

FEBRUARY 23 - JUNE 9, 2024

## Beatrix Potter: Drawn to Nature

Beatrix Potter spent time observing, studying, and drawing things she found in nature. What sparked her curiosity from a young age? Use this guide to look closely, learn more, and discover inspiration of your own.

Pencils available at the admissions desk.

Family Activity Guide



Design for a greetings card, 1890. Linder Bequest. Museum no. BP.442(a) & (b). © Victoria and Albert Museum, London / courtesy of Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd.

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*Beatrix Potter: Drawn to Nature* was created by the V&A - Touring the World



Beatrix Potter, aged 15, with her dog, Spot, by Rupert Potter, about 1880 - 01. Linder Bequest. Museum no. BP.1425. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London / courtesy of Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd.

### What a Zoo!

Living in London, England, Beatrix Potter grew up in a household with many books and pets. She and her younger brother Bertram kept dogs, rabbits, snails, birds, mice, frogs, hedgehogs, salamanders, lizards, snakes, and even a bat! Beatrix Potter had at least ninety-two pets during her lifetime.

**What animals can you find in the exhibition?**

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### Roam and Ramble

Beatrix Potter explored mountains, woodlands, old ruins, gardens and open spaces when she went to the English countryside on vacation each summer. She observed the landscape and made sketches like this one.



Drawing of a walled garden, Ees Wyke (previously named Lakefield), Sawrey, ca. 1900. Linder Bequest. Museum no. BP.238. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London / courtesy of Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd.

**Look closely and imagine you are a character in this drawing – what would it sound, feel, and smell like to be in this place?**



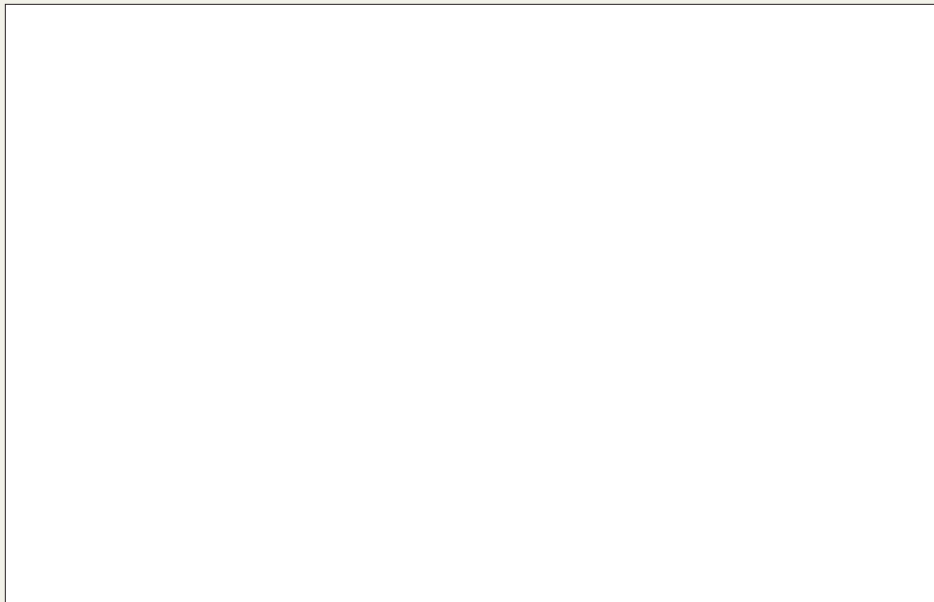
## Make it Yours

Beatrix Potter turned her passion for drawing and writing into a career. She raised money from her books to purchase more than four thousand acres of land and donated it to the National Trust.

**Draw your own animal story. Imagine a character to send on an adventure.**

**How will your animal dress? Where will they go, and what will they do there?**

Mrs. Rabbit shopping, design for Windermere Fund, 1927. Linder Bequest. Museum no. LB.1832. ©Victoria and Albert Museum, London / courtesy of Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd.



## Drawn to Nature

From pets to wild creatures, Beatrix Potter enjoyed observing and drawing animals, capturing their movements and expressions from different angles. Her careful studies of animals gave her imagined characters spark and personality.

**Look closely at Potter's drawings of animals. How do different views of the same animal change how we see it?**



Drawing, magnified studies of a ground beetle (*Carabus nemoralis*), by Beatrix Potter, about 1887. Linder Bequest. Museum no. BP.257. © Victoria and Albert Museum / London, courtesy of Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd.



Drawing of a hedgehog, assumed to be Mrs. Tiggy, by Beatrix Potter, about 1904. Linder Bequest. Museum no. BP.495. © Victoria and Albert Museum, London / courtesy of Frederick Warne & Co. Ltd.

**ACTIVITY:** Next time you visit an outdoor place such as a yard, park, or garden, collect different natural items such as a leaf, rock, or acorn.

**Look closely and think about how the things you have found are similar or different from one another. You can also do this with items in your home!**