

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS NATURE?

THE NATURE TOOLKIT WHICH GUIDES
YOU TO EXPLORE AND CELEBRATE
THE NATURE ON YOUR DOORSTEP

A NOTE TO PARENTS AND CARERS

This toolkit is designed to help your child connect with and celebrate the nature on your doorstep. The toolkit does not require you to travel far, and can be used around the home or around your local area (wherever this might be). Through these activities we hope to help your children learn that nature is all around us, and that we are part of nature ourselves.

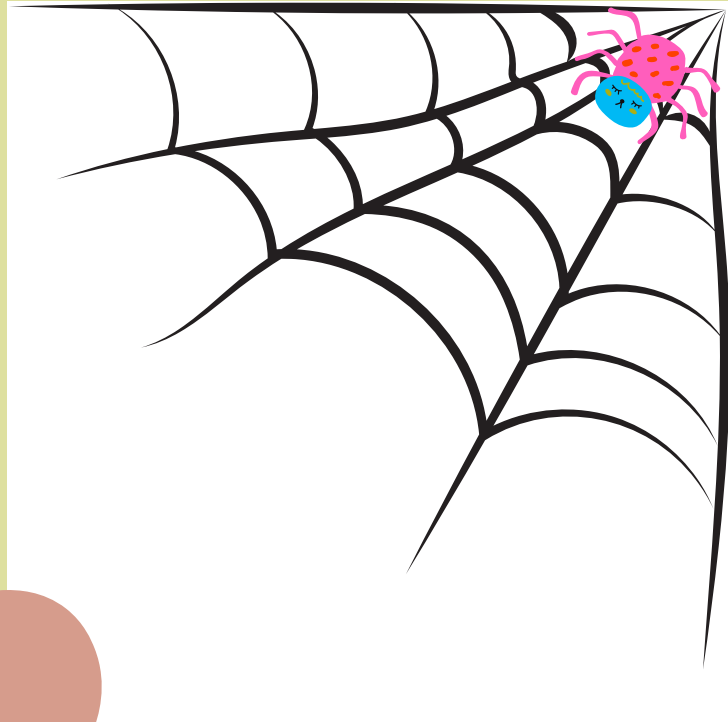
The toolkit has four activity sections:

- Nature is All Around Us
 - My Nature Diary
- Activities for Different Places
- 'How to make...' Toolkits

The final two pages have links to helpful resources and websites, which you can use to continue your child's nature connection journey! You can also download a certificate to celebrate your child working through the booklet. We suggest filling this out once they have done the 'Nature is All Around Us' activities and at least four of the Nature Diary pages.

NATURE IS ALL AROUND US...

There is a lot of nature hidden around homes... can you spot any of these in your house? If not, can you find them in a friend or family member's house? Tick the pink circle when you do!



Cobwebs

If you look closely you can see beautiful patterns all made by a spider's hard work!



