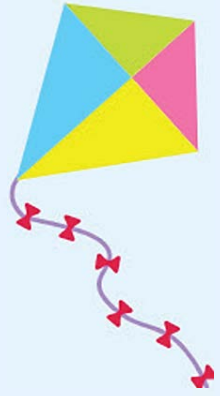


# Wildlife Explorer Pack

summer edition!



**Lincolnshire**  
Wildlife Trust



# What's inside?

Whether you live in the city, the countryside or the coast, Lincolnshire is bursting with fantastic wildlife. To make your summer a wild one, we've put together a jam-packed summer activity pack. Not only to help you discover the wildlife on your doorstep but also what you can do to make a difference.

## Contents

Actions for Wildlife	3 - 9
Wildlife Discovery	10 - 19
Wild Crafts and Cooking	20 - 28

**P.S.**

Share your adventures with us on social media, we love to see what you get up to!





# Actions for Wildlife

Caring for our natural world is a big job but there are lots of little things that we can do to make a difference! What will you try? Maybe you have some great tips to share too? You can send us an email and let us know!

## Did you know?

Bees are important pollinating insects, but they are under threat. You can help them by planting bumblebee-friendly flowers.

Head over to page 5 to find out how to make your own bee and butterfly garden!



# How to make seed bombs

## You will need:

- Meadow flower seeds or seeds collected from the garden



- Peat-free compost



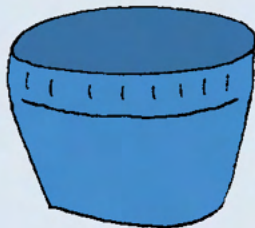
- Water



- Powdered clay (from craft shops - use clay soil if you can't find any)



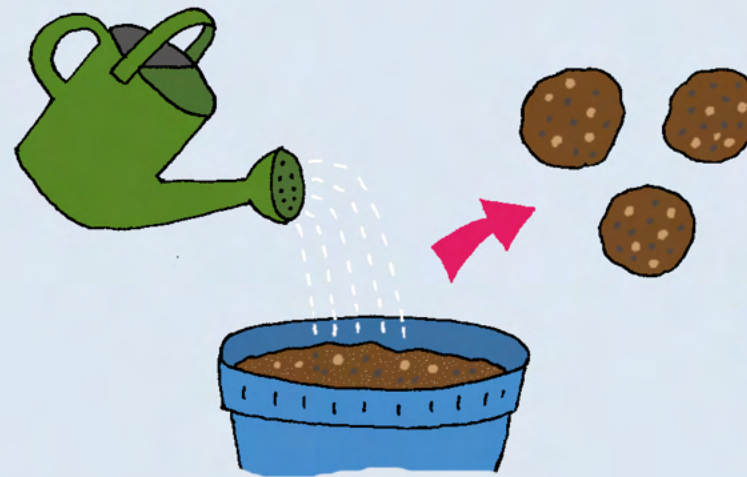
- Mixing bowl




- 1 In a bowl, mix together 1 cup of seeds with 5 cups of compost and 2-3 cups of clay powder.



- 2 Slowly mix in water with your hands until everything sticks together, then roll mixture into firm balls.



- 3
- 

- 4 Now for the fun bit - plant by throwing your seed bombs at bare parts of the garden!







# How to make your own bird feeder



## What you need:

- dry ingredients
  - bird seed
  - cooked rice
  - grated cheese
  - dried fruit
  - breadcrumbs
  - chopped nuts
- hard cooking fat (lard or suet)
- a pine cone, coconut shell or yoghurt pot
  - string

Use an old yoghurt pot for this, and always recycle after it's been used

**1** Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl



**2** Add the fat and give it a good mix around

**3** Choose your feeder



plaster all over a pine cone



put it round the inside of a coconut shell



press into a yoghurt pot

You can hang this upside down like a bell or turn it out like a cake

**4** Hang your feeders with string (you may need to make holes and tie the string in before adding the mix)



If you need to melt the fat, ask an adult to help

Hang your feeder where you can watch birds without disturbing them





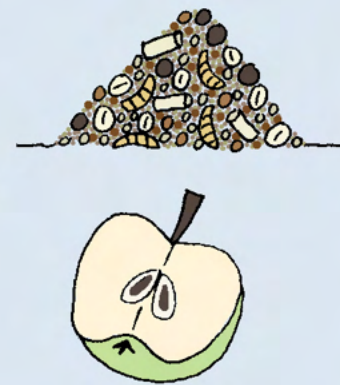
# feeding ground-feeding birds

Some birds prefer to look for their food on the ground.

If a bird is called "soft-billed" it means their beaks are soft, so they prefer soft food, and can't crack open seeds and nuts. Birds like the song thrush look for snails, slugs and worms; and the dunnock, a secretive little brown bird, picks its way through the undergrowth looking for tiny insects and other minibeasts.

How you can help...

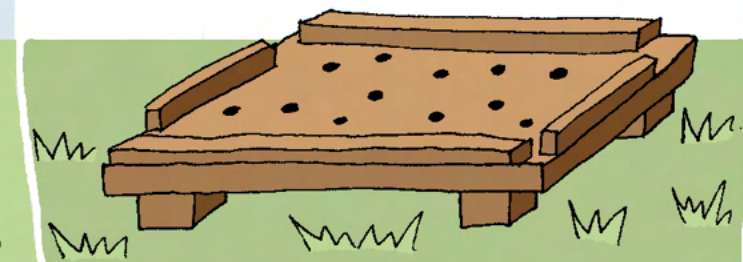
- You can buy special "soft-billed" food, which often contains dried egg, small insects, including dried mealworms, fruit and seeds.
- Scatter the food on your lawn, or use a ground feeding tray (see box).
- Cut apples in half and place them on the ground. Spread them out in your garden because blackbirds and robins are very territorial.



## A ground feeding tray

Instead of scattering food on grass, you can make a special tray...

- It must be made of sturdy material, like wood, otherwise it will move or blow away.
- You need to add edges to stop the seed spreading.
- Add draining holes to prevent the food going mouldy, and remember to keep the tray clean and dry.
- If you fix it to little legs, no more than 10cm off the ground, it will be easier to move around.



Only put a little down at a time, otherwise you might find you are feeding rats!

Watch out for predators like sparrowhawks and cats – never feed in an open space or too close to shrubs. Some cover nearby is good though so birds can retreat if in danger.

Move the area where you put food down each day to prevent diseases building up.





# Go on a litter pick or beach clean

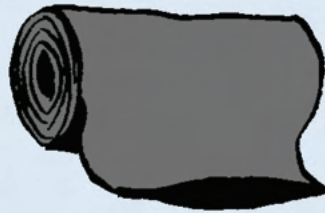
## You will need:

- an adult helper
- a group of friends (optional but useful!)

- thick gardening gloves



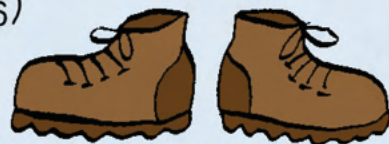
- strong bin bags



- brightly coloured clothes (for visibility near roads)



- suitable footwear (sturdy boots for rocky beaches)



Ask an adult to take you on a litter pick or beach clean.

Ask an adult if you're not sure whether to pick something up.

## Things to avoid

- broken glass
- sharp objects
- dog poo bags
- anything dirty or dangerous
- large or heavy rubbish
- bottles of liquid

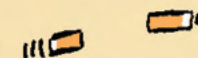


Try not to overfill bags to avoid splitting.



