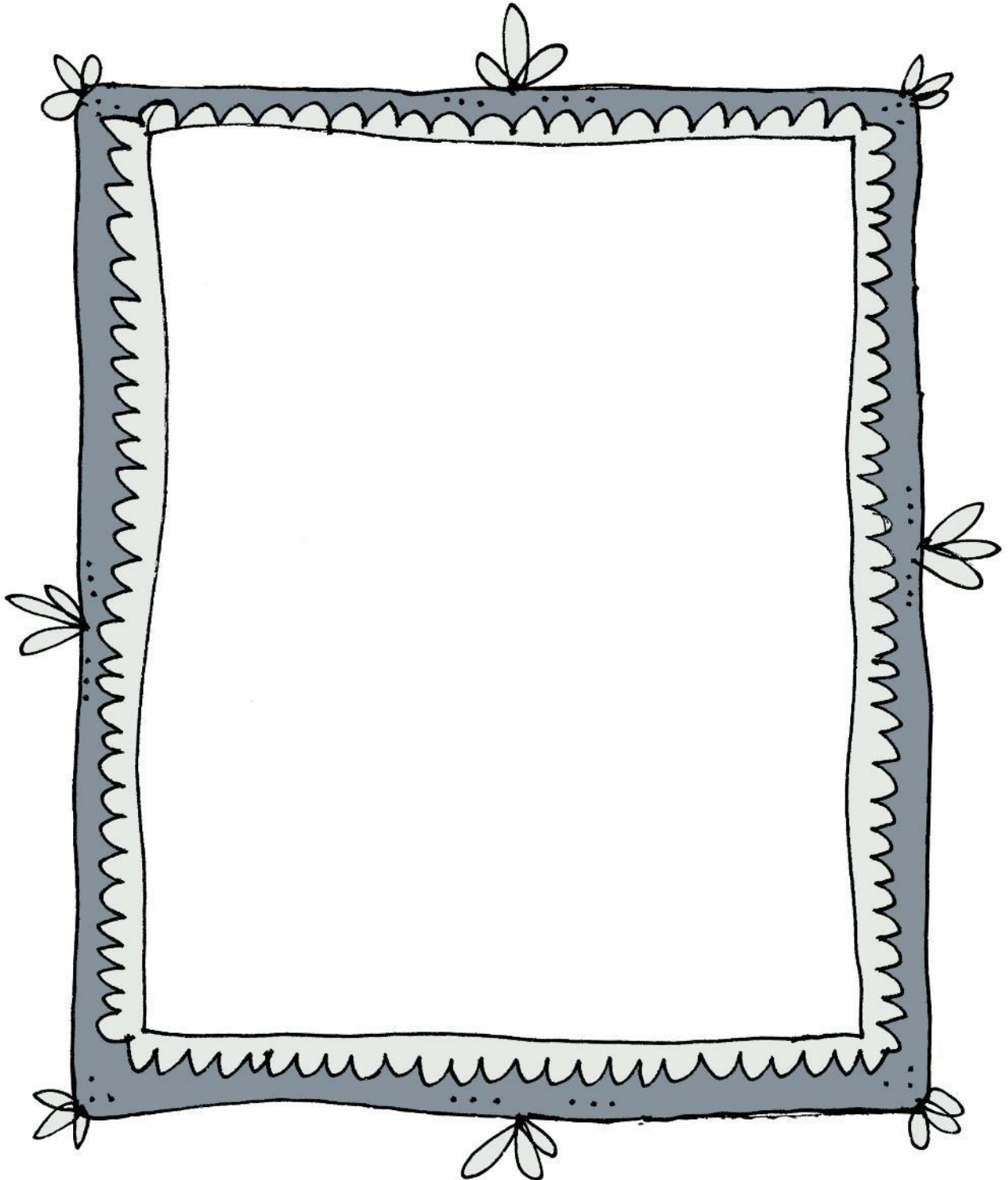


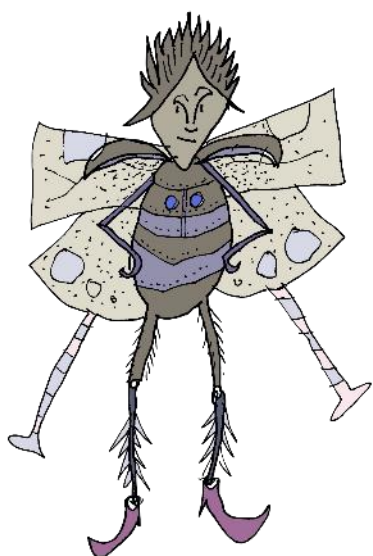
Activity 11: draw and label your chosen species of elf or sprite

To help you get a real picture of what your creature is like, have a go at sketching them. Then label basic information.



Activity 12: read and raid

Here is an entry from the *Ultimate Guide About Forest Sprites*. Notice what the different paragraphs are about, taking ideas that you might employ in your writing. Also, magpie any useful vocabulary that you can use in your own writing. Have a read below and listen to me read the text aloud here: <https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/ultimate-guide/s-kK1juktwp1w>



The Forest Sprite

Forest sprites are a type of sprite that is very rarely seen because they are such shy creatures. They are extremely good at camouflage and many people have never seen one. However, during the recent lockdown, these beautiful shy creatures have become bolder and some have been sighted in parks and gardens.