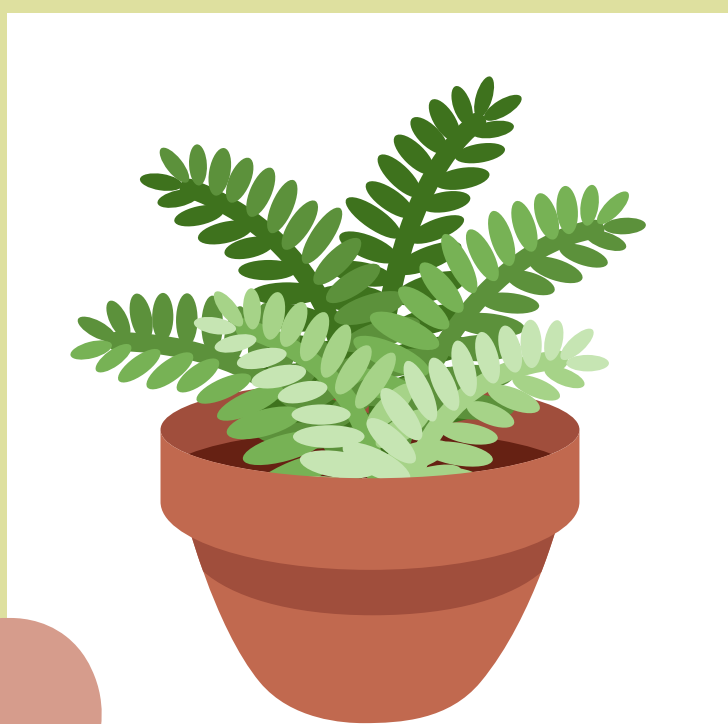
Candles

As well as needing fire to melt, many candles are made with natural waxes, like beeswax!



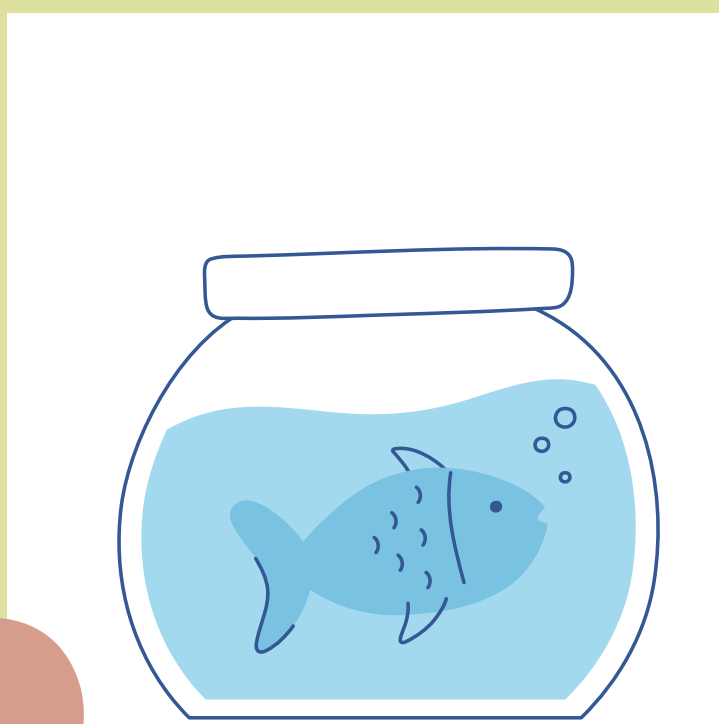
Vegetables

We may just think of them as food, but they come from the Earth and need all sorts of natural elements to grow!



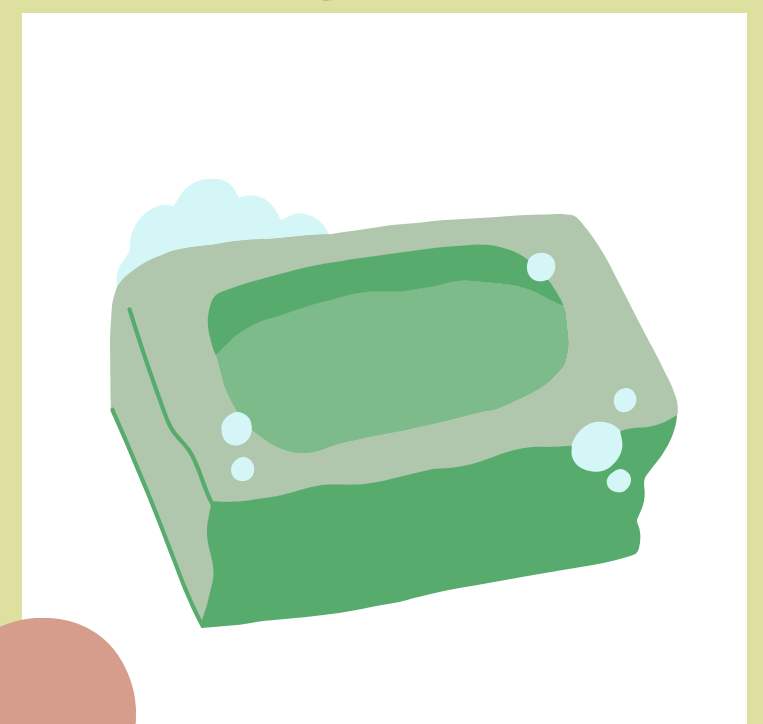
Plant Pots

There are lots of plants that prefer indoors - if you don't have one, try seeing if you can spot one in other people's houses!