You could try separating litter into different bags for recycling.

cigarette butts



bits of plastic



empty cans



crisp packets or wrappers



carrier bags



fishing net



paper



empty bottles





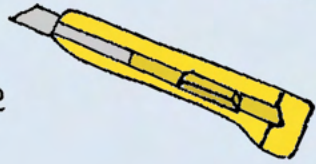
# Make a beetle bucket

## You will need

- A bucket, trug, or other durable, upcycled container



- A small craft knife



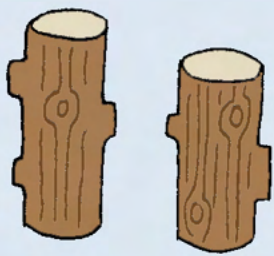
- Stones



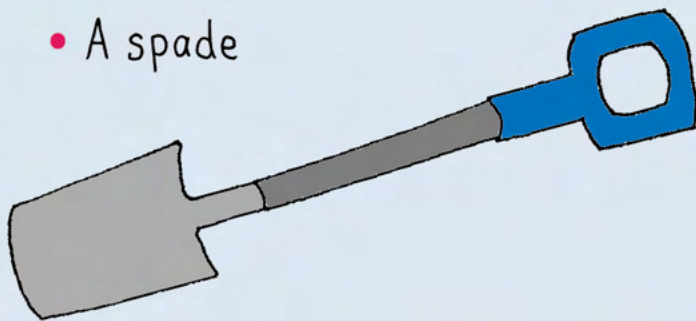
- Bark chips and/or leaves



- Small logs (that will fit in your container when upright)



- A spade

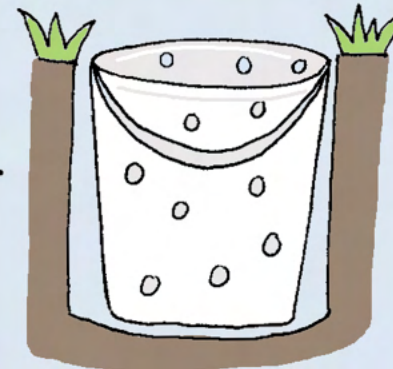


Fill a bucket with rotting wood and leaves and make the perfect home for all sorts of beetles and other insects. Making your beetle habitat in an old plastic container means you can easily find it again to top up or examine the contents (make sure to replace everything straight away after examining).

- 1 Safely cut small circular holes (around 3cm wide) in the sides and bottom of the bucket for beetles to enter and exit.

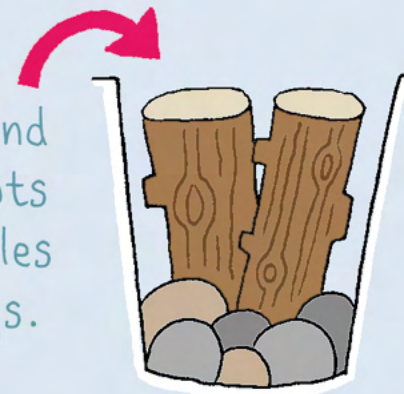


- 2 Dig a hole just larger than your bucket and sink it into the ground.



- 3 Place some large stones at the bottom of the bucket, then stand some small logs upright on top.

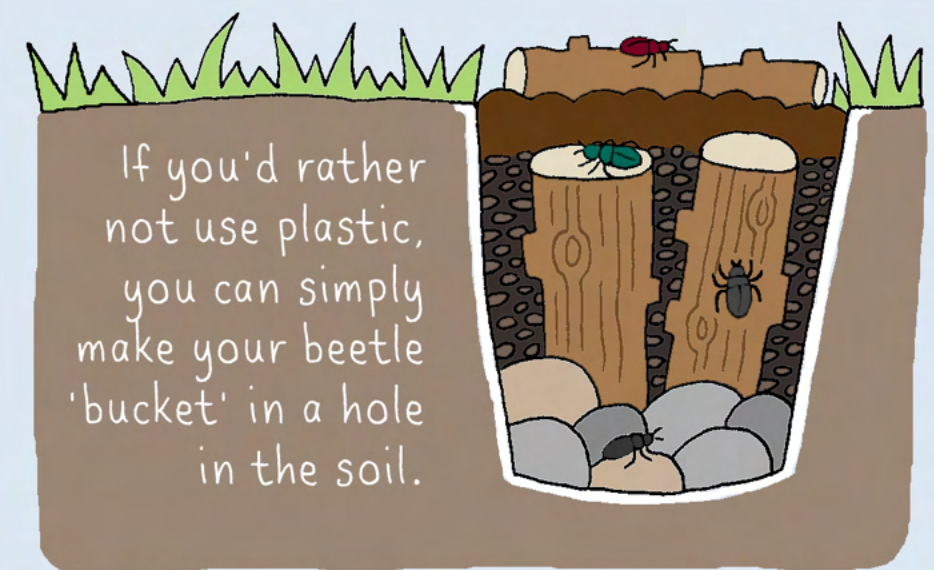
These will rot and make lovely spots for female beetles to lay their eggs.



- 4 Fill the rest of the bucket with bark chips and/or garden leaves, leaving around 10cm at the top to fill with some soil dug from the ground.



- 5 Top the soil with a couple more logs to tempt in beetles – from above or below!



Perfect for  
smaller  
gardens!



# How to Make a Mini nature reserve

## 1 Choose your site

Choose a safe place to put your window box – somewhere like an old bench or wall at an easy height for inspection.

## 2 Gather your materials

- window box
- a small log
- yoghurt pot
- some compost
- a rock

## 3 Fill the box with compost

Always use peat-free compost and save our precious peat bogs.

## 4 Add a few features

Dig in the yoghurt pot and add the small log and rock.

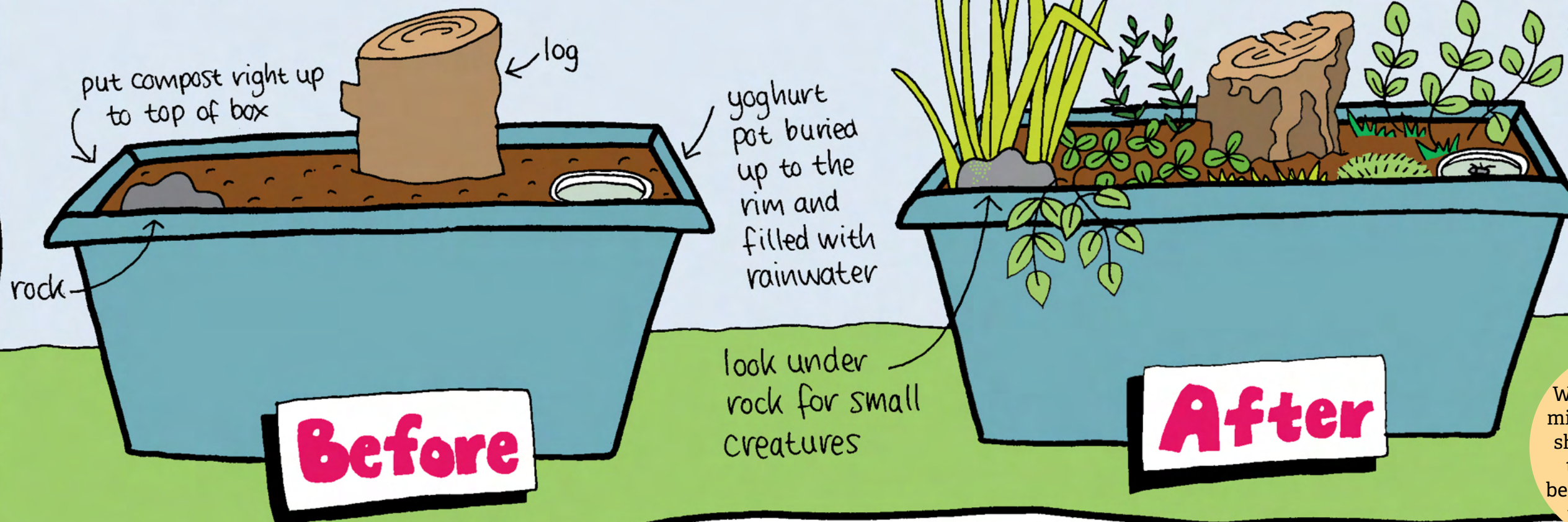
## 5 Leave!

## 6 Keep a diary

Record the changes you see. Make notes using guidebooks and take a photo every week.

## 7 Management

Remove out of control plants or cut them back with scissors.



Why not use the minibeast spotter sheet on page 19 to tick off the beasties who visit your reserve!



# Wildlife Discovery

In order to help our local wildlife we need to understand it! So put on your explorer hats and get outside. Use our spotter sheets to identify new species or build your very own garden bird hide.

## Did you know?

The water stick insect is the largest water insect in Europe. It uses its long tail like a snorkel sticking its bum up out of the water to breathe!

