



LONGLEAT

The Festival *of* LIGHT

presents

British Icons

with **Wallace & Gromit** and friends



2025 Activity Pack

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Make it a visit to remember at **The Festival of Light**

Explore iconic sights as you embark on a grand day out as The Festival of Light presents British Icons with Wallace & Gromit and friends!

Meet fan-favourite characters from Shaun the Sheep, Wallace & Gromit and more Aardman classics while you journey to some of the UK's most famous landmarks, marvel at native wildlife and sights — all spectacularly reimagined in lantern form.

This pack is designed to complement a visit to The Festival of Light at Longleat 2025 and contains information about which landmarks, animals and characters are featured. In addition, there are some suggested activities to do before, during and after your visit. If you are bringing a school group, we strongly encourage you to make a free familiarisation visit once you have booked, to find suitable locations/scenes that work for your students.



The Festival of Light takes place on selected dates from 8 November 2025 – 11 January 2026. You can check opening times on the Longleat website.

The lantern scenes at *The Festival of Light*

This year's lanterns are grouped in several themed areas. You will see characters and scenes from Wallace & Gromit, Shaun the Sheep, Early Man and Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget including the locations of Mossy Bottom Farm, West Wallaby Street, Chicken Island and Funland Farms. Elsewhere in the trail, you may spot some of these characters in our real-world settings, as well as scenes of their usual homes. Look out for Morph, Feathers McGraw, Robin Robin and more as you explore.

Also featured on the route are the Welsh Dragon, Northern Ireland's Giant's Causeway and Scotland's Glenfinnan Viaduct and Loch Ness Monster!



Down South

The colloquial description of "Down South" takes in the southern areas of the UK from Wiltshire and Somerset through to London. Notably you will see Stonehenge, Clifton Suspension Bridge, The Shard, Houses of Parliament, Tower Bridge and China Town.

Up North

"Up North" is a colloquial saying which tends to cover the northern area of the country above Birmingham. In this area you will see the Angel of the North, Blackpool Tower and the Blackpool Tower and seaside. A traditional beach promenade is also depicted with beach huts, seagulls and donkeys.



A British tabletop

Discover a feast of favourites including scones with jam and cream, tea, strawberries and more.

Writers' Walk

A selection of British authors including Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Mary Shelley, Beatrix Potter, AA Milne and Jacqueline Wilson.

Native wildlife

In this area, you will see native British species of wildlife. These include; red squirrel, beaver and pine marten, birds; great bustard, turtle dove, starling, white stork, dalmatian pelican and kingfisher, and flowers; daffodils, bluebells and roses.



Before your visit

The following activities and topics can be used before you visit Longleat. They are linked with The Festival of Light but can be used in any way you wish. They can easily be adapted for different abilities.

Aardman Studio

Explore the British Isles

British authors

Native wildlife fact files

Nature documentaries

Aardman Studio

Aardman is a British animation studio based in Bristol, celebrating their 50th anniversary in 2026. Many of the lanterns depict characters and scenes from some of their most popular films. Before you come, take the time to watch (or rewatch) some of their animations and consider how they are made. You can continue exploring how they are made through activities after your visit.



Explore the British Isles

How well do you know the towns, cities and regions of the British Isles? Using a map, mark the locations of places you know or have been to. Add on the places that are depicted in the lanterns. Where would you place the north/south divide? You could repeat the activity with a map of Wiltshire or where you live.

British authors

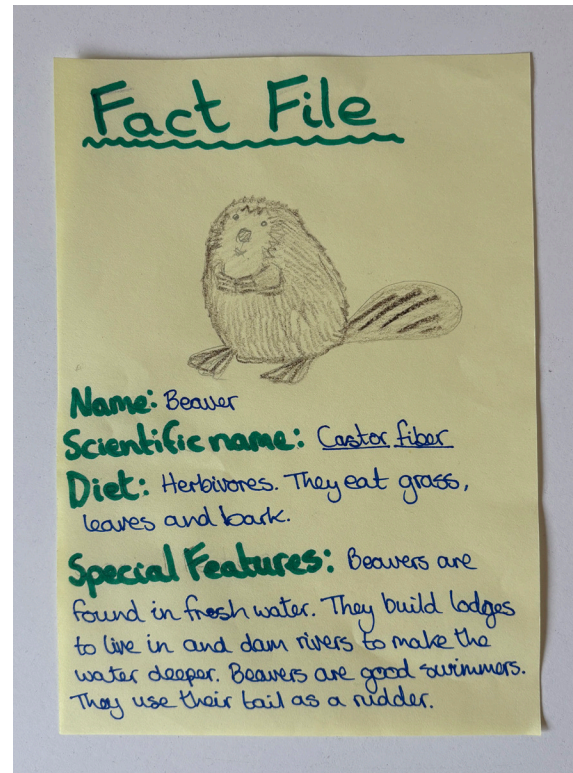
Are you familiar with the work of the authors featured in the lantern trail? Can you find extracts of their work to share? If you have time you might want to read whole novels – a particularly seasonal one would be Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

Native wildlife fact files

Some of the lanterns this year depict British wildlife. How well do you know the species that live around us? Create a series of fact file cards to record knowledge you have or information you have found out about them.

