

ERFURT EXCHANGE 2005

The Woodpecker

Who's that knocking? It's a woodpecker!

But do you know why the woodpecker knocks?

Watch carefully, we're going to show you now.

Many birds sing to defend their territory against rivals or to attract a female.

The woodpecker makes music too, although he doesn't whistle, he taps.

His instruments are branches and tree trunks.

The woodpecker doesn't only use his beak for music, he also uses it as a chisel to build his nest hole.

That's quite impressive, Mr Woodpecker!

The nest hole is 30 to 40 cm deep, and it's a safe place for bringing up woodpecker chicks.

Hey! She doesn't belong in here!

Other animals seem to like woodpeckers' holes too!

Woodpeckers are good climbers, thanks to their strong tails and feet with a flexible claw which helps them cling on to almost any nook or cranny.

When he finds a good spot, he puts his beak to use again.

He's looking for food.

Now you surely know at least one reason why the woodpecker taps!