Head over to page 17 for wildlife spotter sheets



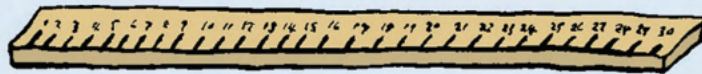
# How to make an animal footprint trap

## You will need:

- old baking tray



- long ruler



- fine grain sand



- water



- low-sided dish



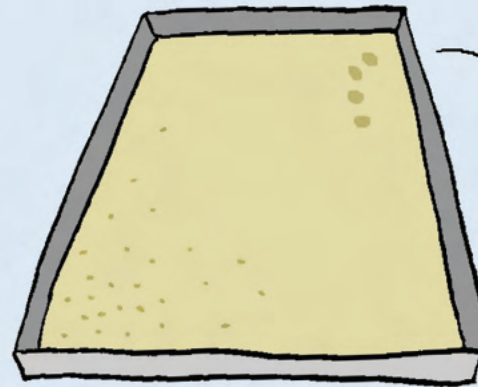
- meaty cat or dog food



- footprint ID guide

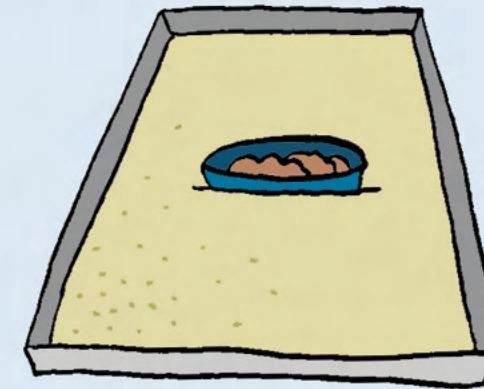


- 1 Fill an old baking tray with damp sand and smooth out the surface with a ruler.

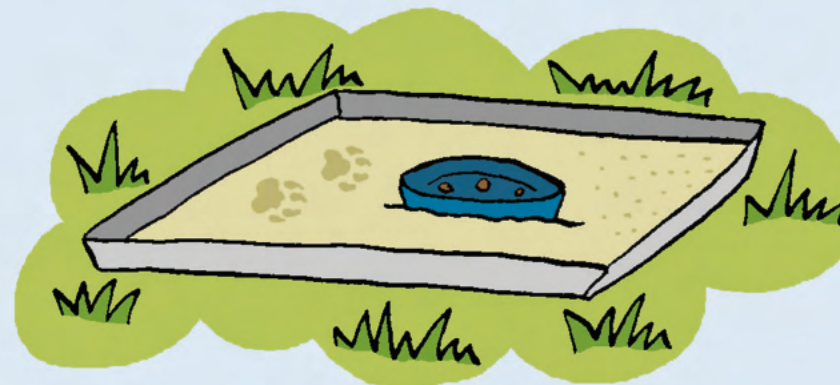


Check to make sure your fingers leave a mark.

- 2 Place hedgehog food or meaty cat or dog food in a low-sided dish in the middle of the tray.



- 3 Leave the trap overnight in a garden and check in the morning for footprints left by curious visitors.



hedgehog



fox



cat



bird

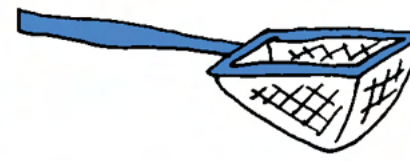


squirrel








# How to go pond dipping

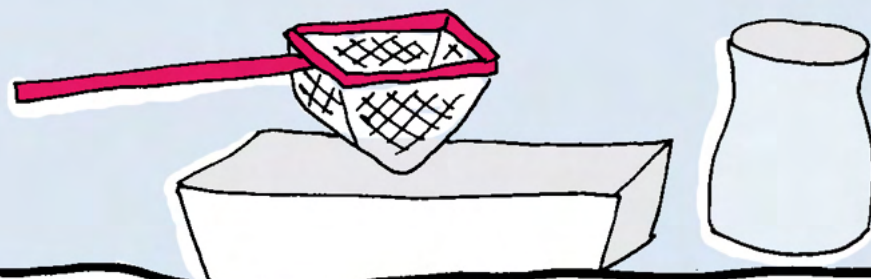


## Be prepared:

- wear old clothes and wellies 
- cover all cuts and scratches with waterproof plasters 
- go with a friend, and take a responsible adult too

- take a field guide if you have one 

- take a net, shallow tray or washing up bowl and a jam jar



- 1 Put a small amount of pond water into your tray/bowl
- 2 Dip your net in the pond and pull it through the water - try a figure of 8
- 3 Empty your net into the tray/bowl and look carefully (some creatures are very small)
- 4 Use a camera, sketchbook and notes to record what you find 
- 5 When you've finished, gently empty the tray/bowl, wash your hands and disinfect the net





# Make your own small mammal tunnel

## You will need:

- 2-3 square-sided juice cartons



- Scissors



- Small margarine tub lid



- Bottle top



- Thin cleaning sponge



- Food colouring



- White paper



- Sellotape



- Bait - dog or cat food, peanut butter, mealworms, seed etc



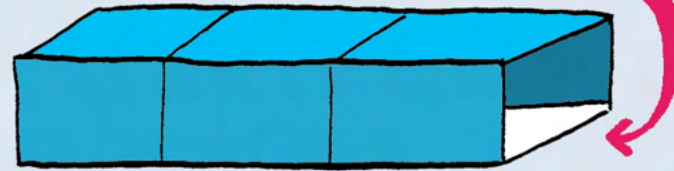
- Branches, rocks and leaves



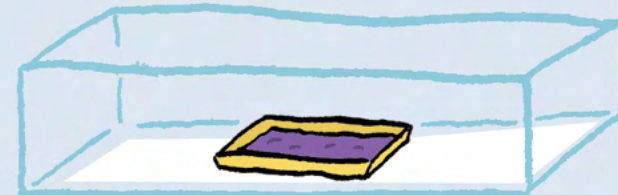
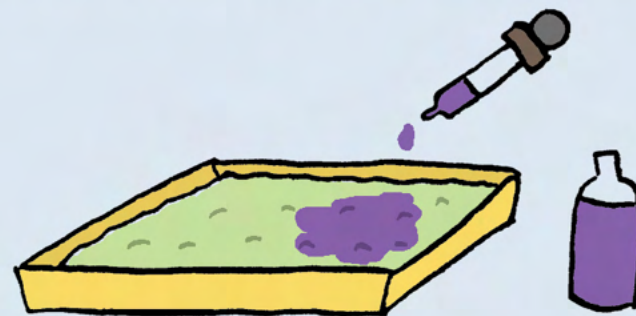
- 1 Cut the top and bottom off the juice cartons so that they slide together to create a tube.



- 2 Line the bottom with white paper and stick in place.



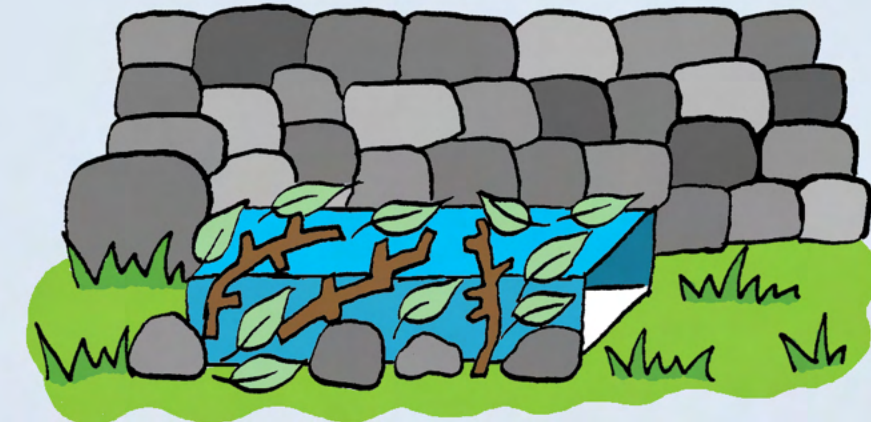
- 3 Cut a thin, clean sponge to size and place inside the margarine tub lid. Soak with food colouring and slide it to the middle of the tunnel.