Nature documentaries

Nature documentaries can be a wonderful way of learning all about wildlife, both across Britain and further afield. Watch some wildlife documentaries to learn fascinating facts and discover different broadcasters and naturalists.





During your visit

The lanterns can be enjoyed by following the route through the grounds, recognising the different scenes in lantern form. You could also try some of these activities.

Native wildlife

Transport

London

Animal behaviour

Animal movement

Interpretation boards

Native wildlife

Do you recognise all the animals in these scenes? Can you name them? Perhaps you made fact file cards about these species and can share some of the information you have learnt.

Take a look at Longleat's red squirrels located on the way to Giant Otters and Crocodiles. They are part of a national breeding programme. You may have to wait patiently as they aren't always easy to see straight away. You can find out more about them from the interpretation boards and even have a go at building a squirrel drey.

Also keep your eyes open as you walk around Longleat. The estate is teeming with native wildlife you might not have noticed.

Transport

A lot of the lantern scenes this year have different modes of transport in them. From London buses to a motorbike and sidecar. How many different types can you spot?

London

If you are planning to build a lantern diorama after your visit, this is a good scene to take inspiration from. You may want to take notes of the different things that have been made as lanterns, such as vehicles, buildings and landmarks.

Animal behaviour

Whilst at Longleat you will see many of our animals doing different things. Can you narrate what they are doing as if you were a documentary presenter? Perhaps you could film some activities to add voice overs to after your visit.

Animal movement

Animals move in many different ways. You could try to capture a range of different movements in short videos. These could then be used as research for creating an animation after your visit.

Interpretation boards

Alongside the different lantern scenes and animal habitats you will see during your visit, you will find interpretation boards that tell you more about what you are looking at.

After your visit

Suggestions for post-visit activities

Have a go – stop motion animation

British regional foods

Tourist brochure

Conserving native species

Wildlife documentary

Create lantern dioramas

Making of the lanterns



Have a go – stop motion animation

Wallace & Gromit films are created using a technique known as stop motion animation which Aardman are well known for. This is a technique where still images are captured one at a time, but a tiny change or movement is made between taking each image. When all the images are played back in sequence, the objects that changed appear to move. Aardman have their own stop motion animation app called Aardman Animator – available to download for free on the Appstore or Google play. You can have a go at making your own animations, but be aware it takes a lot of patience, time and attention to detail to create even a short sequence.

Did you know?

A single animator can make only **three seconds** of animation per day.

There were around **1300 shots** in Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl. The shoot took roughly **63 weeks** to complete.

If you are attending one of our home educator focus days during The Festival of Light, you can book in to join us at a workshop where you can create an animal model and we will introduce you to the basics of using a stop animation app.



Check out this stop motion video of an anteater.



British regional food Tourist brochure

Having seen some lanterns depicting well-loved British foods you could explore and try some regional foods. Have you tried a Cornish pasty? Can you make one? You could have a cheese tasting (make sure you don't forget the Wensleydale!).

Create a leaflet or brochure for someone who has never been to the British Isles before. Where should they go? What should they see? Be sure to include a map.

Making of the lanterns

If you are interested in exploring the making of the lanterns for The Festival of Light, there are a number of videos on our YouTube channel that show this: www.youtube.com/longleat



Conserving native species

Think about the animals depicted by lanterns. Are they endangered and in need of support? You can find out more about projects that support our wildlife such as the work of The Beaver Trust, The White Stork Project and pine marten reintroductions.

Wildlife documentary

Using the animal videos from your trip to Longleat, create a script and provide a commentary to produce your own wildlife documentary.

Creating a lantern diorama

Set the challenge of creating your own scenes for an event exhibition. Choose a place that is familiar – what landmarks or activities could be chosen to inspire lanterns related to the area? It could be where you live, where family or friends live or where you have been on holiday. It may help to think back to the scenes you saw at Longleat. What did they include? Was there one big show piece or many smaller ones?



Using a shoe box (or other small box) and any resources you can find, create your scene.

- You could cut out pictures from magazines and stick them onto card
- Use real objects such as twigs for trees
- Add your own drawings or photos
- Use modelling clay or real models to help set your scene.



Your local library/community centre might be interested in displaying a group of models created by a home education group. If you are a school that puts on a play for parents at this time of year perhaps the scenes could be displayed at the same time, for parents to look at before or after the performance. We would love to see your dioramas when you have completed them. You can send photos to education@longleat.co.uk or tag us on social media.



LEARNING with
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