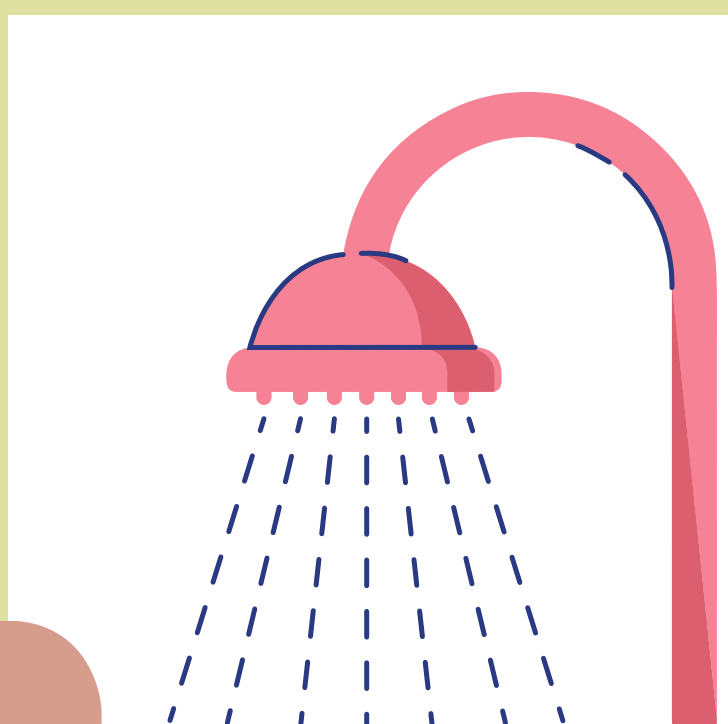
Fish tank

If you don't have a fish tank, you can find out if a friend does, or visit the pet shop to have a look next time you are out shopping!



Soap

Soaps are often made from a combination of natural fats, oils, and a chemical substance called lye.



Water

Where can you find water in the house? Water is an important part of nature that we need to interact with every day of our lives!



Wood

Can you find anything wooden in your house? Try imagining the tree it originally came from!



People and Pets

Did you know that people and pets are part of nature too? If you don't have a pet, find a friend or family member who does!

NATURE IS ALL AROUND US...

Of course, there is lots of nature outside the house too! Can you find any of the following? Remember to tick your pink circle when you find each thing in the picture!



Leaves

Leaves change colour with the season... sometimes they are green and yellow, other times they are red and gold!