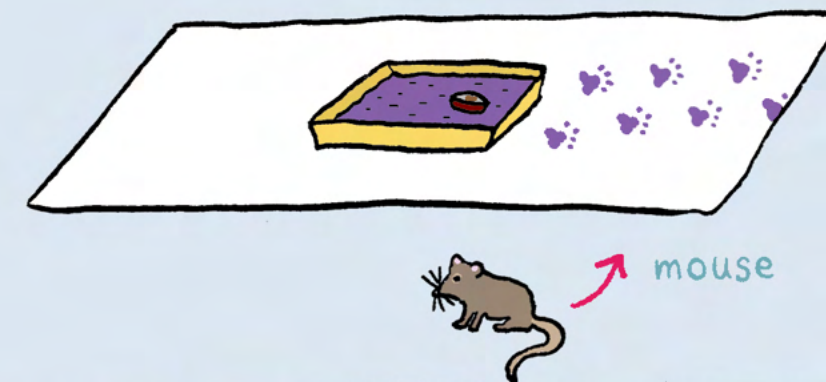
- 4 Put bait in a bottle top, and place this on the sponge.



- 5 Put the tunnel along a wall, fence or hedge. Cover with rocks, leaves and branches.



- 6 Leave overnight and check in the morning for prints.





# How to make a bird hide

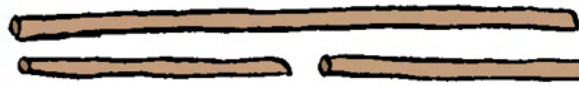


## What you need:

- old sheet or blanket (dark ones are best)



- one long and two short branches or poles



- string



- clothes pegs



- cushions



- warm clothes

- snacks



- bird feeders and food

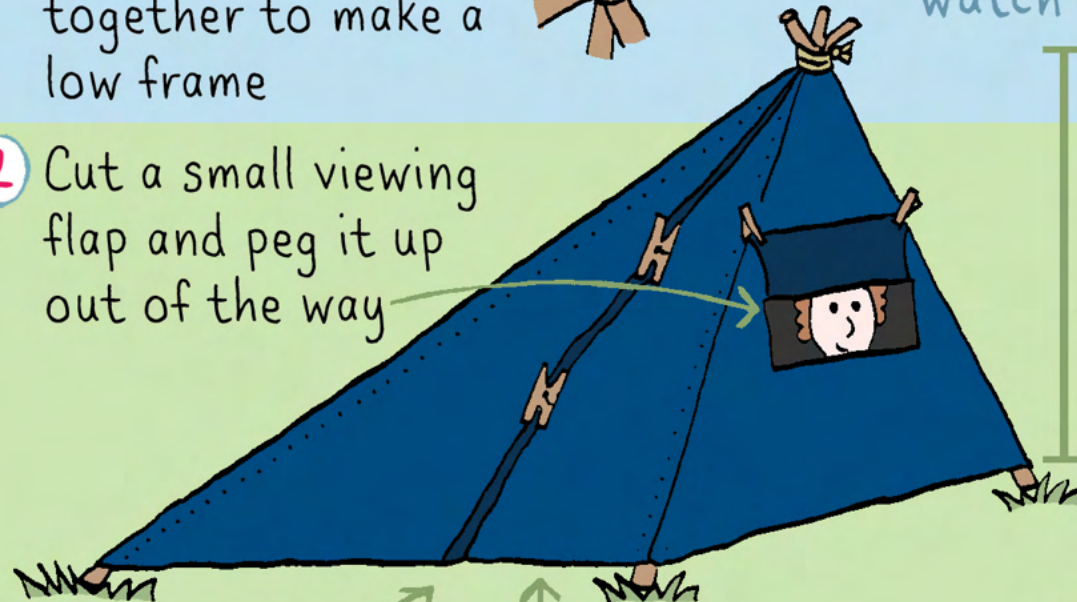


- binoculars (optional)

1 Lash the three poles together to make a low frame



2 Cut a small viewing flap and peg it up out of the way

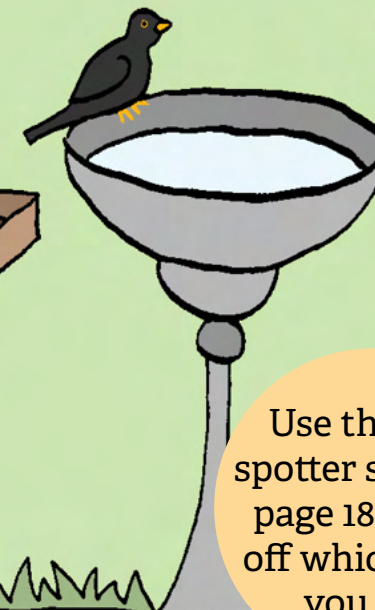


Wear warm clothes, watch and wait...

Tall enough to sit inside

3 Cover with a blanket and peg in place

4 Stock your hide with comfy cushions, a drink and snacks



Use the bird spotter sheet on page 18 to tick off which birds you see!

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015



# Start a nature table

Start a nature table at home, your workplace or school to share your wild findings with colleagues, friends and family. From feathers, mosses, pine cones, fossils to animal bones and egg shells – make it as interesting as possible!





# My street tree

Have you ever stopped to have a good look at your nearest garden or street trees? What sort are they? How old? Are they important for wildlife? Do birds roost or nest in them?

## You will need:

- Sheet of blank paper and clipboard
- Extra paper and crayons
- Magnifying glass or bug pot
- Minibeast ID chart or book
- Tape measure (optional)
- Leaf spotting sheet or other tree ID chart



1 Draw your tree in the middle of your paper. Use a leaf spotting sheet to help identify it.

2 Stick a fallen leaf on the paper, or do a rubbing using paper and crayons.

3 Use a magnifying glass, pot or pooter to check out the minibeasts living on your tree.

4 How thick is its trunk? Can you measure it at chest height with a tape measure? Can you hug it?

5 Does your tree have plenty of healthy leaves and soil around its trunk?

6 What other wildlife is living in the tree? Put all your findings on your tree drawing.

DATE: 17 June 2018

MY TREE: Oak  
LOCATION: outside my school  
HEIGHT: half the height of school

VERDICT: I think my tree is healthy

Why not do this each month to see how your tree changes with the seasons?



# Summer flower spotter



Meadow buttercup



Foxglove



Poppy



Tufted vetch



Cow parsley



Teasel



Yellow iris



Toadflax



Herb robert



Red campion





# Garden bird detective



Wildlife  
Watch



Chaffinch



Greenfinch



House sparrow



Blackbird



Blue tit



Goldfinch



Great tit



Collared dove



Starling



Wood pigeon





# Garden minibeasts



Spider



Earthworm



Wasp



Ladybird



Snail



Butterfly



Earwig



Bumblebee



Shieldbug



Hoverfly






# Wild Crafts and Cooking



The natural world around us is bursting with interesting smells, colours, tastes and textures. Many of these can be used to create tasty healthy treats or to make fantastic wildlife themed art with.



**Remember:**  
Never pick or eat anything if you're not 100% sure of what it is

## Did you know?

There are lots of seasonal wild foods available to us. The late summer months bring tasty berries such as blackberries and elderberries as well as crab apples that can be used to make jam.

If you do go out to forage be sure to leave plenty for our wild friends such as the birds.



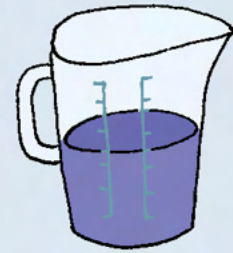


# Make an edible pond

## You will need:

- 500ml pack of lime jelly 
- Sachet of blackcurrant jelly 
- Sachet of gelatine\* 
- Blue food colouring 
- Dragon fruit or cooked tapioca  
- Jelly worms, bugs or fish 
- Green apple fruit bars 
- Green grapes 
- Chocolate frogs 
- 1 litre clear bowl 
- Measuring jugs 
- Sieve 
- Scissors 

\*There are vegetarian alternatives like agar agar, that you can use.



