WHERE'S HARVEY?

Harvest Mouse Nest Identification

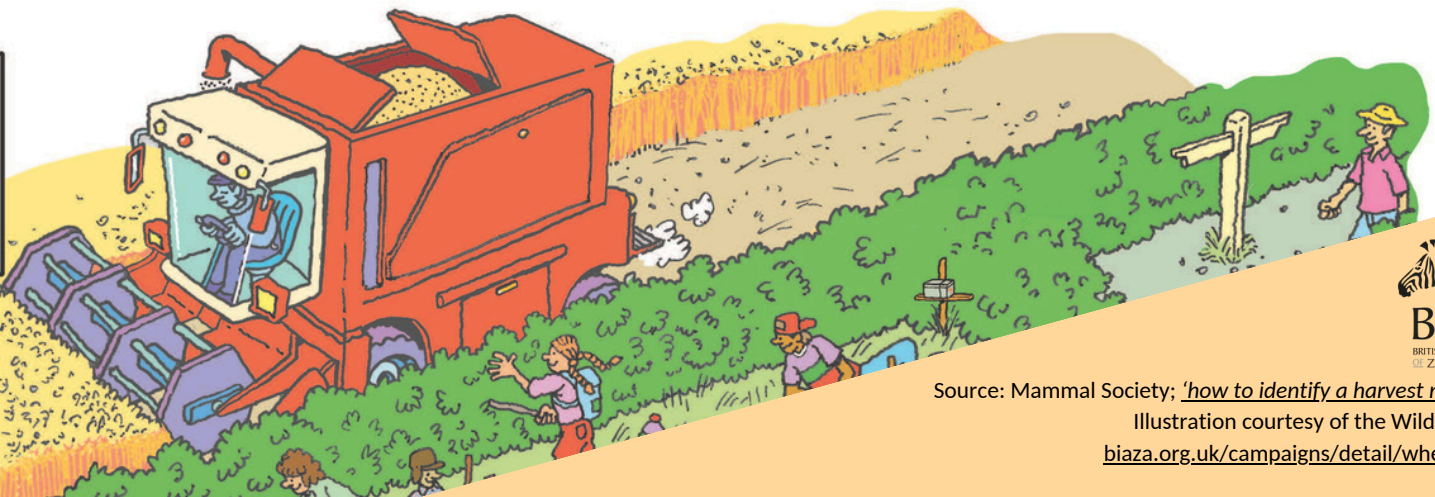
Have you found something made from long woven strands of grass or vegetation?

- No → Not a harvest mouse nest
  If short pieces peel off easily, it could be a field vole nest
- Yes → Is it the size of a tennis ball?
  - No → Is it ping pong ball sized?
    - Yes → Likely a solitary nest, used by one harvest mouse
    - No → Not a harvest mouse nest
      If it fits in two hands, it could be a water vole nest
  - Yes → Does it squeeze without much pressure?
    - No → Possible dormouse nest (more robust than harvest mouse nests)
    - Yes → Is the grass used to weave the nest still attached to the plant stems?
      - No → Could be grass balls formed by wind, or loose parts of birds' nests.
      - Yes → Likely to be a harvest mouse summer or breeding nest!

Woburn Safari Park

Be aware

Surveying takes place from the start of October to the end of March, when nests are abandoned. If the grass looks green and fresh, or if the nest is 'sealed' up without a hole in the middle, it could still have mice inside and **must not be touched.**



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Source: Mammal Society; *'how to identify a harvest mouse nest'*
Illustration courtesy of the Wildwood Trust
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