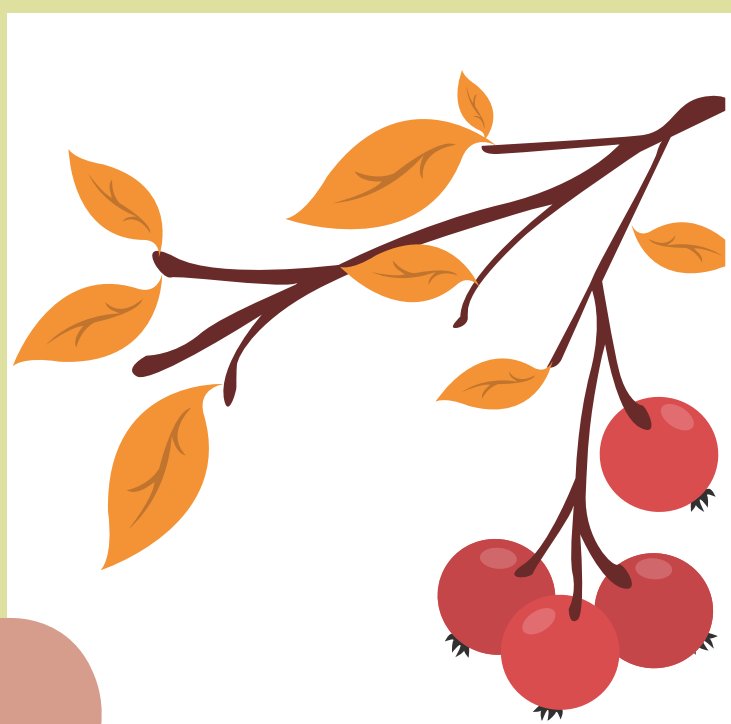
Air

Air is invisible, but we can see how it lifts things up like planes and hot air balloons, or blows things around like hair or litter!



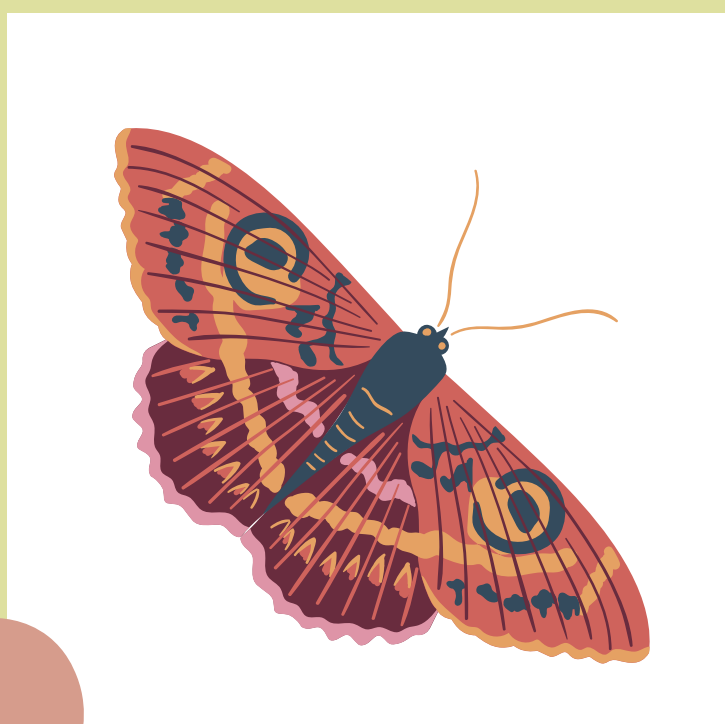
Rain

Rain is a very important part of nature, as it helps keep lots of our plants alive and supplies us with the water we need to live!



