



Ivy is a common climbing plant. All plants need water, food and sunlight to survive. The more of these they can get the better they will grow.

Climbers use other things like trees, walls or buildings, to grow higher and get more sunlight. Climbers do not have woody stems and need support to get to the sunlight they need.

Ivy can provide homes for many animals. Birds can build nests in it. Bats can roost there overnight. Many different types of insects live in it.

When Ivy flowers in the Autumn it is a source of pollen and nectar for bumblebees when there are few other sources of food. It helps the Queen bees to prepare for their winter hibernation. The berries also provide food for birds during the winter.

Find the Insect hidden in the Ivy.  
How Many Ivy's can you count?

I V Y I V Y I  
V B I V U M V  
Y B V Y L I Y  
I E Y B E V I  
V E I V Y Y V  
Y I V Y I V Y  
I V Y I V Y I  
Q Y I V Y U V  
E E N Y I V Y

Hint: The insect is all that is left when you take away all the I's, V's and Y's

ONLINE NATURE:

- [wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie](http://wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie)
- [biodiversity.ie](http://biodiversity.ie)
- [birdwatchireland.ie](http://birdwatchireland.ie)
- [met.ie](http://met.ie)
- [mothsireland.com](http://mothsireland.com)
- [mountaineering.ie](http://mountaineering.ie)
- [npws.ie](http://npws.ie)
- [orienteering.ie](http://orienteering.ie)
- [wildflowersofireland.net](http://wildflowersofireland.net)

Help the Ivy reach the sunlight - Which Trunk should it grow on?



Hint: It helps if you colour the branches in different colours

TO DO:

- Look for Ivy in your garden. If you find some see if there are any insects living in it. How many did you Find?  
Number found: \_\_\_\_\_

- You are some Ivy, Mam or Dad are a tree you are growing on. Try and hold onto them with your feet off the ground for as long as you can. Who lasted longer, the Ivy or the Tree?

- Look at Ivy stems really closely. Draw a picture of the root hairs that help it to climb. These roots hook and glue on to surfaces.

Write a note/draw a picture for a bumblebee who has never seen ivy.  
Describe what she should look for.



An Roinn Cultúir,  
Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta  
Department of Culture,  
Heritage and the Gaeltacht

An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiunta & Fiadhúlra  
National Parks & Wildlife Service