

BEAVERS

CUBS

Gardening Activities



Scouts
Buckinghamshire



BEAVERS

- Tiny tube trees

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/tiny-tube-trees/>

- Using the right tool

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/use-the-right-tool/>

- In the garden

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/in-the-garden/>

- To grow or not to grow

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/to-grow-or-not-to-grow/>

- Go where it grows

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/go-where-it-grows/>

- Need for seeds

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/need-for-seeds/>



- Pip pip hooray

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/pip-pip-hooray/>

- Use the right tool

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/use-the-right-tool/>

- Salad sprouters

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/salad-sprouters/>

- It's a sprout time

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/its-a-sprout-time/>

- Personalised plat pots

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/personalised-plant-pops/>

- Snug as a bug

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/activities/snug-as-a-bug/>



PLANT UP SOMETHING UNEXPECTED!

Pretty much any container can be used as a planter, as long as there are drainage holes in the base.

Why not try planting some seeds in something you don't use anymore?

It could be anything from an old welly boot to an unused sink or toilet!

Show us yours: @RHSSchools



MAKE YOUR OWN PLANT LABELS



An eco-friendly aide memoire!

Cut a clean plastic tray or milk bottle into strips (make sure the edges are rounded to avoid sharp corners).

Use a pencil to write what you've planted and when you planted it on each label.

Stick your labels in your pots so you know what's what!

Show us yours: @RHSSchools



MAKE A MEASURING STICK



Those bits of wood lying around in the shed can finally be put to use!

Sand the wood to remove splinters or sharp bits.

Use a ruler or tape measure to mark your distances on the wood e.g. 10cm, 20cm and decorate with marker pens.



You can now use your stick to measure the spacing or depth of seeds/plants when planting.

Show us yours: @RHSSchools

STUFF YOUR STOCKINGS!



Holey tights? Give them a new purpose!

Stretch one leg of your chosen stockings/tights over a pot or container.

Drop in a few spoons of grass or cress seed and then stuff with compost, soil or wood shavings.



Tie a knot in the open end, squish into shape and add facial features. Pop in a sunny place in a glass or pot.

Keep watered and watch the hair grow!

Show us yours: @RHSSchools



SNUG AS A BUG!



Clean out used plastic bottles or pots and cut to size.

Tightly roll up pieces of newspaper and stuff them inside.



Place on your balcony or in your garden and see who comes to visit.

Keep it under shelter so the paper doesn't get soggy!

Show us yours: @RHSSchools

NEWSPAPER POTS



No plant pots? No worries!

Fold a sheet of newspaper lengthways and roll it around an empty can or jar to get the shape and size you want.

Crumple one end to form the base.



Fill with compost and pop your seeds or seedlings in.

A much cheaper and more eco-friendly way to start your plants off!

Show us yours: @RHSSchools

MILK BOTTLE

WATERING CAN



Pop some holes into the lid of a clean, empty milk bottle.

Decorate the bottle with markers or paint.

Fill the bottle with water, replace the lid and tadaaa!



The perfect little watering can for your houseplants or garden.

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Seed Viewer

Overview: Simple and inexpensive to make, plant bean seeds in clear plastic cups to allow young gardeners to watch seeds sprout and introduce them to the life cycle of plants.

Materials:

- Clear plastic cups (can be washed and reused)
- Construction paper
- Paper towels
- Dried beans (available in the grocery store soup aisle)
- Water



6. After the roots emerge, the stem and leaves will begin to appear. You can continue to grow your plant as long as you want for observation, however generally seeds that have been sprouted this way do not transplant well out into the garden and they will not be able to go grow to maturity in the cup.

Instructions:

Prep Work: For younger children, cut pieces of construction paper into rectangular strips to fit inside the plastic cups ahead of time.