Would you be able to recognise a forest sprite if you stumbled across one? Like most sprites they are small as a wren and move very rapidly. This makes it hard for them to be seen. They have the ability to change colour, blending into their background. This is why they have often been referred to as 'chameleon sprites'. Forest sprites are flimsy creatures, often very thin and have wings that are virtually transparent. Their tiny bodies are slender and may appear when moving rather like a thin piece of smoke or silk drifting between trees. Up close, you can see their tiny faces, pointed ears and very bright eyes.

Forest sprites live in wooded areas. They cling to trees, hide under bushes and gather in reedy areas. This makes them almost impossible to see. They change colour shifting easily from shades of green to brown when they are against the trunk of a tree. They often fly in shadows. This means that

they are impossible for most humans to identify. Some have been sighted in gardens where there is little disturbance from humans.

These delicate creatures feed on plants, fruits and vegetables. They are especially fond of strawberries and, if they eat too many, will turn an alarming red colour. They like to help gardeners by pollinating plants when the bees become over-worked. In fact, many gardeners call forest sprites their 'handy helpers'.

To relax, forest sprites play hide and seek in wooded areas. Younger ones play kiss chase, riding on the backs of dragonflies. Older sprites sit on branches watching the world pass by whilst playing simple card games and chess using carved acorns. They do not mix with other types of sprite and positively dislike stone and mountain sprites, considering them to be vulgar.

Forest sprites are gentle creatures but live in fear of hawks, herons and squirrels, as they have been known to grab sprites when hungry. For this reason, groups of sprites have been known to attack birds' nests and squirrels' drays, pulling them down.

If you are gentle in your approach and keep very still in a wooded glade, you may be lucky enough to watch these wonderful creatures dancing together as the cuckoo calls in spring or when moonlight strikes on a fairy's ring. Once in a thousand days, they can offer a wish to a chosen mortal so always ensure that you care for trees. Rumour has it that forest sprites are really the souls of trees and so must be taken care of. Imagine a world with no trees!

Activity 13: planning

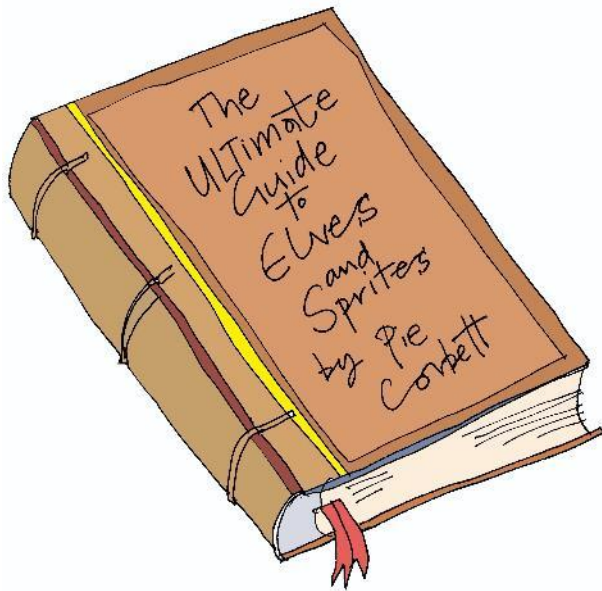
Now you are going to organise your ideas into a boxed-up planner to help structure your writing. Remember, to pick extra topics other than appearance, habitat and diet. I have left four blank sections for extra sections. I have also left the right-hand column blank so you can bullet point in your ideas. Do NOT write the whole text in the right hand column – use bullet points to list ideas. This is a planner.

Structure of information text	Plan your ideas using bullet points
Type of creature	
Opening hook – to make the reader interested in finding out more. <i>Fascinating fact for interest</i>	
Habitat <i>Information about the area the creature lives in</i>	
Appearance <i>Information about what the creature looks like</i>	
Diet <i>Information about what the creature eats</i>	
Behaviour <i>Information about what the creature does</i>	
Ending – involving the reader	

Activity 14: talk your plan through

It is really important to have a good read through your plan to make sure that it makes sense. Why not read it aloud to someone in your house and see if they have any suggestions for how to improve it. Then try saying out loud exactly what you are going to write.

Activity 15: it's time to write your report about your chosen type of elf or sprite for the 'Ultimate Guide'.



To help you with your writing, there are lots of things to help you:

- ✓ The text about cave elves and the one about forest sprites
- ✓ The boxed up plan and structure and toolkit
- ✓ Your ideas page
- ✓ The vocabulary we magpied from the model
- ✓ And, most importantly, your plan

Draft your ideas on one piece of paper and edit. Make sure that when you read the text aloud, it flows. If you find a sentence hard to read aloud then so will your reader. Check that you haven't muddled up the information. Does it sound like my texts? Read it through again to check spelling and punctuation and then write your final draft.

Activity 16: map your imaginary land

One of my favourite things about reading children's books is when you find a map right at the beginning showing the land in the story. I keep referring to the map as I about the different locations and settings in the story. I am sure that you have done the same. I thought it would be a great idea for you to design and draw your own map of where your type of elf or sprite lives. If you can, check out on the internet to see how Kieran Larwood, author of *Podkin One-Ear*, draws maps of his story worlds: <https://www.kmlarwood.com/resources/>

- ★ **Step 1: draw the outline of your map**
- ★ **Step 2: fill in the landmarks: trees, rivers, boulders, mountains, volcano, cities, sea, swamps**
- ★ **Step 3: make up names for the different areas of your map**
- ★ **Step 4: stain the map to make it look old by using a used (and cool) tea bag to turn the paper brown. You don't need to get it that wet for it to change colour**
- ★ **Step 5: When it is dry, cut or rip the edges of the paper to make it look old and worn. A small hole in the middle of the map can look great**