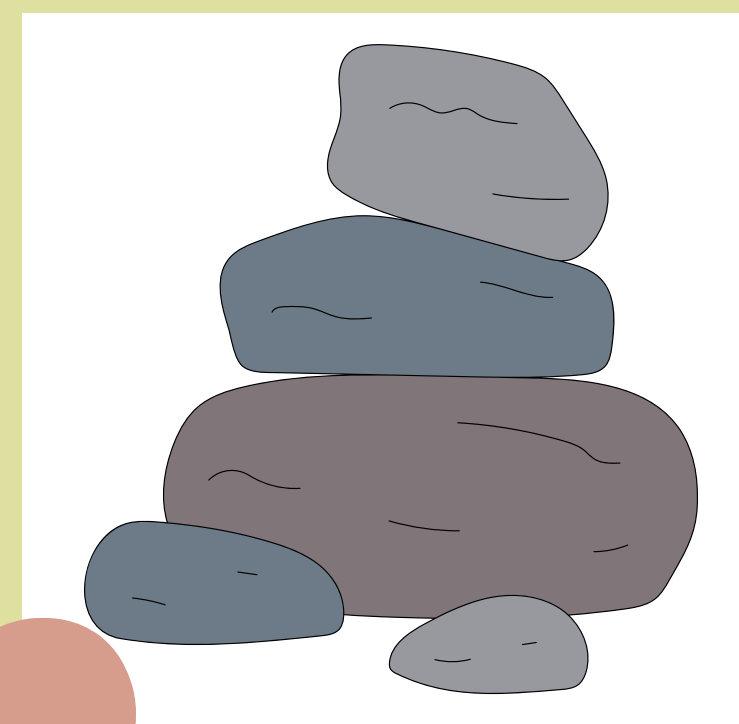
Wild Food

What wild food can you spot? Remember that not all food is human-friendly! You must always check with a responsible adult.



Insects

Insects help keep flowers and plants alive through a process called pollination. Do you have a favourite insect?



Pebbles

Rocks and pebbles have lots of different shapes, colours, and sizes. You can try stacking them to make some art!



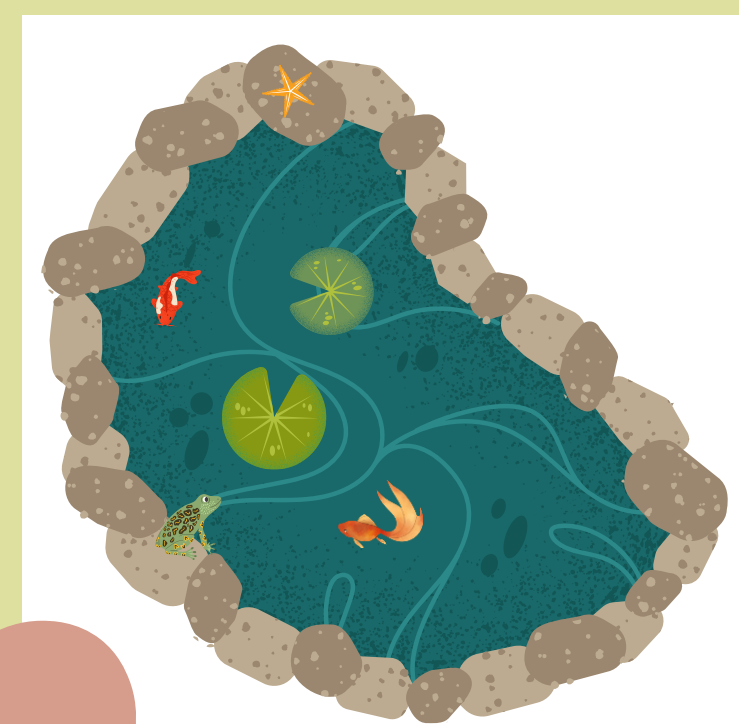
Birds

Close your eyes and listen to see if you can hear some bird song. If you can, can you spot the bird?



Mud and Dirt

Dirt and mud is very important for helping plants grow - and for making mud pies of course!



Ponds

Ponds are full of exciting creatures and plants that prefer being in water - what can you spot in the picture?

NATURE DIARY - EXAMPLE PAGE

Now that you have spotted lots of nature around your home and where you live, it is time to start your very own nature diary... Use the following pages to record the types of nature you see in your everyday lives! Remember, it is always okay to not know the answer to the questions... Here is an example page:

DO YOU KNOW ITS NAME?

Aloe vera plant

WHAT DOES IT SMELL LIKE?

Tangy

WHAT COLOUR IS IT?

Green with yellow spots

IS IT ALIVE?

Yes

IS IT BIG OR SMALL?

Small

HOW SHOULD YOU TREAT IT?

It needs a nice pot and sunlight

ART SPACE

Draw, stick or add a photograph of the nature you find here

Remember: Only stick in nature if you do not harm it by doing so (like fallen leaves, but not leaves still on a tree)



NATURE

DATE:

DIARY

LOCATION:

DO YOU KNOW ITS NAME?

WHAT DOES IT SMELL LIKE?

WHAT COLOUR IS IT?

IS IT ALIVE?

IS IT BIG OR SMALL?