1. Help kids place a piece of construction paper inside a plastic cup so that it lines the side of the cup.
2. Ball up a few pieces of paper towels and place them inside the construction paper liner until the cup is full.
3. Let them pick out 3 to 4 dried beans (avoid using any beans that are split) and place them in the cup between the side of the cup and the construction paper liner.
4. Gently water the paper towels in the center until saturated.
5. Place the cup (or cups if you would like to try multiples) on a shelf or windowsill and watch them grow. First you will notice the seed coat expanding (wrinkling) as the seed absorbs water and then the root will start to grow in 2 to 3 days. Water as necessary to keep the paper towel and seeds continually moist (please note, the viewers will not grow well outside because they will dry out too quickly). Seed germination can be impacted if the temperatures are too cold (if you are comfortable, most likely your seeds will be too).

Wildlife Inventory

Overview: Work with your young gardeners to answer the question – “Who lives in our garden?”

Materials:

- Garden journal and pencils
- Digital camera (optional)
- Identification guides or Internet access

Approximate Time to Complete: 1+ hours

Location: Outdoor

Ages: All ages

Season: All seasons



Instructions

The garden is a wonderful ecosystem for kids to study. Organisms of all shapes and sizes reside happily in typical garden settings. The most obvious residents are your plants, but gardens are home to many other living creatures, including fungi, worms, and small animals (insects, mollusks, birds, snakes, and much more). One way to help kids take notice of the garden’s residents is to conduct a wildlife inventory. This can be a great introduction to the complex web of relationships found in a garden.

1. Set aside some chore-free time to **explore your garden**. For maximum enjoyment, select a day with comfortable weather and a relaxed schedule. You can also try visiting the garden at different times of the day to see of time, temperature and sunlight impact your garden visitors.
2. Before heading outside, **set the stage with a few ground rules and tips:**
 - Respect all life in the garden. Observe living creatures with your eyes, not your hands.
 - Write down or draw as many details as possible.
 - Remember to look in the soil and under leaves and rocks.

- Toilet Paper Tubes:
- Use to start seeds.
- Cut one end into 4-inch long sections and fold it under to make a bottom for the pot.
- Fill with dirt and seeds.
- Plant the entire tube outside later





Wind Chime

A wind chime adds an extra sensory element to your garden. Use a rainy day for your gardening club to create wind chimes and mobiles using recycled items or natural materials.

What you need:

- A selection of recycled items (keys, CDs, beads, buttons)
- A selection of natural materials (pine cones, shells, twigs)
- Scissors
- String

What to do:

1. Provide children with books and access to the Internet to research different wind chime designs.
2. Ask the children to select a base for their wind chime. The other materials will be attached to this base so it should be both sturdy and large enough to fit the chimes on.
3. Ask the children to then select the materials they will use for their chimes. These could be all natural materials, all recycled materials or a mixture.
4. Encourage the children to think about how their choices will sound and look as they move in the breeze.
5. Provide string and scissors for the children to attach their chimes to their base.
6. Display the wind chimes around the school garden.





Insect Hotel

This project is a great way to attract beneficial insects to your garden. Work together with your residents to collect items to make up each microhabitat, and watch insects take up residence in their hotel.

What you need:

- Plastic plant pots
- String
- Straw or hay
- Corrugated card
- Wooden pallets
- Found materials such as pine cones, twigs, bark or pebbles.



- Bamboo canes of different diameters cut to the height of the plant pots.

What to do:

1. Fill the plant pots with the different materials.
2. Tie the string around the plant pots.
3. Carefully hang the plant pots around your garden.
4. Alternatively, use wooden pallets to stack the plant pots on their sides.



Design a Seed Packet

If you've dried and saved some seeds from the summer's flowers, you will need some seed packets to store them! Let the children get creative and design their own unique seed packets. You can use the packets to save the seeds for next year, give them to the children to take home or sell them at a school fair or market.

What you need:

- Small paper envelopes
- Dried seeds
- Pens and pencils
- Information books and websites.



