

# Wildlife Explorer Pack Spring Edition!



# What's inside?

As spring arrives and the natural world wakes from winter hibernation there is lots to discover and explore. Spring is when days get longer and the warm spring sunshine brings growth and greenery. Birds are singing, leaves are unfolding, butterflies are starting to be seen and mammals are waking from their winter sleep. Spring is a time when everything is growing and bursting into life. It is an exciting time to put your explorer hat on and learn about your local wildlife.

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# Action for Wildlife

Spring is an important time to help our wild friends. Some are waking up from months of hibernation and for many it's the season of starting a family. Providing safe spaces, a stable food source or even just a dish of water can help to keep them safe and well.

## Did you know?

Frogs often close their eyes when they eat. It might look like they're just enjoying a tasty insect, but they're actually using their eyeballs to help them swallow it. Their bulging eyes retract into the head, helping push food down their throat.

To find out more about frogs ,  
head over to page 25





# How to help spring wildlife

Whether you have a garden, a balcony or even a window ledge, there are simple actions that you can take to help wildlife.

Spring is mating season for many species including our feathered friends. There are a few things we can do to help them and their new chicks such as putting up a bird box and providing bird food. But avoid suet and whole peanuts - baby birds cannot digest these properly and it could be dangerous.

Water is important for all wildlife whether its for drinking or bathing. When leaving out water be sure to make sure wildlife can get to it and out of it safely.

Solitary bees are important pollinators and a gardener's friend. Help them by building a bee hotel for your home or garden and watch them buzz happily about their business.

Composting at home can help to reduce waste as well as make a great home for a range of minibeasts as well as creating a delicious food source for hedgehogs and other animals.

Wildlife ponds are great for attracting new wildlife to your garden. It is thought that frogs are now more common in garden ponds than in the countryside. You can build a pond at any time during the year.

Whether it's a flowerpot, flowerbed, wild patch in your lawn or entire meadow, planting wildflowers provides vital resources to support a wide range of insects that couldn't survive in urban areas otherwise.





# How to help spring wildlife

Whether you have a garden, a balcony or even a window ledge, there are simple actions that you can take to help wildlife.

Pots and containers are a great way of introducing wildlife features onto patios, or outside the front door. They are also perfect for small gardens or spaces like window ledges or roofs. Herbs, in particular, make good container plants and attract lots of wildlife.

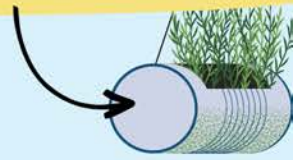
Even a small pond can be home to an interesting range of wildlife, including damsel and dragonflies, frogs and newts. Your pond needn't be big. A washing-up bowl, a large plant pot, or a disused sink could all be repurposed as ponds, providing you make sure creatures can get in and out.

Got a gravel garden? Find out how to make it wildlife friendly by scanning the QR code



Recycle things such as tin cans, plastic bottles and even old boots to create container gardens for wildlife. These can be hung or put on window ledges, balconies and patios.

Bird feeders come in lots of shapes and sizes. Many can be attached to windows and can be hung from most places



Use walls or balconies to make a living wall. These can be good for pollinators and for you if you grow herbs or veggies.



To find out how to make your own living wall scan the QR for a video guide.





# How to build a mini wildlife pond

## You will need:

- a watertight container\*



- old bricks, rocks and pebbles



- pond plants



- spade

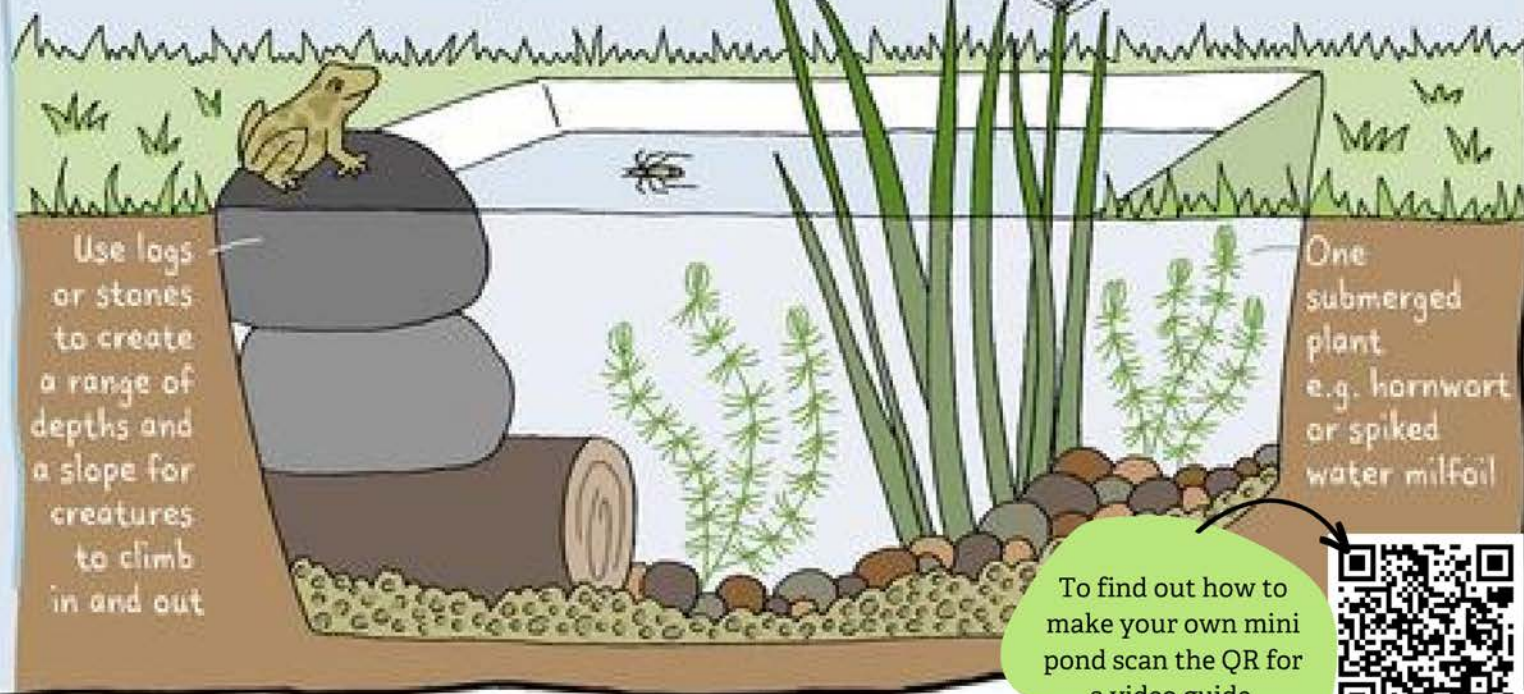


\* Is there anything that you can upcycle? It could be an old washing-up bowl, sink or even a plant pot. Aim for 20-30cm deep.

- 1 Choose a spot. Your pond will need light, but not full sunlight all day. You can dig a hole and sink your container, or just have it sitting on top.
- 2 If the container isn't watertight, e.g. an old plant pot, then add a piece of pond liner.

- 3 Add a layer of gravel and rocks.
- 4 Fill your pond with rainwater (tap water contains chemicals).
- 5 Start planting... you only need two or three plants.
- 6 Now watch and wait! Wildlife will come to your pond of its own accord.

One vertical growing plant that reaches out of the water e.g. flowering rush



Use logs or stones to create a range of depths and a slope for creatures to climb in and out

One submerged plant e.g. hornwort or spiked water milfoil

To find out how to make your own mini pond scan the QR for a video guide.