HOW SHOULD YOU TREAT IT?

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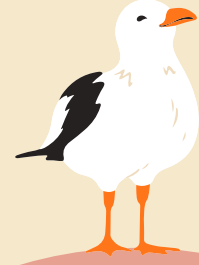
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ACTIVITIES FOR...

THE SEASIDE



Lie down on the beach and close your eyes. What birds can you hear around you? Can you hear any other types of nature?



Can you find a seashell? Hold it up to your ear to see if you can hear the sea. Try collecting lots of sea shells, and making a pattern with them on the sand.



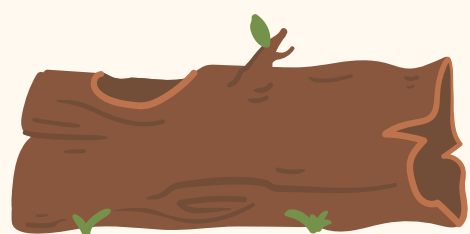
Find some sticks or use a spade to draw a line up from the sea to the beach. Dig along the line to create a mini river up from the sea. Try creating a dam (a barrier) using seaweed and rocks.



ACTIVITIES FOR... BEING IN THE PARK



Find a patch of grass and try practicing your roly polys. If you feel confident doing a roly poly, try doing a handstand or even a cartwheel!



Find your favourite tree or tree trunk in the park. Hold a sheet of paper against the tree trunk and rub your paper with the side of a crayon to create your very own bark rubbing!



Collect wild items (like pine cones) from around the park. Attach string to them, and hang them from a tree branch to make a wild mobile - see further instructions on the 'how to' activity pages.



ACTIVITIES FOR...

TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL AND BACK



As you go on your journey to school, try counting the number of plants you can see - can you name any of them? Which one is your favourite?

As you travel home, collect wild materials (like fallen leaves). When you get home create a picture of your journey by sticking them on some paper in the order you collected them.



Start a conversation with the person taking to you about school about their favourite activity which makes them feel connected to nature - can you do it together?



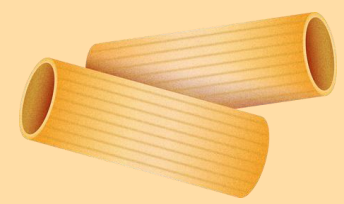
ACTIVITIES FOR... BEING AT HOME



Make your own magic nature potion, by finding natural substances around the house like earth, water, or soap. What does your magic nature potion do?



Get an adult to help you look after your very own house plant. Plants like succulents and spider plants are very easy to look after, and can be kept indoors.



Remember that food is nature too. Get some suitable pasta with holes in it, and try painting it different colours. You can put some string through the holes to create a necklace.



ACTIVITIES FOR...

AROUND A CITY



Wind, rain, sun, and clouds are part of nature. Write a description of the weather today. How does it affect your plans and feelings? How might this weather help plants and animals?



Cities are full of animals like birds, insects, and dogs. Look around you - how many different types of animals can you spot?



People are nature too! When you are out in a city watch people around you and imagine how they are feeling. Do they look rushed, calm, happy? What do you think they might be doing?



ACTIVITIES FOR...

NIGHTTIME



Go into a safe outdoor space or look through a window at the moon. Can you try drawing a picture of the moon everyday for a month, showing how it changes over time?



Try painting your own night sky. Start by painting the background colours of your night sky. Once it is dry, dip the tip of a pencil into white paint, and dot it around your painting to add your stars.

Use a phone, lamp, or torch to shine a light on a wall. You can then use your hands and bodies to make shadow puppets against the wall - try to make a shape of your favourite animal.



HOW TO... MAKE A WILD ART MOBILE

SET UP:

Where:
Any outside location
where you can find
wild materials

Materials Needed:
String
Scissors
Wild materials that you
find on the ground
(feathers, pine cones,
foliage, leaves and
more)



INSTRUCTIONS:

Step One:
Find a tree branch that you would like to attach
your wild art mobile to.