What to do:

1. Give each child an envelope and some seeds.
2. Ask them to find out what plant the seeds will grow into using the information books and websites.
3. The children should draw a picture of the plant or flower on the front of the envelope.
4. Add important information to the back of the envelope, such as planting and growing times, ideal spacings, and location and eventual height.
5. Place the seeds into the envelope and seal it.
6. Store in an airtight tin.



Decorated Plant Pot

Decorated plant pots make great gifts, or can be used to brighten up the garden on grey winter days.

What you need:

- Terracotta plant pots
- Emulsion paints
- Brushes
- PVA glue

What to do:

1. Choose a pot to decorate.
2. Paint it in your chosen design.



3. When it has dried, mix a little PVA glue with water, and spread this over the top of your design to act as a varnish.
4. Plant the pot with your chosen plant and admire your art work!

Autumn Leaf Art

Make use of the wonderful colours and shapes of autumn leaves with this outdoor art project.

What you need:

- Range of colourful leaves
- Information books or websites
- Space to construct the works of art
- Collecting bags or buckets
- Other found materials such as pine cones, acorns, twigs, or conkers
- Camera



What to do:

1. Ask the children to find out about ephemeral, or temporary artists such as Andy Goldsworthy.
2. Look at some examples of ephemeral land art to gather inspiration.
3. Collect leaves and other natural materials from around the local area to use to make pieces of ephemeral art.
4. Use the leaves and other materials to create pictures or patterns on the ground.
5. Ideas for pictures could include trees, animals, faces or plants. Alternatively, children may want to create a repeating pattern or geometrical pattern with their leaves.
6. Take photographs of the art works created.

Bird Feeders

Look after the birds this winter by making bird feeders.

What you need:

- Bird seed
- Raisins
- Suet or Lard
- Coconut halves or old yoghurt pots.
- String
- Scissors or hand drill
- Mixing bowl



What to do:

1. Cut a small hole in the yoghurt pot or coconut shell and thread a length of string through it.
2. Tie a knot to secure it, leaving enough length outside to tie the pot to a tree.
3. Allow the lard to warm up to room temperature and cut it into small pieces.
4. Mix the lard, seed and raisins in the bowl with your hands until the fat holds the mixture together.
5. Fill the yoghurt pots or coconut shells with this mixture and leave to set in the fridge for an hour.
6. Hang the bird feeders from trees or a bird table and watch out for any visiting birds!

As Winter turns to Spring, there are lots of new things to see, hear and touch in the forest. Can you complete all these activities?



Tick them off as you go!

Feel...



Bark

Flower petals



Moss

Do they feel smooth like Snake's scales? Rough like the Gruffalo's prickles? Or soft like Mouse's fur?

Find a...



Hole in a tree that Owl could nest in

Leaf green like Snake's skin



Twig that Mouse could use for his house

Listen for...



Birds chirping

Bees buzzing



Frogs croaking

Can you...
Hoot like Owl?
Buzz like a bee?
Croak like a frog?

ANIMAL HOMES

One evening while James was in the garden, he happened to notice there was a hole in the side of the giant peach...

"It was quite a large hole, the sort of thing an animal about the size of a fox might live in".

Try this!



Look for homes in the forest

Can you spot any holes that animals or creatures might live in? What size is it? Can you guess who might live there?

Here are some examples of animal homes you might see:

Tick them off as you find them

Woodpecker hole



Badger set



Mouse hole



Insect hole




Animal home log

Where did you find it? _____

Size of home: _____

Animal that lives there: _____

Draw the shape of your animal's home: 



Bursting with life

In the UK, a single oak tree can provide a home, known as a habitat, for over 250 different insects.

Try this!

Critter spotting

Find an oak tree and see how many different animals you can spot living on it.

