

Forest Lantern Trail

HOST ONLY - preparation and story

Includes answers. Keep these pages with an adult.

A gust has scattered the lantern instructions. Find the clear path, share the lantern supplies and recover the exact trail word. Collect five named badge digits and use the final sheet. Every clue is on the table; ask the host for one hint at a time.

1. Print one player pack and two record sheets per team. Keep the host answers and all three hint levels with the adult.
2. Keep every clue as a full sheet at one table. Put the final sheet face down until all five results are recorded. Nothing needs cutting, folding or hiding.
3. Give each child a pencil. Choose a reader, recorder and checker, and swap jobs after each clue. Use one team for 2-4 children or two teams for 5-6.

Players: 4; teams: 1. Print one player and prop set per team. Invitations and certificates: 4 each.

Paper and pencils are enough. Keep whole sheets at one table; nothing needs cutting, folding or hiding.

Forest Lantern Trail

HOST ONLY - solution guide

1. Trail: 7

The open corridor from S reaches row 5 column 5, exit 7; the other labelled exits are separated by walls.

2. Stores: 1

Remove 2 from 4; share 2 among 2 parcels to get 1. Check $2 \times 1 + 3 = 5$.

3. Keeper: 0

Owl has Map; Fox has Lamp; Hare has Flag. Hare's item gives 0.

4. Signal: 7

Only row 3 has LAMP followed immediately by 7. Other rows have changed or reversed letters.

5. Order: 3

The only order is Read trail > Check lamps > Mark path > Open gate. Position 2 carries 3.

6. Final: 77130

Start > Stop 1 > Stop 2 > Stop 3 > Stop 4 > Stop 5 > Finish; Signal > Trail > Stores > Order > Keeper

Forest Lantern Trail

HOST ONLY - timeline and paper check

3 minutes: Read the story, show the badge record and choose roles.

4 minutes: Solve Trail. Offer one hint level at a time if wanted.

5 minutes: Solve Stores. Offer one hint level at a time if wanted.

6 minutes: Solve Keeper. Offer one hint level at a time if wanted.

undefined minutes: Solve Signal. Offer one hint level at a time if wanted.

5 minutes: Solve Order. Offer one hint level at a time if wanted.

5 minutes: Use the five results on the final sheet.

2 minutes: Read the ending and thank each teammate.

Paper completion: check each badge against the solution guide, then check the final code. No device is required.

The lantern plan is restored. The woodland gathering has a safe imaginary route to its clearing. Thank your team for checking the evidence together. Confirmed final control code: 77130.

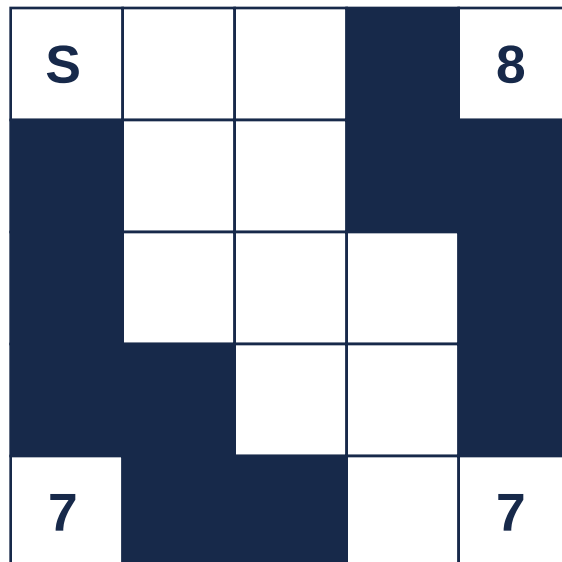
Duration and ages are estimates. Adjust pace and offer help for your group.

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 1: Trail | Team 1

A gust has scattered the lantern instructions. Find the clear path, share the lantern supplies and recover the exact trail word. Find five badge digits, then use the final sheet. Help each other and ask for hints.

Trail desk: Start at S. Follow open cells with no diagonal moves. Explore the branches and find the single reachable numbered exit.



White = open. Dark = wall. No diagonal moves.

Row / column: start at top left; each cell is one step.

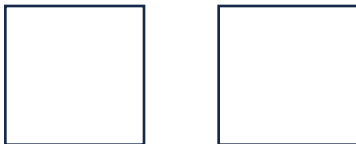
Trail badge: _____

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 2: Stores | Team 1

Stores desk: Every parcel has the same whole-number weight. Remove loose units, find ONE parcel and check the second rule.

2 parcels + 2 loose units = 4 units



2 parcels + 3 loose units = 5 units

One parcel = ? units. Whole numbers 1-9.

All parcels have equal weight.