Step Two:
Go on your wild adventure hunt, finding pieces of material to use on the
floor that you will be able to tie a knot round or poke a hole through.
Fallen leaves, feathers, pine cones, sticks, and (if you are by the sea)
seaweed are all great choices!

Step Three:
Ask an adult to cut your string into short pieces that you can tie a knot
around or through each piece you found.

Step Four:
Get an adult to help you tie your materials to your favourite tree branch.
You can also add two pieces either end of a twig, and tie the twig up to
the branch instead!

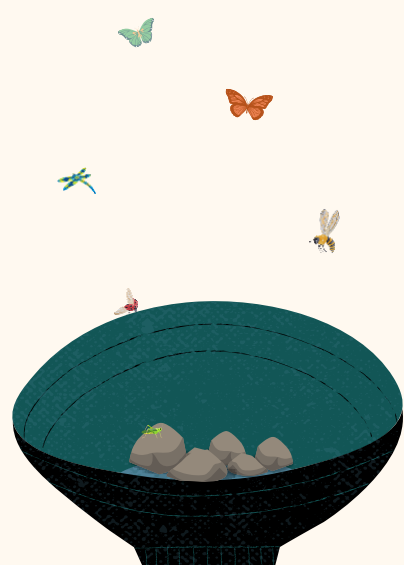


HOW TO... MAKE AN INSECT BATH

SET UP:

Where:
Any outside location
where you can find
rocks and pebbles

Materials Needed:
Bowl
Water
Pebbles or Rocks
Mud



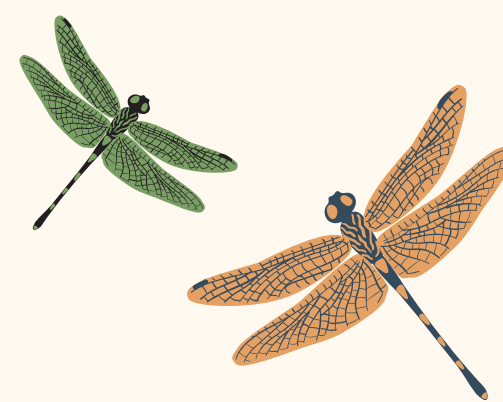
INSTRUCTIONS:

Step One:
Get a big bowl and take it outside.

Step Two:
Go on a rock and pebble hunt, finding enough to fill up the bowl about
halfway.

Step Three:
Fill up your bowl with the rocks and pebbles, and add just enough water
so that it is halfway covering the top layer of rocks. You can also add
some mud to your bowl, so that it is more appealing to insects.

Step Four:
Put your bowl outside on any warm day, and watch the insects come to
drink up!



HOW TO... MAKE SEED PAPER

SET UP:

Where:
At home

Materials Needed:
Old bits of paper (such
as a newspaper)
Water
A packet of seeds
(small ones are best)
Parchment paper
You also need a blender
or electric whizzer



INSTRUCTIONS:

Step One:

Tear up your paper very small, and put it in your blender or whizzer. Add double the amount of water, and blend it all up.

Step Two:

Transfer the paper pulp to a bowl, and squeeze any leftover water out by squishing the pulp and pouring extra water from the bowl. Carefully add your seeds and mix it all up, taking care not to crush the seeds.

Step Three:

Lay your parchment paper out flat, and pop your pulp onto it. Press the pulp out very flat and evenly, so it looks like a sheet of paper (or a big pancake)!. Make sure there are no holes in your piece of paper.

Step Four:

Leave your paper in a warm place to dry. When it is dry, you can cut it into different shapes, and plant it in the ground to watch your flowers grow. Make sure you plant it according to your seed packet instructions.



HOW TO... MAKE A NATURE CROWN

SET UP:

Where:
Any outside location
where you can find
wild materials

Materials Needed:
A bit of cardboard big
enough to go round
your head
Sellotape
Strong glue
Materials you find on
the ground
Scissors



INSTRUCTIONS:



Step One:

Cut your cardboard into a strip that is long enough to go around your head and about as wide as your hand. Sellotape the ends together so it fits on your head like a hat. See the picture for help.