Follow packet instructions to mix each colour of jelly in a jug. Allow jelly to cool (but not set) before pouring it into the bowl to create a new layer.

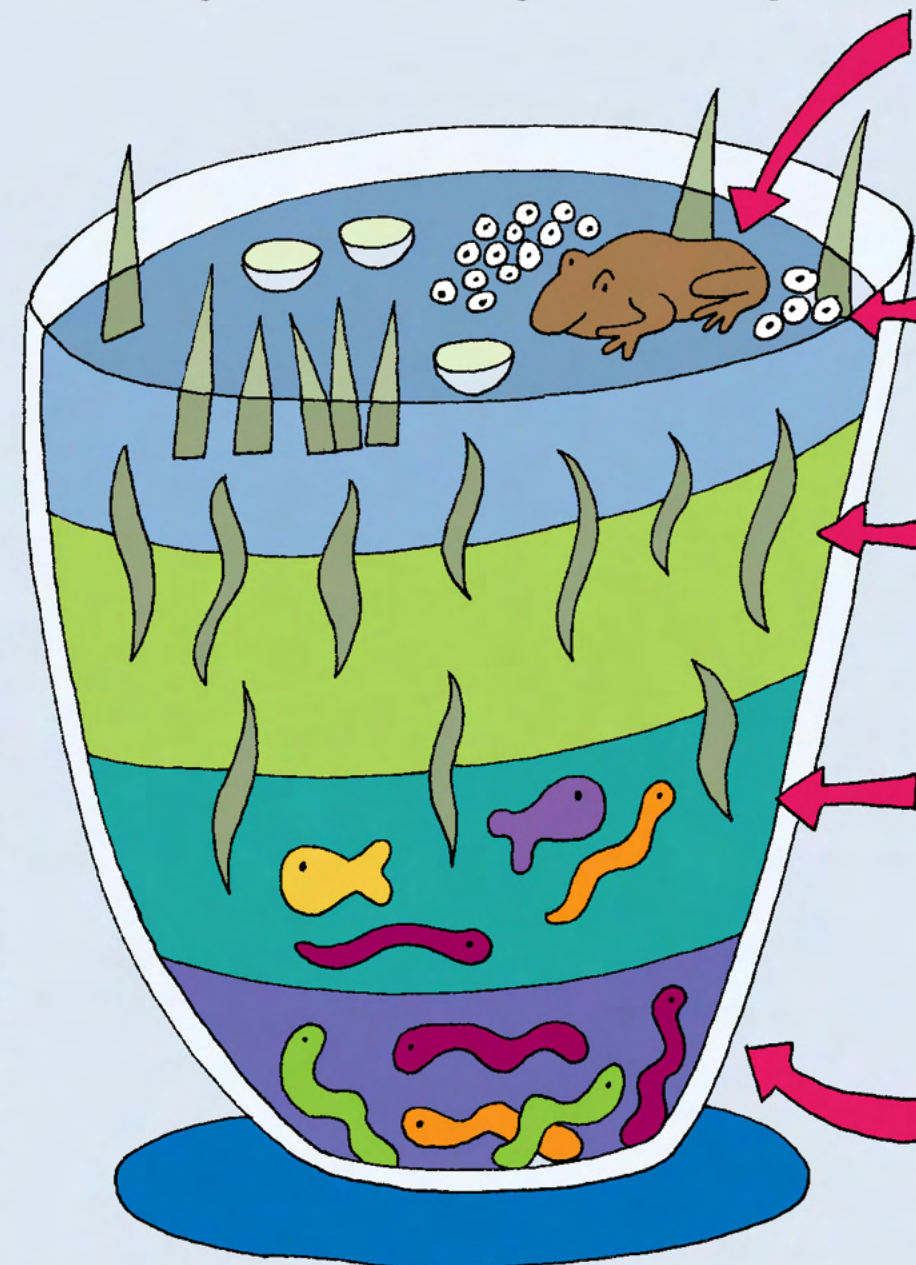
In your bowl, allow each new layer of jelly to set for an hour in the fridge before adding another layer.

**LAYER FOUR**  
Half a pint of gelatine, add a few drops of blue food colouring

**LAYER THREE**  
Remaining green jelly

**LAYER TWO**  
Half the green jelly + two drops of blue food colouring

**LAYER ONE**  
Make up the blackcurrant jelly, pour it into the bowl, and leave to set.



Add a chocolate frog near the spawn and enjoy!

A clump of chopped dragon fruit or tapioca (frogspawn) with some sliced green grapes (lily pads).

Stick the remaining reed shapes upright into the jelly

Another layer of worms or bugs and half of reed shapes cut from the apple fruit bar

A layer of jelly worms



# Nature weaving

## You will need

- 4 equally sized, strong sticks



- Lots of string or wool



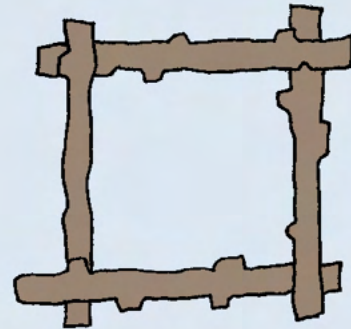
- Natural objects (twigs, leaves, grass, bark, feathers, lavender)



- Scissors



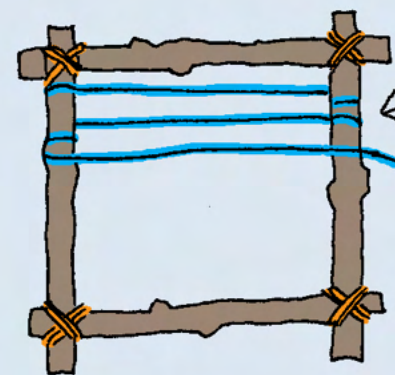
- 1 Arrange your sticks into a square.



- 2 Tie the sticks together at the corners, criss-crossing the string or wool. Pull tight and cut off any excess.

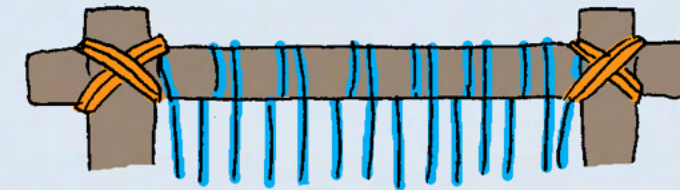


- 3 Tie a piece of wool around one of the corners and begin wrapping it around the loom.

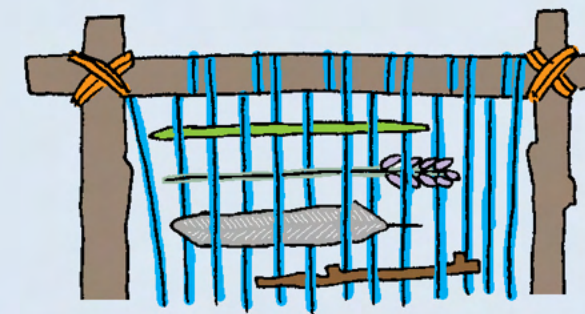


Wrapping it around twice will help keep the string taut and stop it from sliding off the sticks.

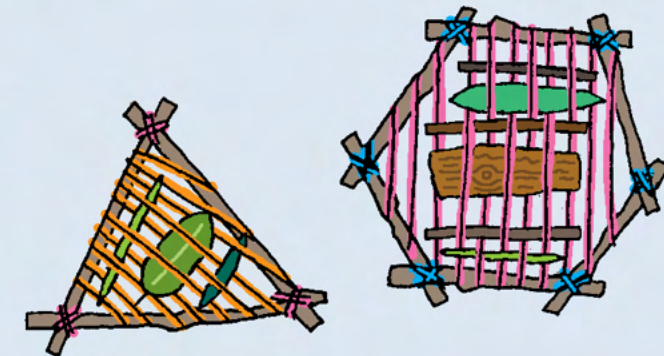
- 4 Once the loom is full, tie the wool to the corner to secure in place.



- 5 Time to decorate! Thread your natural objects through the wool on the loom. Weaving over and under, over and under...



- 6 Try making your loom out of different shapes – how about a triangle or hexagon?





