLY IN THE GROUND
- TURNS OVER LEAVES AND HUMUS
- EATS MAINLY ACORNS IN THE AUTUMN
- DIGS USING ITS POWERFUL SNOUT, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF TURNING OVER THE EARTH

So it wasn't a premeditated theft, but more a case of dietary confusion.

THE GUILTY PARTY WAS THE...  
(TURN THE PAGE TO FIND OUT WHO THE CULPRIT IS.)



You have reached the end of our investigation but don't worry for Nuts. He soon found some other hazelnuts to feast on. Meanwhile, you can be really proud of the skills you have shown – you're a real detective of the forest! Well done !



You have reached the end of our investigation but don't worry for Nuts. He soon found some other hazelnuts to feast on. And, using your powers of observation and skills at deduction, you conducted your investigation right through to the end — yes, you're a real expert when it comes to the forest! Well done !





**This explorer's journal belongs to:**

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