Step Two:

Set your cardboard crown aside, and find your materials to stick to it. Look for things like fallen branches, leaves and flowers, pine cones, and shells. Lay out your items in the order you would like to stick them onto your crown.

Step Three:

Have an adult help you glue each individual piece and stick it on to your crown. If you have a glue gun, you can use this to help. You can also use sellotape if your glue is not very strong. Once it is dry, you can wear your nature crown with joy!

FURTHER RESOURCES

This page is to help you access free, further resources which might be of interest! All resources should be easy to find through Google by typing in our name for it, and clicking on the top link (or they are directly linked if you are using digital version)



TREE TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS! THE WOODLAND TRUST

This is a collection of resources developed by the Woodland Trust designed to help children engage with outdoor learning. As part of this, you can test out planting virtual trees, and even order a free tree from the trust.



THE NATURE CONNECTION HANDBOOK

This handbook offers knowledge about why nature connection is important, and provides lots of guidance (through examples and information about initiatives) for people who are hoping to improve their connection with nature.



NATIONAL TRUST - FREE LIST: 50 THINGS TO DO BEFORE YOU'RE 11 3/4

This is an amazing list of 50 things you can do to connect your child with nature, from stargazing, to den building, to going on picnics. There is lots of helpful tips about each suggested activity on the website too.



WILD WATCH - THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS

Through this link you can find 'wildlife watch' activities happening near you by popping in your postcode. This link is also full of activity ideas and stories about things that other people are up to.



INSPIRING CHILDREN'S SPIRIT OF STEWARDSHIP

This is a toolkit developed by the World Forum Foundation and Nature Explore. It contains lots of nature-based activity ideas to use with children ages 3-8 years, and aims to inspire children's spirit of stewardship.



INATURALIST APP - A COMMUNITY FOR NATURALISTS

You can download and use this app to record nature observations and share these with other people who might be interested in them.

USEFUL LINKS

This page links to useful information, such as picture lists of the most common birds you will find in the UK or countryside codes. As on the previous page, all resources should be easy to find through typing in our name for it in Google. These pages are all relevant for people living in the UK.



THE COUNTRYSIDE CODE - GOV.UK

If you go onto the official Gov.UK website (google "The Countryside Code Gov.UK") you can find a useful link called 'Countryside Code summary'. This gives a simple, visual overview of how to behave when in the countryside.



BIRD IDENTIFIER - THE RSPB

If you Google 'Bird Identifier | British Garden Birds and Many More - The RSPB' you will find a wonderful 'bird identifying' tool which helps you discover which birds you might have spotted through searching for its characteristics!!



COMMON UK INSECT IDENTIFICATION - WOODLAND TRUST

Google 'Common UK insect identification - Woodland Trust' to discover a wonderful article about the most common types of insect species you will find in the UK.



THE GUIDE TO BRITISH TREES - WOODLAND TRUST

Pop in 'The Guide to British Trees: ID and Facts - Woodland Trust' to Google, to access a definitive guide to British trees. It gives an A-Z of British trees, shows you how to identify trees, and links to a tree identifier app!



21 TRULY AMAZING NATURAL WONDERS IN THE UK - TIMEOUT

This is one for the adventurous! It is a list of 21 natural wonders which you can travel to in the UK, located in places like the Isle of Skye, Edinburgh, Sussex, or the Isle of Wight.



THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S TRUST FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Access the Young People's Trust for the Environment website to find a rich collection of resources (fact sheets, videos, lesson plans) all focused on environmental education.

THANK YOU FOR USING THE ALTERNATIVE NATURE TOOLKIT...

This toolkit has been designed by Rosamund Portus, Sadie Barnes, and Sara Williams with the guidance and support of fantastic parents/carers living in the South-West of England.

To access a digital version of the toolkit and a certificate of participation, please use the following QR code. You can also get audio guidance for each page:



