There’s so much to see at Leigh Woods. My family has lived here for centuries so I’ve got lots of stories to tell about what you can see today. I’m very pleased to share my knowledge with you so that you can become a woodland adventurer too.

Starting at ‘The Plain’ marked on the map below, follow the route in red and look out for the areas I’ve noted on the map to have your own wild woodland adventure.

The Avon Gorge was formed during the last ice age. The original river channel became blocked and the water forced it’s way through what is now the gorge. As the water cut this channel into the rock, more of the rock could be seen. Can you see any patterns in the rock? These show the different types of rock that make up the gorge and help us understand how it was formed.

This pond is a fairly new addition to Leigh Woods but provides a very valuable habitat for plants and wildlife. How many things can you see that you only find around water?

In the autumn, I sometimes use leaves for camouflage. Why not collect a few fallen leaves of your own? Take them home to identify them if you don’t know what tree they came from.

If you see a bit of muddy ground, get a bit closer and look for animal tracks - they might belong to me or one of my friends. If you can’t see anything, make your own footprint or use a stick to create a footprint of an imaginary creature.

The two massive banks and ditches which can be seen here were built as part of an Iron Age camp. This type of structure helped to protect the people who lived here. Can you guess why? Today, me and my friends have lots of fun running up and down the banks hunting for food.

Imagine what it would have been like to live in the Iron Age. How would you have defended yourself?

My family have passed down legends of how the Avon Gorge was formed for centuries. Here’s my favourite: Two brothers (Goram and Vincent) fall for the same girl (Avona).

To test their love for her, she asks them to drain a lake. They both started digging but Goram got drunk and fell asleep. Vincent carried on digging, creating the Avon Gorge, completed the quest and won Avona’s heart.

There was no ‘happily ever after’ for Goram. He woke up and was so upset that he threw himself into the Bristol Channel and turned to stone!

When you look at the size of the Avon Gorge, can you see why giant’s were involved in the stories about how it was created?

To invent adventures of your own on the way? Write them on the back and let us know how you get on.

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Franklin the Fox