Stores badge: _____

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 3: Keeper | Team 1

Keeper desk: Each person has ONE different item. Use all four NOT rules. Find Hare's item and copy its digit.

Lamp

digit 4

Map

digit 7

Flag

digit 0

People: Owl, Fox, Hare

Owl does NOT have Lamp.

Fox does NOT have Map.

Fox does NOT have Flag.

Hare does NOT have Map.

Find Hare's item. Each item is used once.

Keeper badge: _____

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 4: Signal | Team 1

Signal desk: Find the exact word LAMP, reading RIGHT only. Reject near matches and reversed words. Copy the digit immediately after it.

Find LAMP; only read to the RIGHT.

L	A	M	X	8	A	B	C
P	M	A	L	2	A	B	C
L	A	M	P	7	D	E	F
C	A	M	P	9	S	U	N

Answer = digit in the next square after the word.

Signal badge: _____

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 5: Order | Team 1

Order desk: Combine every BEFORE rule to order the four actions. Write positions on the whole-sheet cards. Read position 2.

Read trail [1]

Mark path [5]

Check lamps [3]

Open gate [7]

Read trail BEFORE Mark path

Check lamps BEFORE Open gate

Mark path BEFORE Open gate

Read trail BEFORE Check lamps

Check lamps BEFORE Mark path

Read position 2 (positions start at 1).

Order badge: _____

Forest Lantern Trail

Player clue 6: Final | Team 1

Find the route from Start to Finish visiting Stop 1-5. Reject branches that cannot finish. Join the badge digits in route order.

Start > Stop 1 OR Dead end

Stop 1 (Signal) > Stop 2

Stop 2 (Trail) > Stop 3 OR Dead end

Stop 3 (Stores) > Stop 4

Stop 4 (Order) > Stop 5

Stop 5 (Keeper) > Finish

Required: Stop 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Dead end has no exit.

Final badge: _____

Need help? Ask your host for one hint at a time.

Forest Lantern Trail

Hint cards - level 1 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Trail

Begin at S and trace only white cells.

2. Stores

Loose units are not parcels. Every parcel has equal weight.

3. Keeper

No item can belong to two people. Cross out each forbidden pairing.

4. Signal

Start at L and check every letter.

5. Order

The printed cards are deliberately out of order.

6. Final

Keep all five named badge results beside this sheet.

Forest Lantern Trail

Hint cards - level 2 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Trail

The first move from S is right. Follow only edge-connected white cells; a corner touch cannot cross a wall.

2. Stores

Remove 2 loose units from 4. That leaves 2 for the equal parcels.

3. Keeper

Fox cannot have two items, so Fox must have Lamp.

4. Signal

The exact word starts in row 3, column 1. Check its letters against the target.

5. Order

Read trail must come first. Work out which action comes directly after it.

6. Final

At Start, choose Stop 1. Dead end has no path to Finish.

Forest Lantern Trail

Hint cards - level 3 (spoilers; keep with host)

1. Trail

The connected corridor reaches row 5, column 5. Copy the exit label printed there.

2. Stores

Share 2 equally among 2 parcels. Substitute one parcel's weight into the second rule.

3. Keeper

Cross Lamp off for the other two people. Apply the last NOT rule, then find Hare's item.

4. Signal

In that row, copy column 5, the cell immediately after the complete word.

5. Order

The first two actions are Read trail, then Check lamps. Finish the chain and read position 2.

6. Final

Follow Stop 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 to Finish. Copy the badge digit beside each stop in that order.

Forest Lantern Trail

Team 1 badge record (no cutting needed)

Write a digit beside each badge as you solve its clue.

Trail: _____

Stores: _____

Keeper: _____

Signal: _____

Order: _____

Reader: reads the clue. Recorder: writes the digit. Path finder: traces routes. Swap roles every clue.

Forest Lantern Trail

Team 1 paper unlock card

Our five badges are ready. We used the final sheet to find this code:

Host: compare this with your solution guide. When it matches, read the ending and celebrate.

No physical lock or prize is required. You may draw a celebration star on this card.

Forest Lantern Trail

You're invited to a birthday mystery!

Join Birthday Explorer for Forest Lantern Trail.

Restore the paper lantern trail to the forest clearing.

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

Bring your curiosity. Paper and pencils are provided. Work together, share ideas and solve six clues.

Designed for ages 8-10. Estimated 30-45 minutes.

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Forest Lantern Trail

Birthday Mystery Explorer

Presented to Birthday Explorer

Team member: _____

For completing Forest Lantern Trail with curiosity, teamwork and kindness.

The lantern plan is restored. The woodland gathering has a safe imaginary route to its clearing. Thank your team for checking the evidence together. Confirmed final control code: 77130.

Date: _____

Host signature: _____

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