Have a competition with someone in your group to see who can spot the most. Look in the crevices of the bark as well as the leaf litter on the forest floor.



forestryengland.uk/roald-dahl

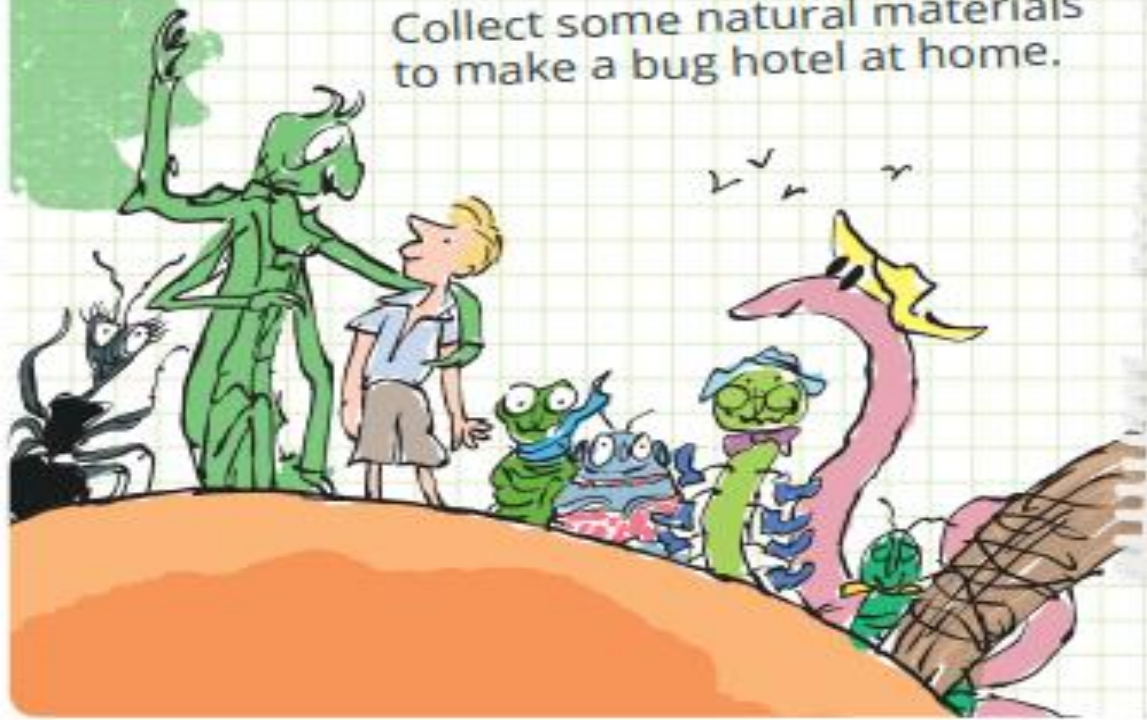
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MAKE A BUG HOTEL



Creatures love to live in sheltered places with dead wood, bark, sticks and leaves.

Collect some natural materials to make a bug hotel at home.



Here's how to make a bug hotel...

1. Tie some cardboard tubes together with string.
2. Place them in a sheltered area in your garden.
3. Put an egg box on top with a cut out on the side so insects can get in. Put some dried leaves inside.
4. Wrap twigs in leaves, then place them in the cardboard tubes along with all the other items you have collected.

What you need

- Cardboard tubes
- An egg box
- Natural string
- Twigs and sticks
- Moss
- Bark
- Leaves
- Pine cones
- Stones

Check your bug hotel after a few days to see if any creatures are living in it.

Hobby horse



What you'll need:

- An old sock (we like colourful ones!)
- Felt
- Ribbon
- Two buttons for eyes
- Wool (optional)
- Sturdy stick the height of your child
- Stuffing (this could be scrunched up newspaper)
- Needle and thread
- Scissors

Can you neigh & gallop like a horse?



Steps:

- Break off any branches along your stick to make it safe to hold
- Stuff the sock with your filling to make the horse's head
- Place the stick inside the sock and secure at the end with a piece of string
- Cut out two felt ear shapes and sew these onto the horse's head
- Sew on the eyes
- Add your halter (and wool mane if you wish!)

Did you know?

Although the Highway Rat steals the horse's hay in the story, horses also eat grass so the horse wouldn't have gone too hungry!