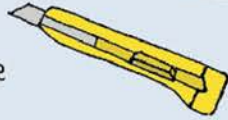
# Make a beetle bucket

## You will need

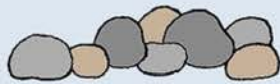
- A bucket, trug, or other durable, upcycled container



- A small craft knife



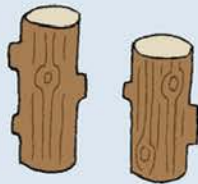
- Stones



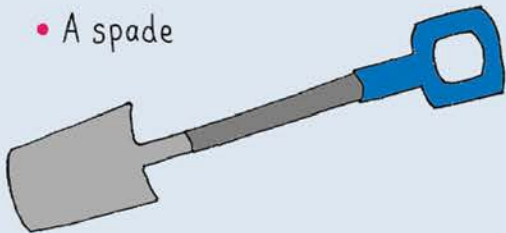
- Bark chips and/or leaves



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



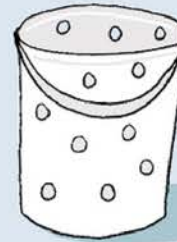
- A spade



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).

Perfect for smaller gardens!

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

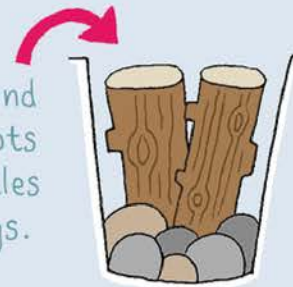


- 2 Dig a hole just larger than your bucket and sink it into the ground.



- 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!



If you'd rather not use plastic, you can simply make your beetle 'bucket' in a hole in the soil.

To find out how to make your own beetle bucket scan the QR for a video guide.





# Build a hibernaculum

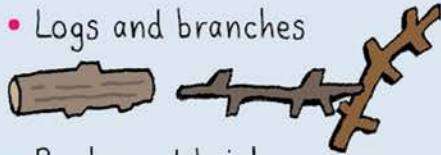
Great for amphibians and reptiles!

## You will need:

- Spade



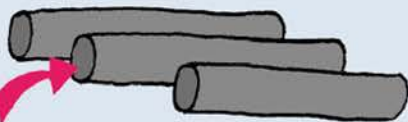
- Logs and branches



- Rocks and bricks

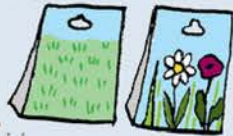


- 2-3 drainpipe off-cuts or cement pipes

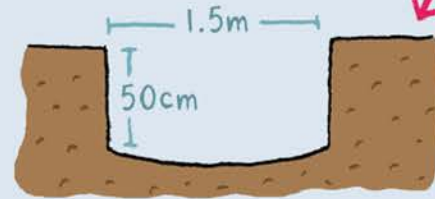


If using plastic drainpipes, roughen the insides with sandpaper so that they are not too slippery for animals to climb

- Turf or meadow flower seeds (optional)



- 1 In a sunny spot, dig a hole about 50cm deep and 1.5 metres across.



Be careful not to build your hibernaculum on free-draining sites or where the soil gets waterlogged

- 2 Fill with logs, branches, bricks and rocks, leaving plenty of gaps in between.



- 3 Insert entrance tubes (drainpipes) at ground level into the pile.



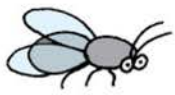
- 4 Cover the pile with soil (to about 50cm high).



- 5 You can plant meadow seeds or turf over the mound.







# How to Make an insect hotel



## the express way!

### What you need:



- hollow plant stems, like bamboo canes



- twigs and sticks



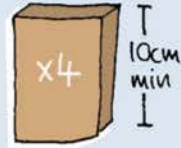
- string

- 1 Collect handfuls of stems, twigs and sticks.
- 2 Tie the bundles quite tightly in two places.
- 3 Post into a hedge/bush or hang in a sheltered place.

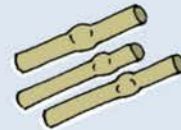


## the deluxe way!

### What you need:



- Small logs or untreated timber



- hollow plant stems, like bamboo canes



- twigs and sticks

### An adult to help with tools:



- woodsaw

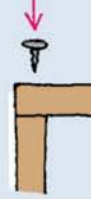
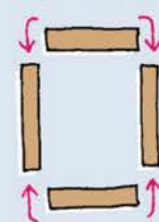


- nails and hammer or screwdriver and wood screws



- drill and 5mm wood bit

- 1 Make a wooden frame, fixing the wood with screws or nails.
- 2 Fill the frame with stems, twigs and sticks.
- 3 Fix a wire loop to the back of the frame and hang somewhere sheltered.





# 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.

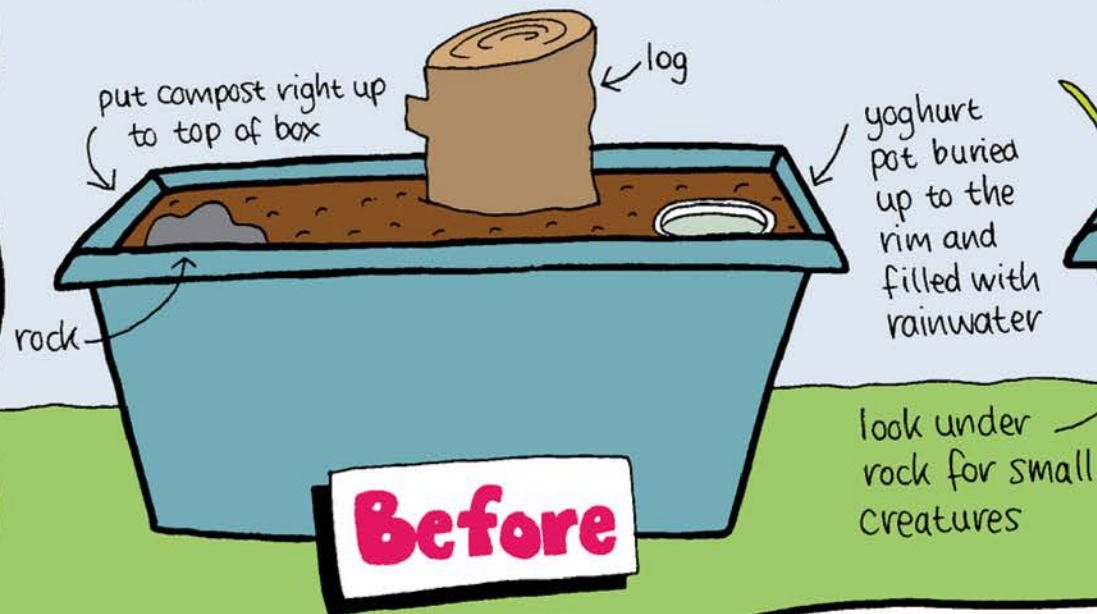
## 5 Leave!

## 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.





# How to clean bird feeders

## You will need

- Rubber gloves
- Cold/warm water
- Veterinary disinfectant

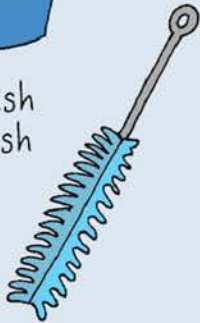


Only use disinfectant suitable for use with animals. A good version is available from [vinehouse farm.co.uk](http://vinehousefarm.co.uk)

- Bucket



- Bird feeder brush or a bottle brush



Make sure you clean your feeders outside – don't bring them inside!

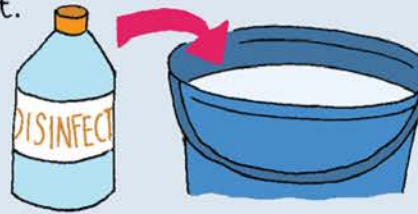
- 1 Empty all food in the feeder into an outside bin.



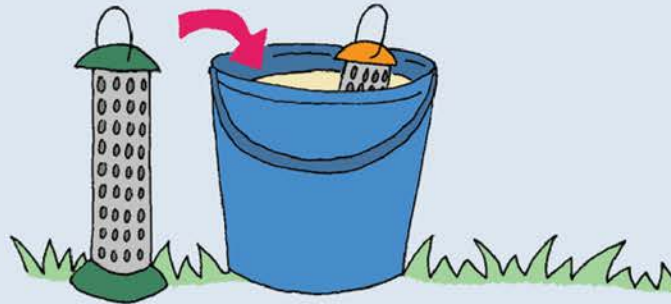
Always wear gloves!

Ideally clean every two weeks

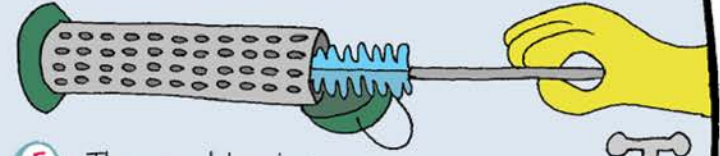
- 2 Following instructions on the bottle, mix the disinfectant with cold/warm water to make up a cleaning solution in the bucket.



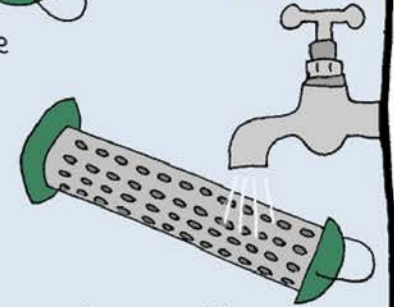
- 3 Soak your feeders in the bucket of cleaning solution.



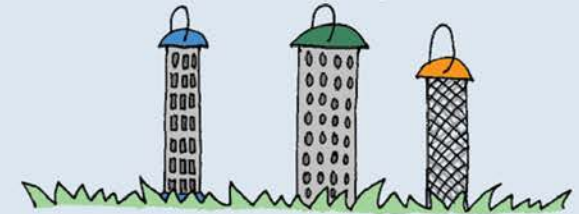
- 4 Use the brush to scrub the feeders until clean.



- 5 Thoroughly rinse in cold water (preferably from an outside tap).



- 6 Leave the feeders to dry outside.



- 7 Wash your hands and forearms after removing your gloves.





# 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.



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.

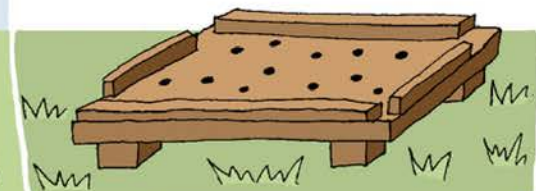
Move the area where you put food down each day to prevent diseases building up.



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.



\* Remember to avoid bird food with suet and whole peanuts in it during spring time. Baby birds cannot digest these properly and it could be dangerous.



# Make your own nectar bar

 No matter how big or small your space, there's lots you can do to help our insects!

## Window box nectar bar

- 1 You'll need a window box (or two if you've got space) with drainage holes.



- 2 Use peat-free compost in your window box.



- 3 Stock up on pollinator friendly plants that are suitable for window boxes. Choose from...



Lavender



Thyme



Sage



Early crocus



Agrimony



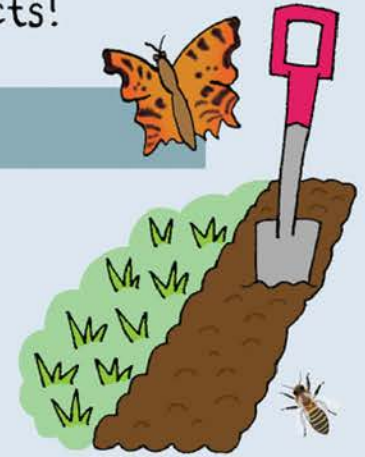
Rosemary

- 4 Water regularly over spring and summer!



## A garden border

- 1 Identify a strip of your garden border that you can keep just for pollinators.



- 2 Dig up any old roots to prepare your border.

- 3 Choose your pollinator friendly plants. We recommend:

Back of border



Foxglove



Vipers bugloss



Buddleia



Borage

Front of border



Oxeye daisy



Yarrow



Cowslip



Hellebore

- 4 If you have a fence, wall or tree stump grow ivy and honeysuckle against it! Ivy flowers in autumn so is a great source of nectar later in the year.



To find out how to make your own nectar bar scan the QR for a video guide.





# Grow a bee and butterfly garden

Provide for bees and butterflies all year round by planting shrubs and plants that flower at different times.

## Spring



Primrose



Garlic mustard



Sweet rocket



Aubretia



Honesty

## Summer



Honeysuckle



Lavender



Red valerian



Hebe



Yarrow

## Autumn



Ivy



Hyssop



Ice plant



Sweet  
scabious



Michaelmas  
daisy

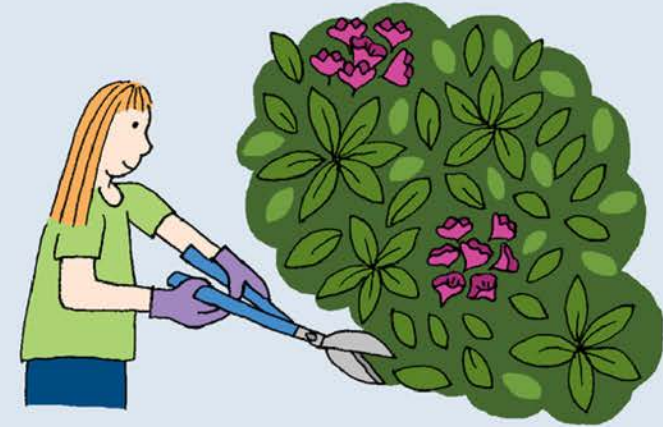


# Workout with nature

Rather than going to the gym for some exercise, volunteer for a couple of hours on a local nature reserve or within your community. It's sociable and fun, and you'll burn those calories off too!



Litter picking



Cutting back Rhododendron



Helping others enjoy nature



Sow a wildflower meadow



Conduct a plant survey



# 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)



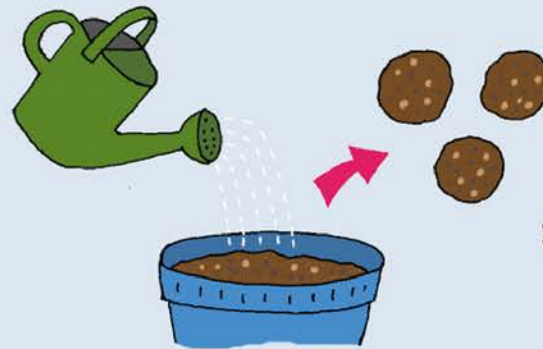
- Mixing bowl



- 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 a bat box

## You will need

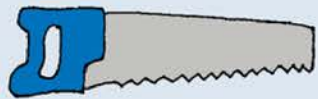
- an adult to help you
- untreated, rough-sawn timber



- tape measure and pencil



- saw

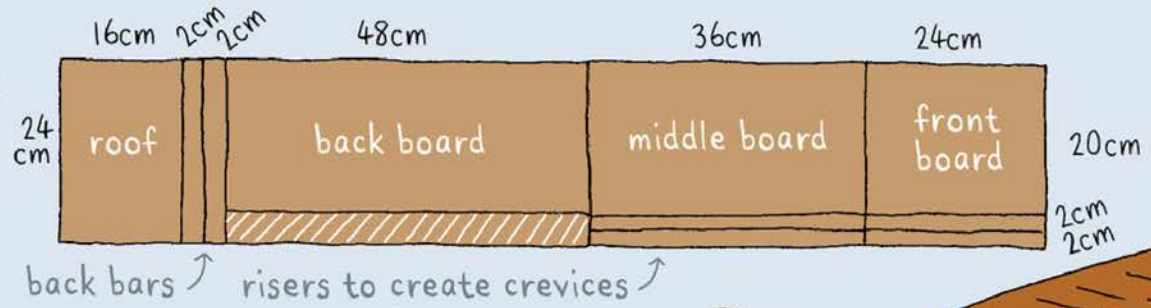
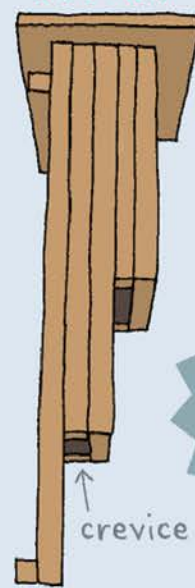


- hammer and nails



Do not use wood stain or preservative on your box

### SIDE VIEW



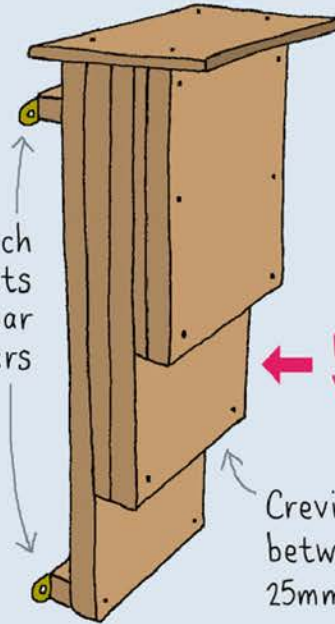
Rainproof and free from draughts!

### VIEW LOOKING UP FROM BASE



Attach brackets to bar bars

### FRONT VIEW



Clear line of flight

Fix as high as possible in a sheltered, wind-free position, exposed to the sun for part of the day.

To find out more about bats scan the QR code



It is illegal to disturb bats without a license - do not inspect boxes if you think bats are using them. Look for droppings below to check for occupancy.



# Wildlife Discovery

Just stepping outside your front door can be a wild adventure, how many new tree buds can you spot or what birds can you hear? Use the pages in this section to help you to understand how the natural world changes and awakens in spring, whilst using it to get you out exploring.

## Did you know?

When visiting a flower bumblebees leave stinky footprints behind. Then other bees can use that to tell who has visited the flower before them.

Use our bee spotter sheet on  
page 32



# SPRING STUFF WALLCHART

RECORD  
SPRING  
THINGS IN  
THE  
COUNTDOWN  
TO SUMMER

MARCH/APRIL



Toad



MARCH/APRIL



Brimstone butterfly



APRIL



Daffodil



APRIL



Grass snake



APRIL



Ladybird



MARCH/APRIL



Swallow



MARCH/APRIL



Brown hare



APRIL



Nesting bird



APRIL



Chiffchaff



APRIL



Bluebells



APRIL



Orange-tip butterfly



APRIL



Cuckoo



APRIL



Common blue damselfly



MAY



Hawthorn blossom



MAY



Swift



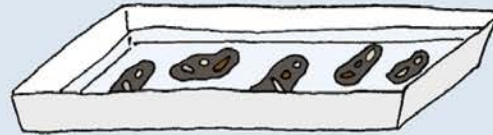


# How to dissect owl pellets

## You will need:

- Tray 
- Owl pellets (these can often be found on the ground under owl roosts). 
- Tweezers or cocktail sticks 
- Magnifying lens 
- Kitchen roll 
- Water 
- Laundry bleach 
- Black paper 

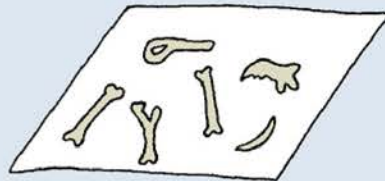
1 Fill up your tray a third high with water. Soak the owl pellets in the water for 10-15 minutes.



2 Gently tease the pellet apart with tweezers, and look for small animal bones.



3 Separate out bones and put them on kitchen roll to dry.

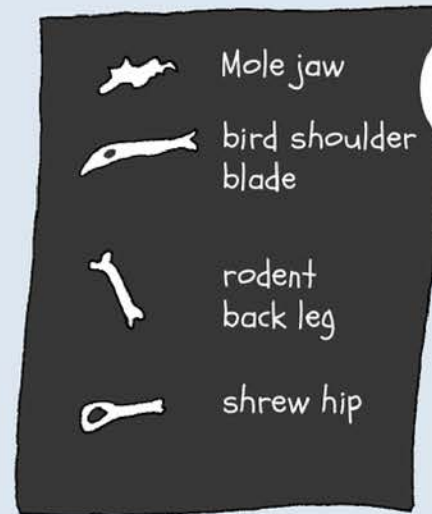


4 To whiten them, soak the bones in 150ml of laundry bleach for an hour.

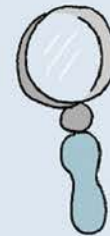


Ask an adult to help you with this bit.

5 Lay them out on black paper and use your magnifying glass to take a closer look at what animals the owl has eaten.



Wash your hands after you've finished



To find out more about dissecting owl pellets scan the QR for a video guide.





# How to do wildlife yoga

## You will need

- Some indoor or outdoor space
- A yoga mat (ideally)

## What to do

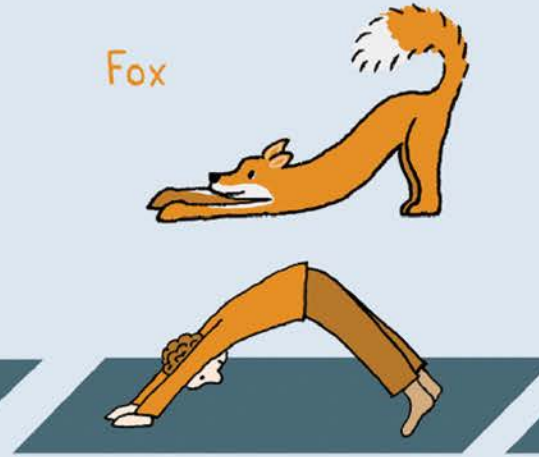
You can make your yoga session a bit more 'wild' by trying out some of our wildlife poses!

Make sure to warm up and stretch properly when starting yoga, and always be careful to give yourself plenty of space.

Butterfly



Fox



Pine marten



Frog



Snail



Starfish



Heron



Adder



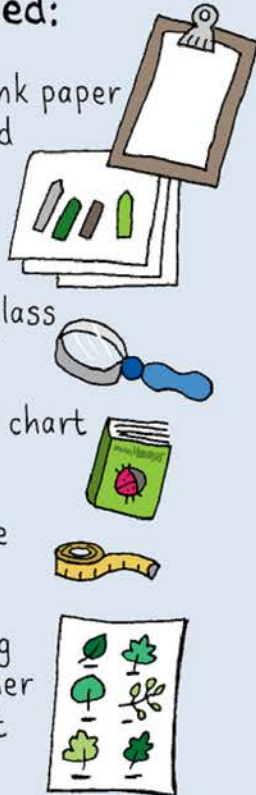


# My street tree

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.

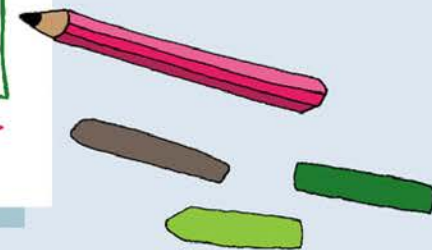
DATE: 17 June 2018

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

MINIBEASTS:

- 1 green caterpillar
- 2 woodlice
- 2 ladybirds
- lots of aphids
- 2 spiders

VERDICT: I think my tree is healthy





Nature is full of great opportunities in turning natural objects into musical instruments...

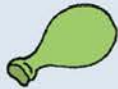
## Maracas

### You will need

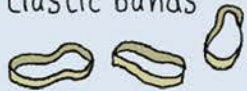
- An empty, clean tin can (with the label removed)



- A balloon



- Elastic bands



- A handful of seeds, rice, lentils, nuts or small stones



- 1 Put your loose materials into your tin can.

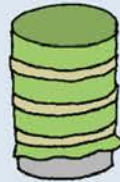


- 2 Stretch the balloon over the open end of the tin.



Be careful of sharp edges.

- 3 Once in place, secure it with elastic bands.



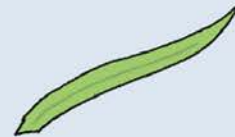
- 4 Give it go - shake your maraca!



## Grass whistle

### You will need

- A wide blade of grass



- Your two thumbs



- 1 Hold the grass taut between your thumbs.



- 2 Blow into the gap between your thumbs until you hear a whistle.

If you don't hear anything at first, try re-positioning the grass between your thumbs. Don't worry - it can take a bit of practice!



To find out how to make your own nature's music scan the QR for a video guide.





# Amazing amphibians

## Common Frog



Cuy Edwardes/2020VISION

Common frogs are amphibians, breeding in ponds during the spring and spending much of the rest of the year feeding in woodland, gardens, hedgerows and tussocky grassland. They are familiar inhabitants of garden ponds, where they lay their eggs in big 'rafts' of spawn.

Frogs and toads undergo an incredible transformation called 'metamorphosis' as they grow up. From jelly-like eggs laid in bodies of water, they then grow into tadpoles, and finally grow legs allowing them to live on land!



**Do you want to help frogs  
in your garden?**

Scan the QR code to find out how to make a mini pond.





# Stars of the night

Spending moonlight hours in the garden can bring exciting encounters with some of our best-looking pollinators. Start by luring in some interesting species!

## Moonlight moths

Experiment with different styles of moth trap and you'll be amazed at the hidden beauties that shelter in your garden. Turn to the next page to find out how to make your own as well as how to identify them.

## Brilliant bats

Spring can be a great time to spot bats as they tend to be emerging from hibernation. The best time to spot them is early in the evening, just as it starts to get dark, and can often be seen flying in a straight line high overhead, with sudden swoops to catch an insect.

## Nocturnal wildlife watching



Lots of our favourite wildlife species are more active at night time and spring can be a good time to spot them as they may be coming out of hibernation or more active down to mating season. Whether in a garden, balcony or local park, take 30 minutes to relax under the stars with a hot chocolate and see what wildlife comes to visit. Use our night time detective sheet on page... to see what you've discovered.



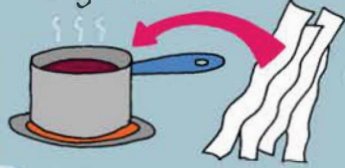


## Wine Ropes

### What you need:

- bottle of cheap red wine 
- 1kg sugar
- Saucepan 
- some one metre lengths of cloth
- an adult to help

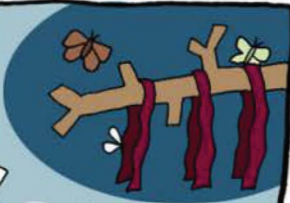
1 Mix wine and sugar together... heat until sugar is dissolved.



2 Soak lengths of cloth in the cooled liquid.

3 Hang the strips over tree branches.

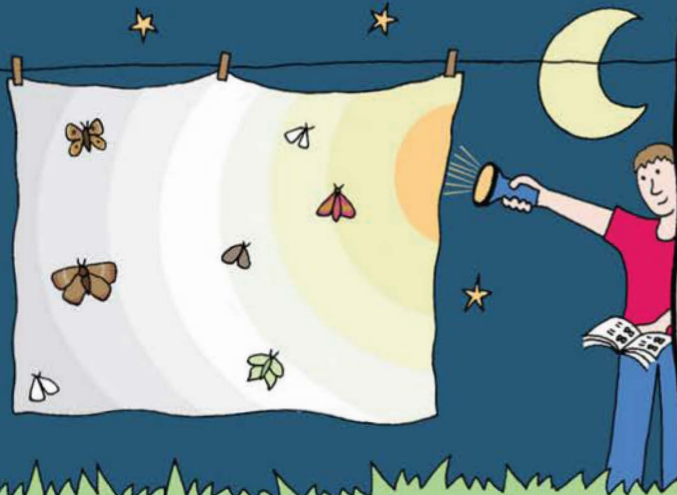
4 Leave for two hours and check after dark.



## Light trap

### What you need:

- white sheet
- washing line
- pegs 
- bright lamp or torches



1 Peg your sheet on a washing line or over a branch.

3 Shine your torch/light onto the sheet... wait patiently.

2 Turn off nearby lights.

4 ID the moths that gather.

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2016

# What moths did you discover?

Use the spotter sheet on page 26 to help you identify and record the moths you spotted below.

To find out how to make your own moth trap scan the QR for a video guide.





# Night time moth detective

 <p>© Amy Lewis</p>	 <p>© Donald Sutherland</p>		 <p>© Amy Lewis</p>	 <p>© Tom Hibbert</p>
Privet hawkmoth <input type="checkbox"/>	Elephant Hawkmoth <input type="checkbox"/>	Grey dagger <input type="checkbox"/>	Burnished brass <input type="checkbox"/>	Poplar hawkmoth <input type="checkbox"/>
 <p>© Amy Lewis</p>	 <p>© Tom Hibbert</p>	 <p>© Margaret Holland</p>	 <p>© Amy Lewis</p>	 <p>© Amy Lewis</p>
Herald moth <input type="checkbox"/>	Blood-vein <input type="checkbox"/>	Lime hawkmoth <input type="checkbox"/>	Straw underwing <input type="checkbox"/>	Angle shades <input type="checkbox"/>



# The Dawn Chorus

Taking place on the first Sunday of May, International Dawn Chorus Day is the worldwide celebration of nature's greatest symphony. All across the world people rise early to listen to the sound of birdsong. And remember you don't have to head out to a nature reserve, you can always just open your window - and listen...



## Set your alarm

Be sure to check the time that the sun will rise the day before. Some of the first singers tend to start an hour before sunrise so be sure to give yourself plenty of time.



## Step outside and listen

Whether it's outside your door, in the garden or a local park, take time out to listen for nocturnal wildlife like owls, foxes and even deer. Tawny owls call more in winter than at other times of year. Listen for the familiar 'twit-twoo'.



## Grab binoculars if you have them

or just look with your eyes and notice the detail of the



## Who can you hear?

Whose song can you hear? who can you see? With so many birds singing it may be tricky to know who is who, check out page 28 to help.



# Who can you hear?

Take this checklist outside with you to help get you started.  
If you hear or spot other birds use this space to write them  
down or maybe even draw them.

Blackbird



Blackcap



House sparrow



Robin



Song thrush



Wren



Great tit



Dunnock



Tawny owl



To help you identify different birds  
by their song scan the QR code





# Garden bird detective



Chaffinch



Greenfinch



House sparrow



Blackbird



Blue tit



Goldfinch



Great tit



Collared dove



Starling



Wood pigeon





# Ladybird facts

We may notice more ladybirds appearing during spring time but what do you know about our most famous insect species?

There are **5000** species of ladybirds worldwide.  
With **47 species** of ladybird in the UK.



Ladybirds are considered to be bringers of Good Luck.



A ladybird is actually a **beetle**.

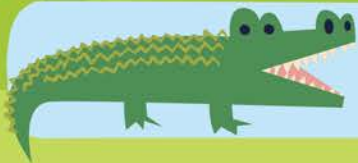
The number of spots on a ladybird helps to indicate the species and not the ladybirds age.



Ladybirds play dead to fool predators.



Ladybird larvae resemble tiny alligators with elongated bodies and bumpy skin.



Use the ladybird spotter sheet on the next page to see how many you can find



# Ladybird detective



7-spot ladybird



2-spot ladybird



14-spot ladybird



Harlequin ladybird



22-spot ladybird



Pine ladybird



Orange ladybird



Cream-spot ladybird



Kidney-spot ladybird



Eyed ladybird





# Bee identification

All bumblebees shown are worker bees



14-17mm

Buff-tailed bumblebee



12-18mm

Willoughby's leafcutter bee



11mm

Red mason bee



10-16mm

Tree bumblebee



12-18mm

White-tailed bumblebee



13-14mm

Red-tailed bumblebee



10mm

Tawny mining bee



13mm

Common carder bee



13mm

Wool carder bee



14-15mm

Hairy footed flower bee



# Spring nature treasure hunt

Go on a nature treasure hunt! How many of these things can you find on the ground?



Leaf



Pebbles



Grass



Feather



Hazel catkin



Moss



Twig



Blossom



Bark



Empty shell

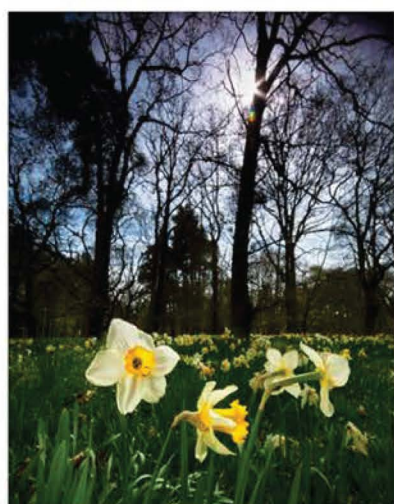




# Spring flower spotter



Snowdrop



Daffodil



Wood-sorrel



Winter aconite



Wood anemone



Bluebell



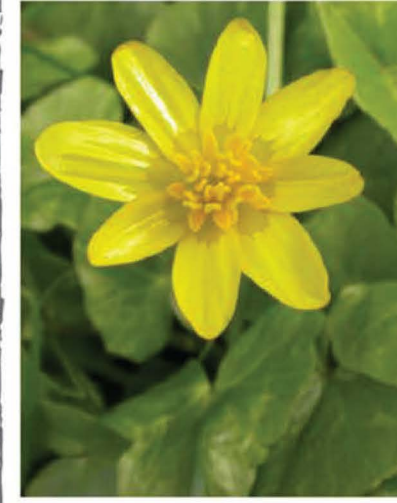
Primrose



Wild garlic (ramsons)



Cowslip



Lesser celandine





# River bird spotter



Grey heron



Moorhen



Mallard



Kingfisher



Mute swan



Dipper



Grey wagtail



Coot



Great-crested grebe



Little egret





# Garden minibeasts



Spider



Earthworm



Wasp



Ladybird



Snail



Butterfly



Earwig



Bumblebee



Shieldbug



Hoverfly



# Arts and Crafts

Connecting with your local wildlife doesn't just have to be by taking action it can be exploring nature through your senses and using this to get crafty!

With colorful flowers in bloom, birds chirping and busy bees buzzing, spring is inspiring so why not use that inspiration to pick up a paint brush, start a seasonal nature diary and get creative with nature.

## Did you know?

In late April and early May bluebells are usually at their best so make sure you don't miss this amazing Spring spectacle. A carpet of bluebells transforms woodlands into a place of magic and wonder.

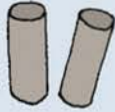
Why not try drawing the spring flowers you spot and making your own nature diary?



# Make your own binoculars

## You will need

- Two cardboard tubes (you can use toilet roll tubes)



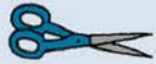
- String



- Paper



- Scissors



- Glue



- Rubber band



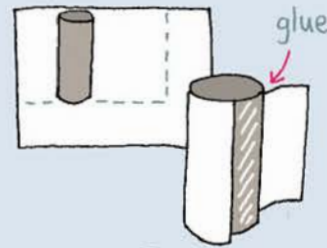
- Hole puncher or pen



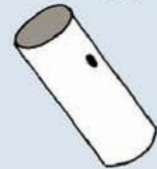
- Felt tip pens (optional)



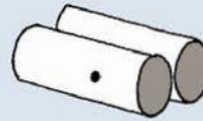
- 1 Cut your paper to size, then cover your tubes with glue and wrap the paper around them.



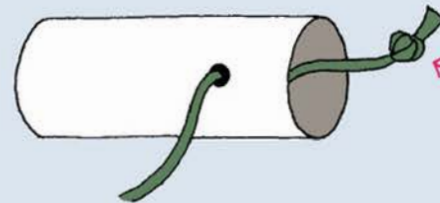
- 2 Using a pen or hole puncher, insert a hole at the side of each tube, about a third of the way down.



- 3 Glue the two tubes together so that the holes are facing the outside.

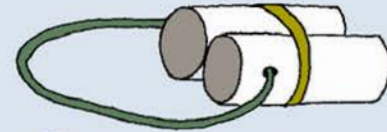


- 4 Insert string into one of the holes from the outside of the tube. Bring it through the tube and tie a chunky knot. Gently pull the string back from the outside. Repeat on the other side.

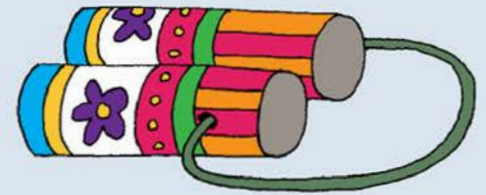


The knot will stop the string coming back through the hole.

- 5 Place a rubber band around the tubes to help the glue set. Leave to dry over night.



- 6 Remove the elastic band and then decorate them with pens!



- 7 Go wildlife detecting!



To find out how to make your own binoculars scan the QR for a video guide.





# Make a butterfly painting

## You will need

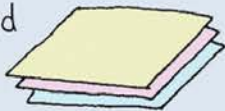
- Water-based paints



- Brushes



- Pastel coloured sugar paper



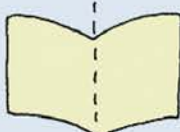
- Marker pen



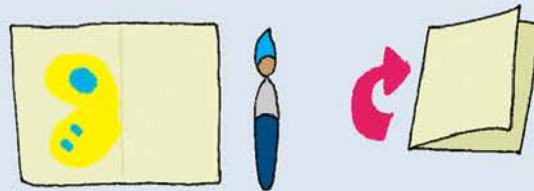
- Plenty of newspaper (to cover tables!)



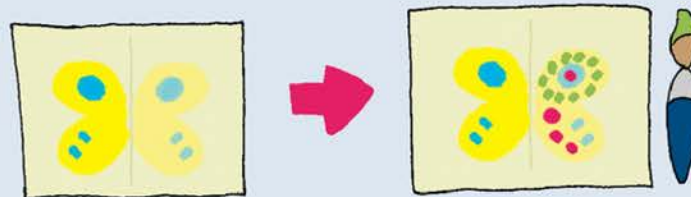
- 1 Fold a piece of sugar paper in half, side to side, and open it out.



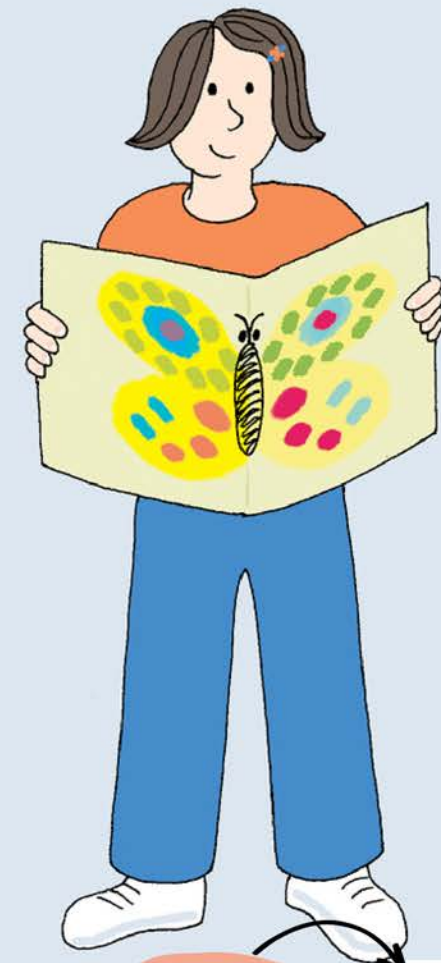
- 2 Paint the shape of butterfly wings on one half. Fold the paper over again and press it down.



- 3 Open out the paper and add more colours to one side. Refold and press.



- 4 When the butterfly wings are dry, add a body and antennae with a marker pen.



To find out how to make your own butterfly scan the QR for a video guide.





# How to make nettle soup

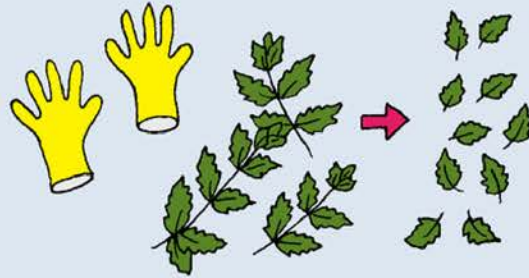
Get your gloves on to forage for nettles  
- once cooked they taste a bit like spinach. Mmm!

You will need

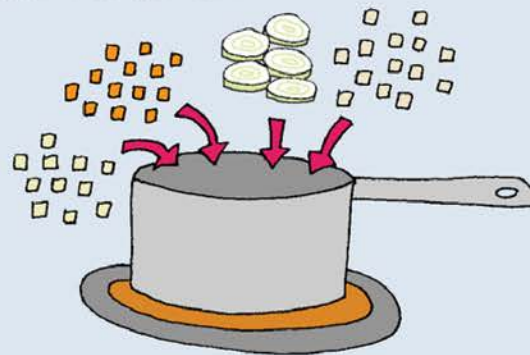
- Rubber gloves
- 400g stinging nettles
- 1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for drizzling
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 leek, finely sliced
- 1 large floury potato, thinly sliced
- 1 litre vegetable stock
- 50g butter, diced
- 50ml double cream
- Large pan
- Wooden spoon
- Blender



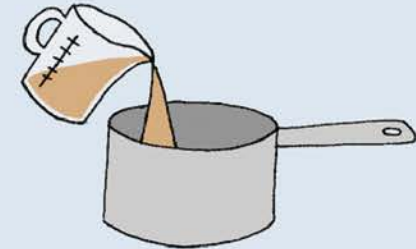
1 Wearing your rubber gloves, wash the nettles, then pick the leaves off the stalks.



2 Heat the oil in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onion, carrot, leek and potato, and cook for 10 minutes until the vegetables start to soften.



3 Add the stock and cook for a further 10-15 minutes until the potato is soft.



4 Add the nettle leaves, simmer for one minute to wilt, then blend the soup.



5 Season to taste, then stir in the butter and cream. Serve the soup drizzled with extra oil.



To find out how to make your own nettle soup scan the QR for a video guide.





# Make a model butterfly

## You will need

• wire

• wool

• paper

• pencil

• paintbrushes

• coloured paints or felt tip pens

• scissors

• glue



- 1 Bend the wire into the shape of the butterfly's body and legs.

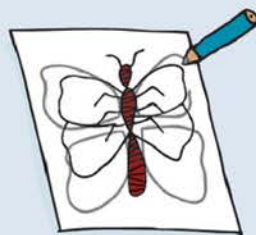


Bend another wire into the shape of wings and attach these to the body.

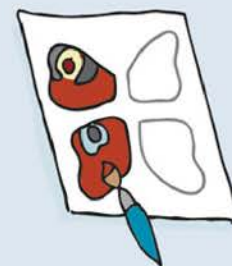
- 2 Wrap wool around the body to make it solid, and stitch in the ends.



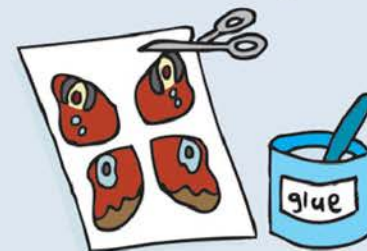
- 3 Trace the outline of the wings onto tracing paper, but make them a bit bigger.



- 4 Colour them using felt tip pens or paint.



- 5 Cut out the wings and attach to the frames with glue.



- 6 Attach a thread to your butterfly to hang it up.



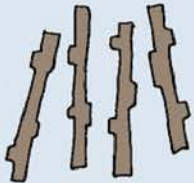
Make a butterfly mobile or add them to a mural of a flowering meadow!



# Nature weaving

## You will need

- 4 equally sized, strong sticks



- Lots of string or wool



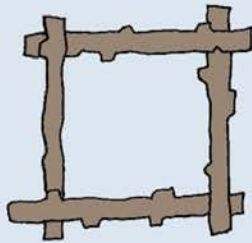
- Natural objects (twigs, leaves, grass, bark, feathers, lavender)



- Scissors



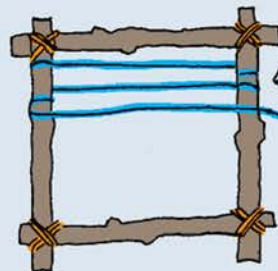
- 1 Arrange your sticks into a square.



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

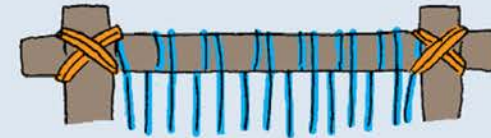


- 3 Tie a piece of wool around one of the corners and begin wrapping it around the loom.

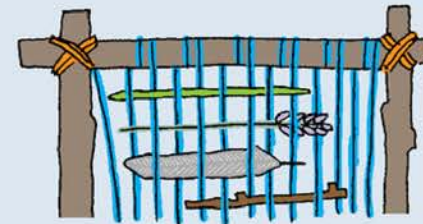


Wrapping it around twice will help keep the string taut and stop it from sliding off the sticks.

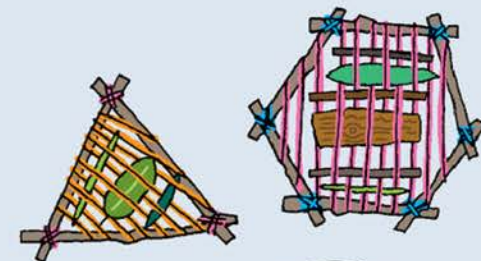
- 4 Once the loom is full, tie the wool to the corner to secure in place.



- 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?



To find out how to nature weave scan the QR for a video guide.





# Make your own glow worm

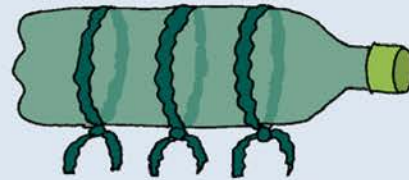
## You will need

- 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) 

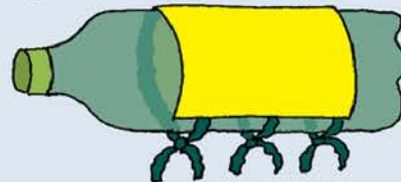
Empty, cleaned out and label removed

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!

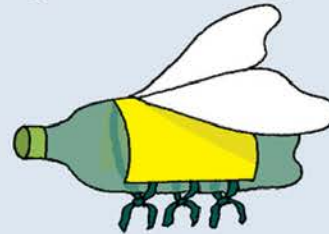
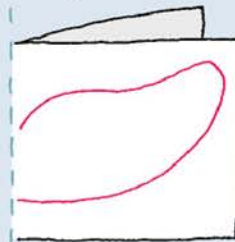
- 1 Twist your three green or black pipe cleaners around the middle of the bottle. Bend them to look like legs.



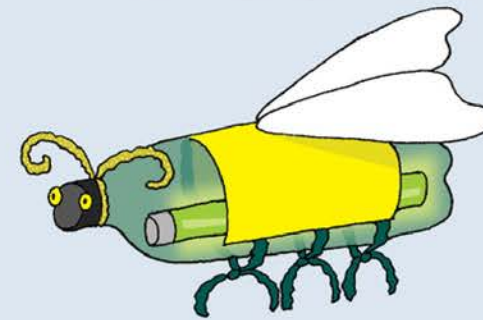
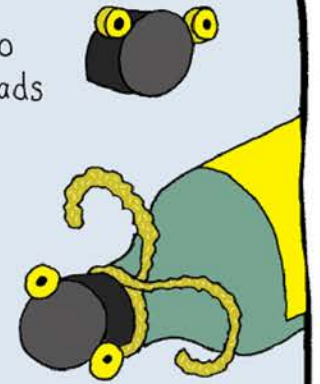
- 2 Wrap a piece of card around the bottle, leaving a space around the legs. Glue the card onto the body.



- 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!

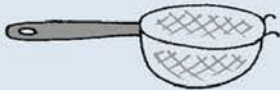
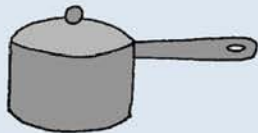


# Make your own dandelion tea

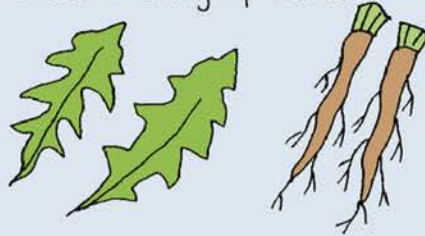
To be made  
between March  
and mid-May

## You will need:

- A helpful adult
- Basket (for collecting your wild ingredients)
- Gardening gloves (to protect your hands from stinging nettles)
- Knife
- Saucepan
- Water
- Sieve



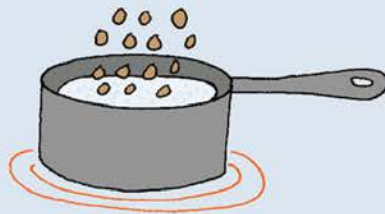
- 1 Pick light green dandelion leaves (not the dark older ones) and dig up roots.



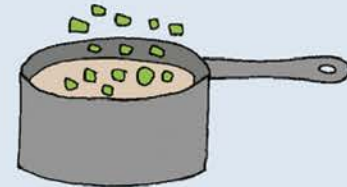
- 2 Wash and chop all dandelion leaves and roots (keep them separate).



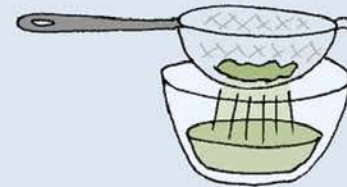
- 3 Bring one litre of water to the boil, reduce the heat and add two tablespoons of chopped dandelion root. Cover the pan and simmer for one minute.



- 4 Remove from the heat and add two tablespoons of chopped dandelion leaves. Allow the leaves to soak in the liquid for 40 minutes.



- 5 Using a sieve, strain the roots and leaves from the liquid.



- 6 Enjoy your healthy cup of wild dandelion tea!





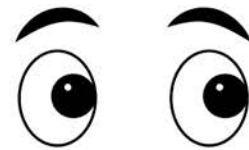
# My Wild... ➤ March ➤

What was your favourite wild moment in nature this month?

What did you see this month that made you feel a sense of amazement?

What did you learn this month?

Draw a picture of your favourite wildlife from this month





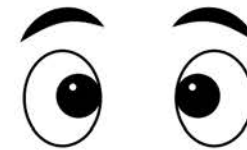
# My Wild... ⇒ April ⇐

What was your favourite wild moment in nature this month?

What did you see this month that made you feel a sense of amazement?

What did you learn this month?

Draw a picture of your favourite wildlife from this month





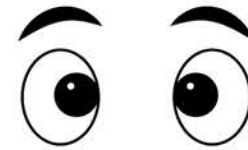
# My Wild... ➤ May ✧

What was your favourite wild moment in nature this month?

What did you see this month that made you feel a sense of amazement?

What did you learn this month?

Draw a picture of your favourite wildlife from this month





# Wildlife Discovery

Can you find all 10 Spring words?

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

BLOSSOM  
BLUEBELL  
BUTTERFLY  
DAFFODIL  
EASTER  
EGG  
FLOWER  
NEST  
PRIMROSE  
RABBIT  
SPRING  
TULIP







Can you unscramble all of the words and add colour to the spring creatures?

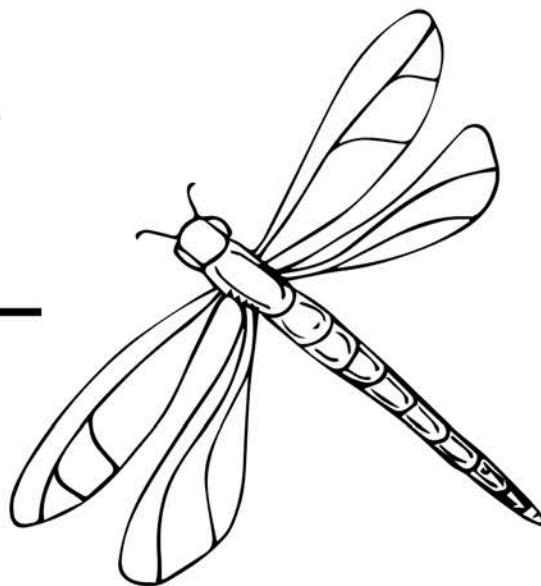
B E B M L E U B E

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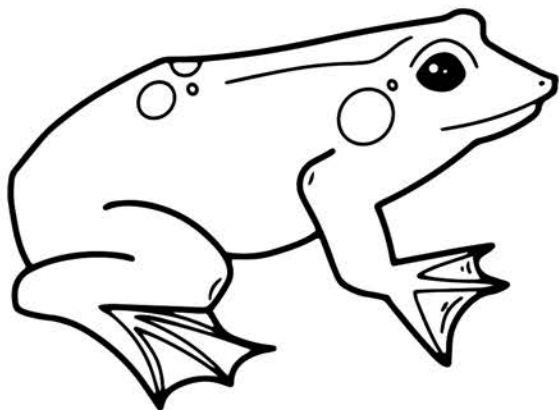
R N F D L G Y O A

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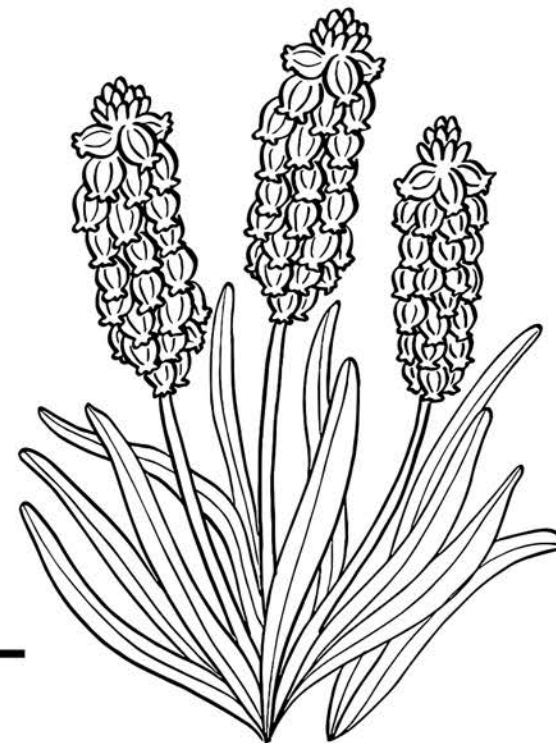
R O F G

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E U L B E L B L

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# Wildlife Explorer Pack Spring Edition!

## Enjoyed our pack?

We'd love to hear your feedback. Simply scan the QR code which will take you to a short questionnaire. This will help us to improve future packs!



Follow us on social media and share your experiences