# Make a leaf tile

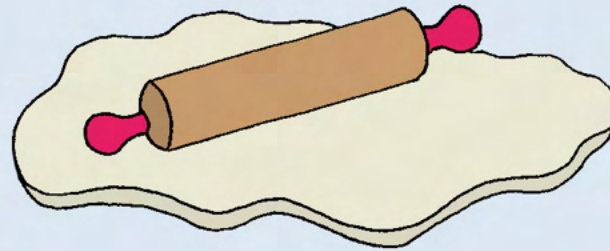
## You will need

- two cups of plain flour 
- one cup of salt 
- one cup of water 
- two tablespoons of cooking oil 
- Mixing bowl 
- Wooden spoon 
- Rolling pin 
- Different types of leaves 
- Knife 
- Paint and brushes 

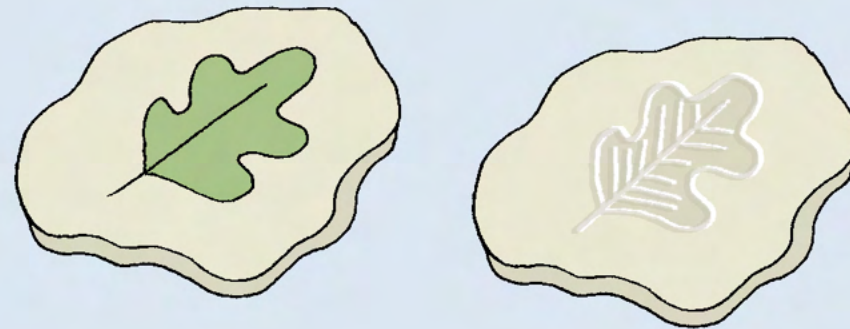
1 Mix all your ingredients together in the bowl.



2 Roll out the dough until it's about 1cm thick.



3 Carefully press a leaf into the dough (vein-side down). When you pull the leaf away, it should leave an imprint.

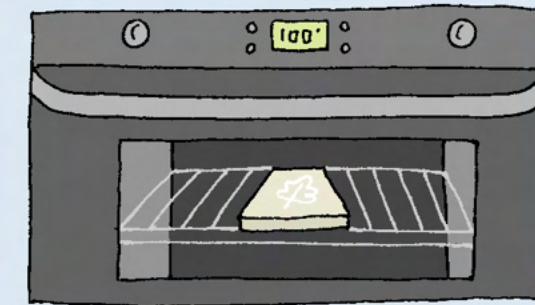


4 Cut your leaf imprint out of the dough in a square tile.



With the leftover dough, make some more tiles with other leaves.

5 Bake at 100°C (gas mark 2) for two hours.



6 Paint your tiles. You could paint your leaves a summery green, or an autumnal orange!



Ask an adult to help trimming and baking your tile.



# How to make natural dyes

## You will need:

- Protective gloves 
- Large bucket 
- Natural fibres or fabric eg. cotton, silk, linen, wool 
- Salt and vinegar 
- 5 litres of water 
- Sieve 
- Old pans 
- Wooden spoons 
- Tongs 
- Selection of colourful leaves, berries, flowers and plant roots. 



1 Place the fabric into a bucket of cold water.

For berry-based dyes, add 1 cup of salt to 4 cups of water



For non-berry dyes, add 1 cup of vinegar to 4 cups of water

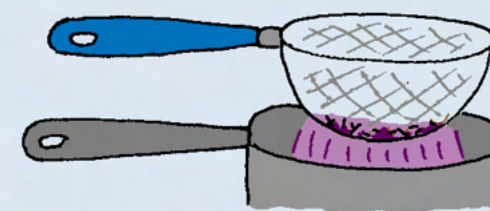
2 Leave the fabric to soak for at least 2 hours, then remove and rinse thoroughly with cold water. To create patterns, try tying knots into the fabric.



3 Separate the berries, leaves, flowers and roots into different colours. Use one pile at a time. Squash in an old pan and cover with cold water.

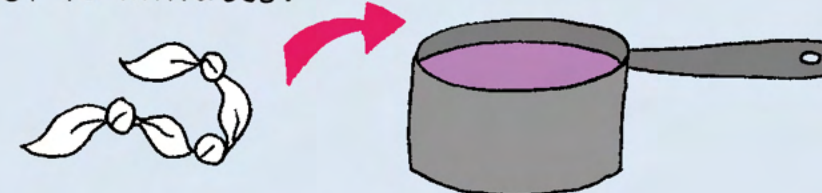


4 Simmer for an hour, stirring often. Remove from the heat, and when it's cooled, use tongs and a sieve to strain out bits of sticks and leaves.

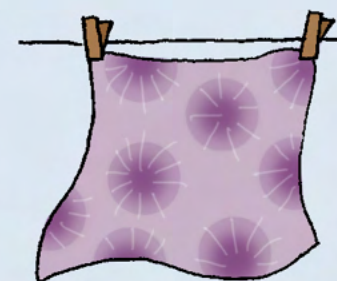


Be careful not to breathe in the fumes

5 Wearing gloves, plunge the fabric into your pan of dye, making sure it's submerged. Soak overnight or put it back on to simmer for 10 minutes.



6 When you're happy with the new colour of your fabric, remove it from the dye. Rinse well, and leave to dry outside.



### Greens and yellows

- red onion skins
- nettles
- grass
- spinach

### Reds, pinks and purples

- elderberries
- rose hips
- blackberries
- sloes

### Browns and oranges

- onion skins
- old tea bags
- turmeric
- soil



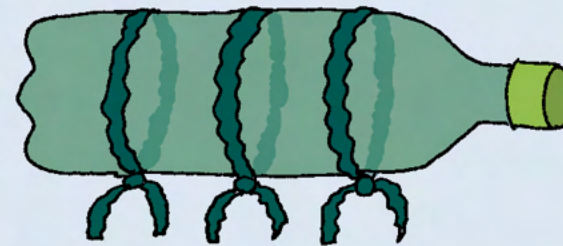
# Make your own glow worm

You will need *Empty, cleaned out and label removed*

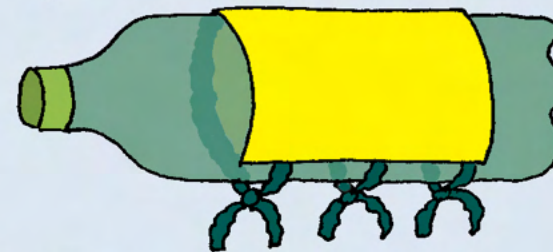
- small green plastic bottle 
- glow stick 
- long, metallic or black pipe cleaner 
- three long green or black pipe cleaners 
- two yellow beads 
- two pieces of card 
- strong glue 
- scissors 
- black paint 
- sheet/old newspapers (to cover your table with) 

Do you love a glow stick? We've got a fab wildlife creation for you to try... it even involves a bit of recycling too!

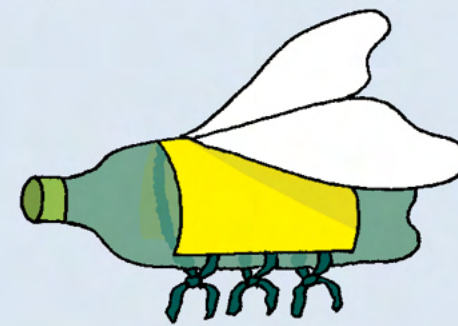
- 1 Twist your three green or black pipe cleaners around the middle of the bottle. Bend them to look like legs.





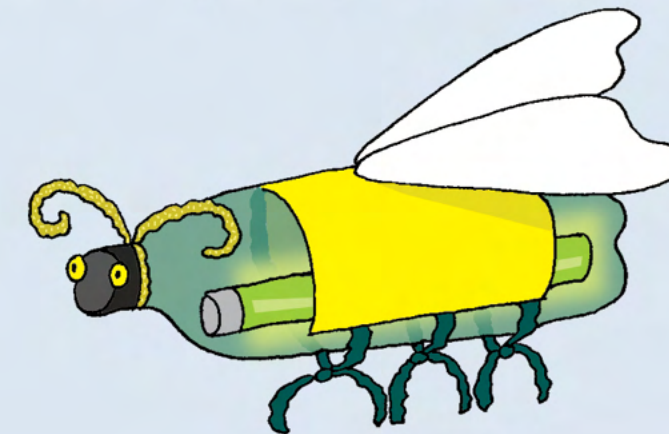
- 2 Wrap a piece of card around the bottle, leaving a space around the legs. Glue the card onto the body.



- 3 Fold the other piece of card in half. Cut out a wing shape. Unfold, then glue the wings on top of the glow worm's body.



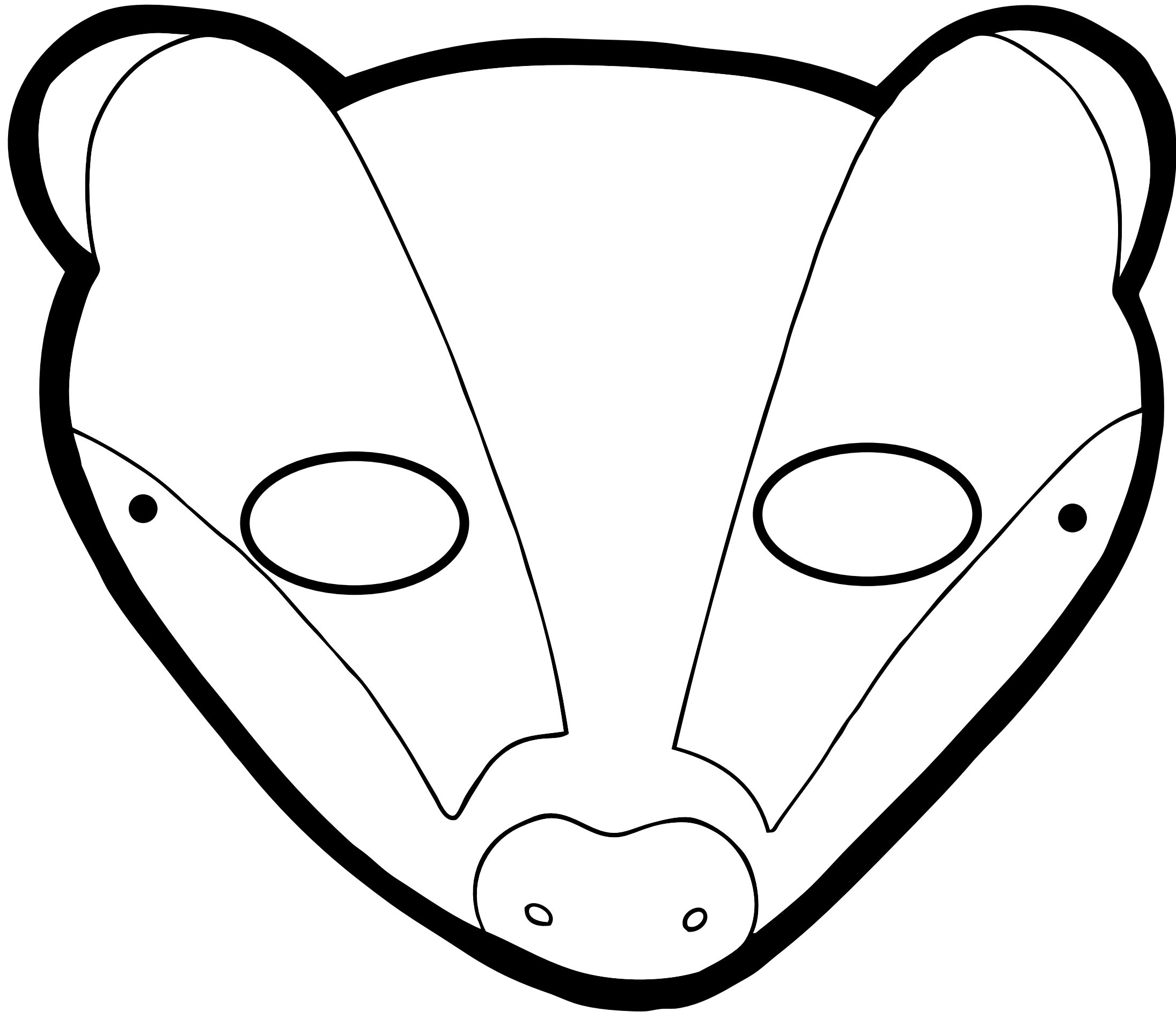
- 4 Paint the bottle cap black. Once dry, screw it back onto the bottle. Glue the two beads to the side of it as eyes. 
- 5 Wrap your metallic pipe cleaner around the neck of the bottle, twisting it into place. Curl up the ends to create the antennae. 
- 6 Remove the lid from your bottle. Activate your glow stick (follow the manufacturer's instructions) and place inside the bottle. Secure your lid and ta-da... you've got yourself a glow worm!



These can be used over again - just pop in a new glow stick!

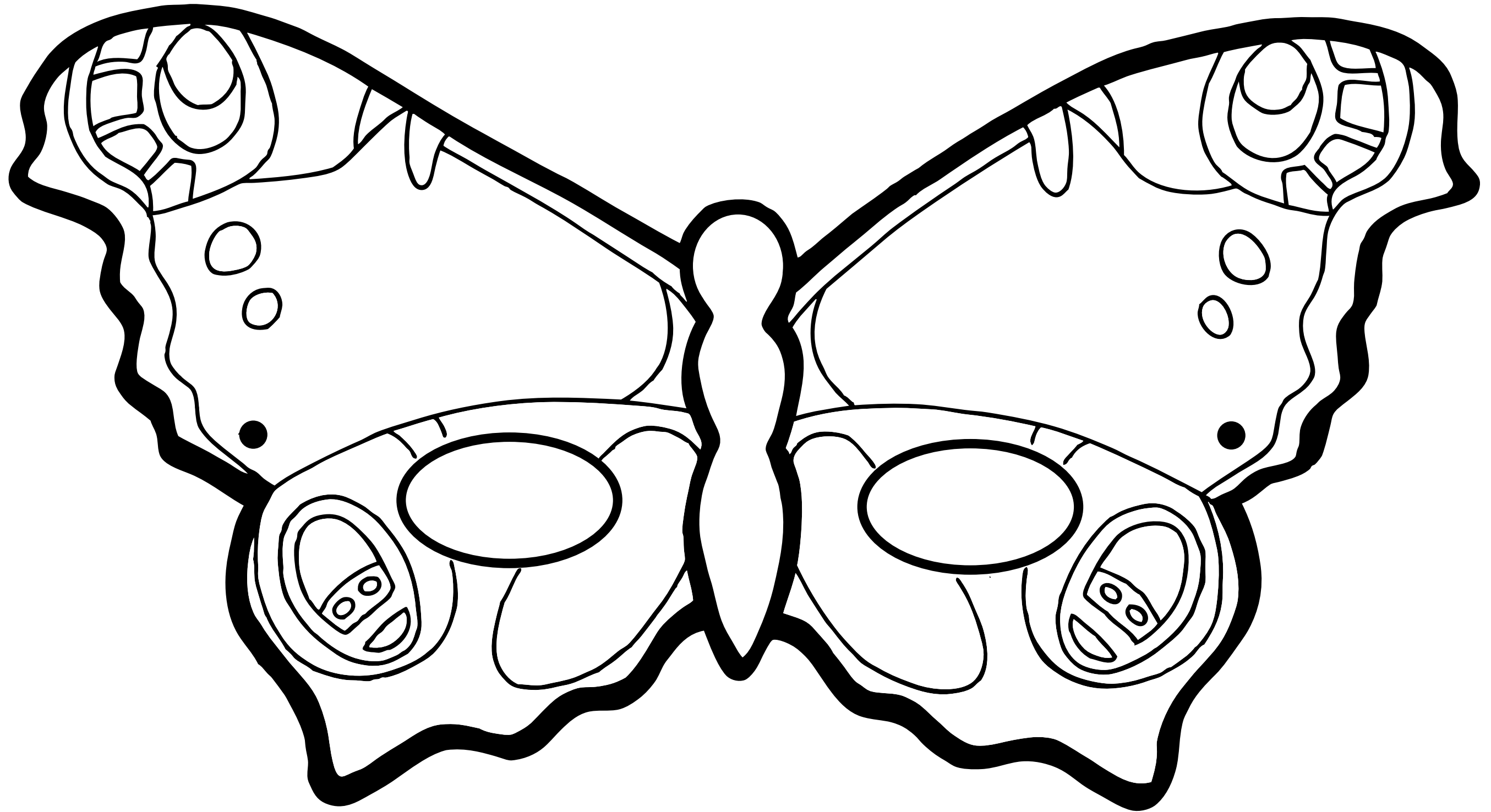


# Badger





# Peacock butterfly



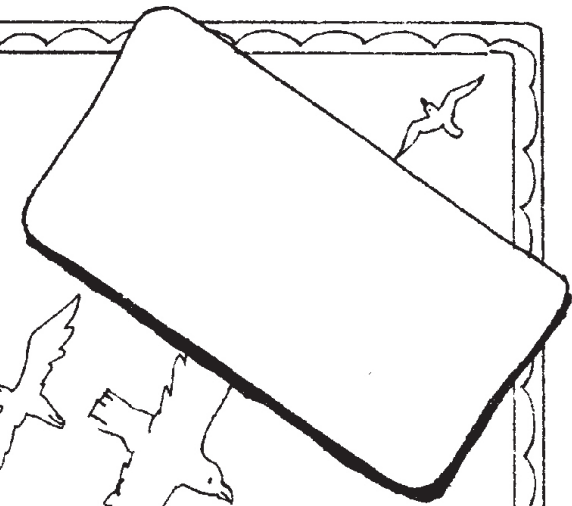
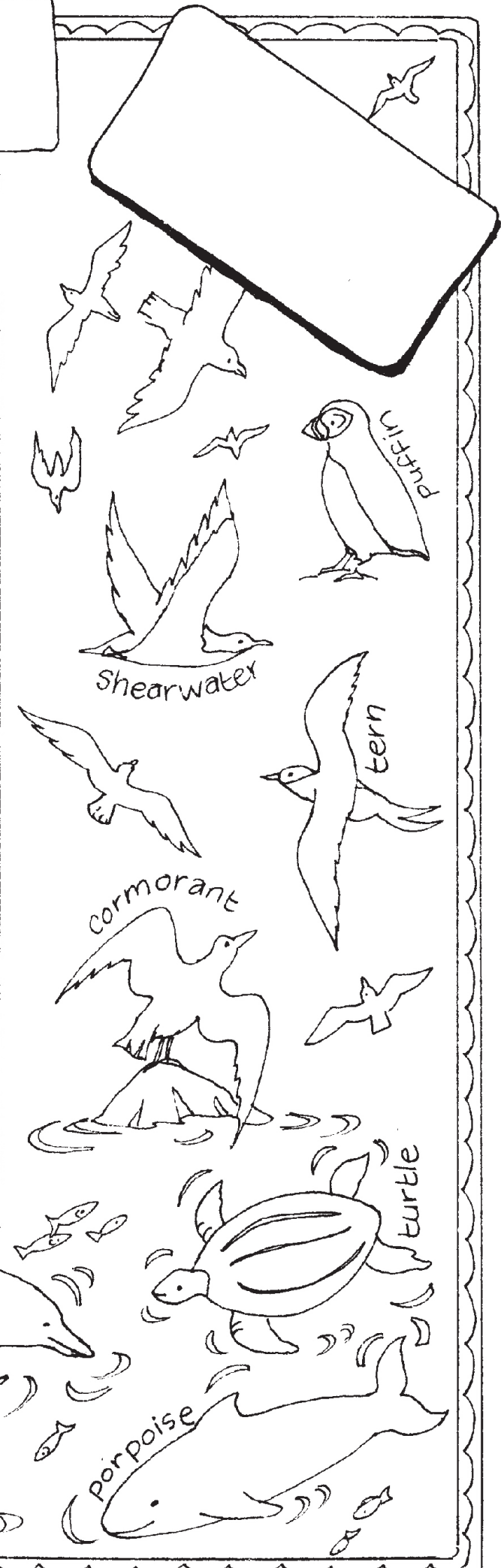
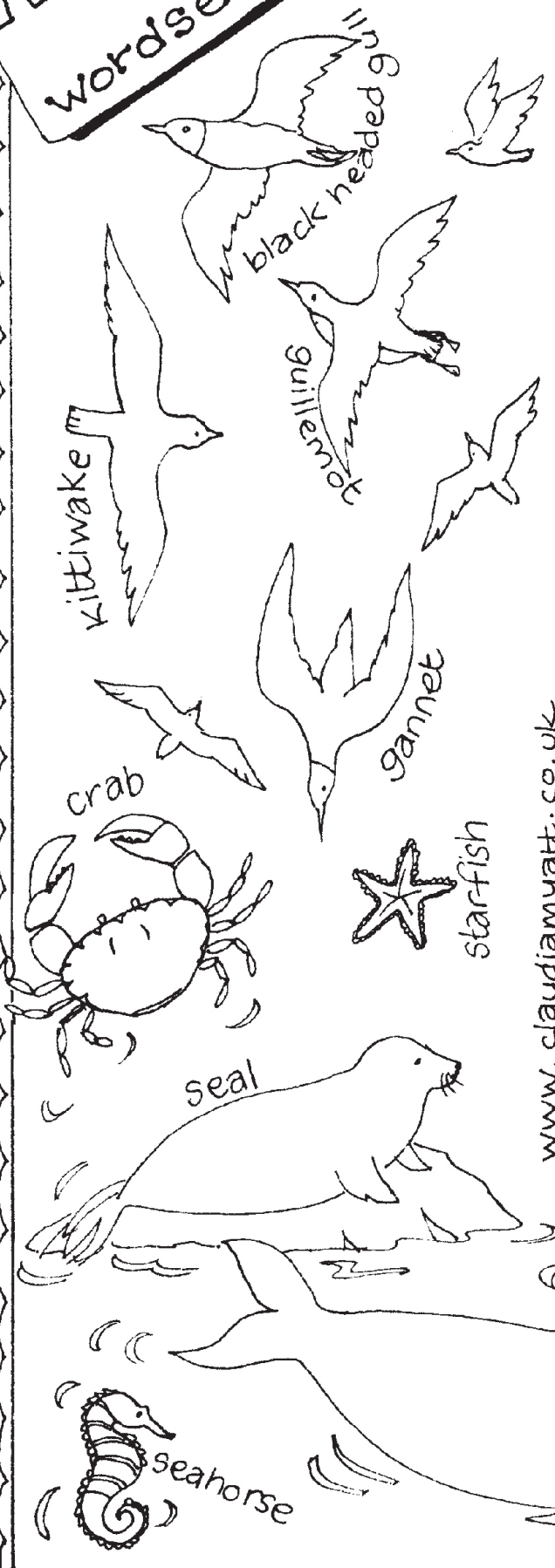


# A WHOLE of a wordsearch

See if you can find all these creatures in the wordsearch - up, down, backwards, forwards or diagonally, they're all in there. Also see how many times you can find the word WATER. Two other words are hiding in there too, something that does a lot of damage to the coast and the sea. Here's a clue: P \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_

Z	R	T	E	G	U	I	L	L	E	M	O	T	S	E	E
P	R	E	T	A	W	D	H	E	A	D	E	D	E	R	P
O	U	R	T	B	A	S	K	I	N	G	S	H	A	R	K
N	D	N	A	A	S	A	F	E	P	U	T	C	L	U	W
I	O	R	W	O	W	E	S	U	L	S	N	O	C	B	A
F	L	O	C	I	T	S	A	L	P	T	A	I	M	B	T
F	P	A	T	Z	L	E	T	L	I	C	R	A	B	I	E
U	H	T	Y	O	G	A	N	N	E	T	O	U	H	S	R
P	I	L	O	T	W	H	A	L	E	S	M	O	T	H	U
K	N	P	P	B	W	O	H	S	I	F	R	A	T	S	S
G	O	W	A	T	E	R	E	T	A	W	O	G	U	L	L
P	O	R	P	O	I	S	E	B	L	A	C	K	L	Q	E
K	C	O	R	A	R	E	T	A	W	R	A	E	H	S	Y

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