



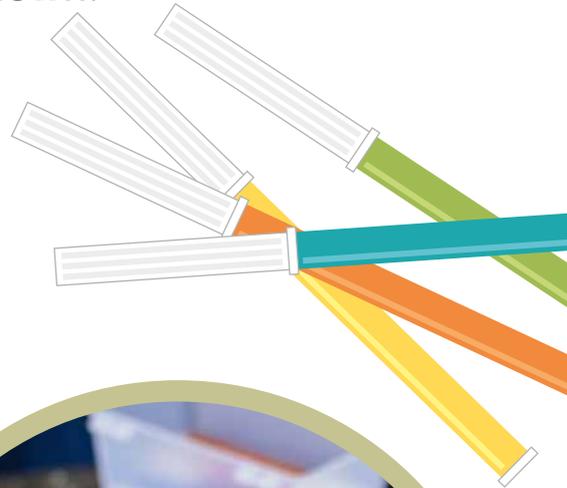
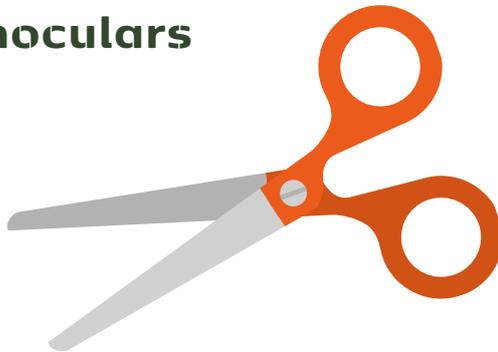
Nature activities

Did you know you can have so much fun just watching and creating things in the natural world? You don't have to go far and it doesn't cost a lot of money. You can easily make things that help you observe birds and bugs better in your own garden, park or playground. Or you can even create your own nature trail for someone to try and follow the tracks you've set down.

How to make binoculars

You will need

- + 2 empty toilet rolls
- + String, wool or ribbon
- + Paper
- + Glue or tape
- + Materials to decorate your binoculars e.g. paint, pens, leaves etc. (optional)
- + Hole punch (optional)
- + Scissors



What to do

- 1 Glue or tape your toilet rolls together until they stick tight.
- 2 Put a strip of paper around the middle of the toilet rolls.
- 3 Decorate your binoculars however you choose! You can paint them, colour them with crayons or even stick leaves on them for some camouflage (this is optional).
- 4 Make 2 holes in sides of the toilet rolls about 2cm down from the top.
- 5 Take one end of your string and tie it through one of the holes you made. Tie a knot to secure it.
- 6 Repeat with the other side.
- 7 Take your binoculars and go birdwatching. What birds will you see? Use our ID guides to help you find out what you've seen.



How to make a hooped cereal bird feeder

You will need

- + Pipe cleaner
- + Breakfast cereal e.g. Cheerios

What to do

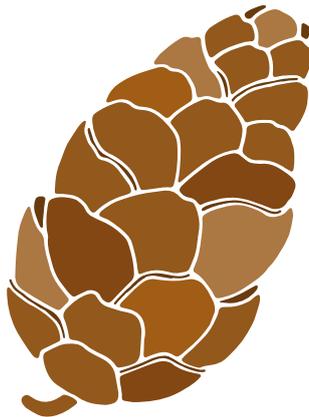
- 1 Thread the cereal onto your pipe until it is nearly full.
- 2 Bend your pipe cleaner into a circle shape.
- 3 Twist the ends together to stop the cereal falling off.
- 4 Hang it up outside for the birds to eat.



How to make a pine cone bird feeder

You will need

- + Pine cone
- + Scissors
- + String
- + Peanut butter or lard
- + Bird seed
- + Stick



What to do

- 1 Cut a length of string and tie it to the top of your pinecone.
- 2 Spread the lard or peanut butter over your pine cone with your stick until it is covered.
- 3 Roll your pine cone in birdseed so that the seed sticks to your pinecone.
- 4 Hang it outside for the birds to eat.

Remember

- + When you have finished making your bird feeders, remember to wash your hands.



How to go on a bug hunt

You will need

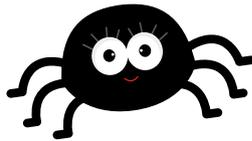
You don't need anything to do this activity, but any of the following are useful:

- + Bug ID guide
- + Magnifying glass
- + Spoon
- + Bug pot, jam jar or clear plastic tub
- + Pencil and paper



What to do

- 1 Head out into your garden or a local green space.
- 2 Get up close and explore the dark, damp, cosy nooks bugs like to live in.
- 3 Look for bugs
 - in the soil
 - under a plant pot, stone or log
 - in cracks of the bark of a tree
 - in long grass
 - in flower heads
- 4 Use your magnifying glass to take a closer look at any bug you find. Carefully scoop it up and put it into your container if you can, or place your jar upside down over it so you can see it.
- 5 Identify what have you found by using an identification sheet to help you.
- 6 Draw what you see and label it if you know. How many legs does it have? What colour is it?
- 7 Put your bug carefully back where you found it and replace any upturned rocks and logs.



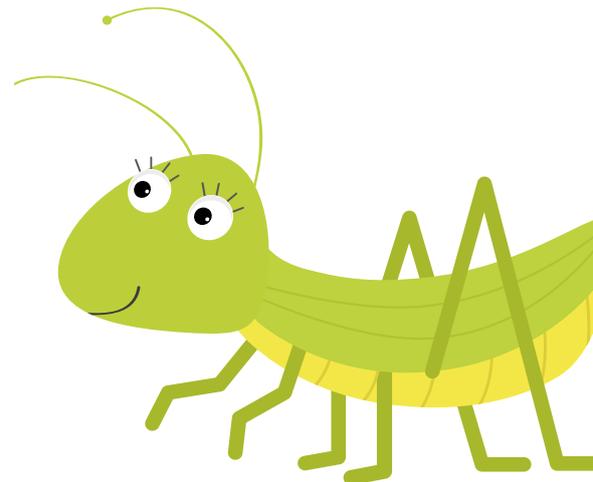
Remember

- + When you have finished your bug hunt, remember to wash your hands.



Build a bug hotel

If you enjoyed hunting for bugs, why not try making a bug hotel and see what bugs pay it a visit? See our 'How to build a bug hotel' guide.



How to make minibeast models

You will need

- + Modelling material, e.g. playdough or air drying clay
- + Cardboard and glue (optional)
- + Natural materials, e.g. sticks, feathers, leaves, pinecones etc.

What to do

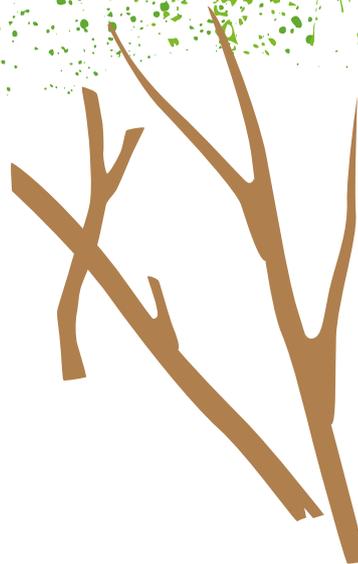
- 1 Go for a walk in your garden or local green space to collect up some different materials such as leaves, small sticks, pine cones etc. Make sure you only pick things up that are on the ground.
- 2 Decide which minibeast you would like to make a model of. You could make one that you found on a bug hunt.
- 3 Use your modelling material and the materials you collected to make a model of your chosen minibeast.

Extra activities

1. Why not find out a bit more about your chosen minibeast? What do they like to eat? Where's their favourite place to hide? Can you come up with a name for your minibeast?
2. Make a collage (picture) of your minibeast on a piece of cardboard using the natural materials you have found. You could do this as well as making the model or instead of making the model if you don't have any modelling materials.

Remember

- + When you have finished making your model or collage, remember to wash your hands.



How to create a nature trail

Tracking is a traditional activity that involves leaving signs or symbols made from natural material on a trail or course you make for others to follow. You can do this activity anywhere you like – around your town or village, in your local park, on the beach, or even in your local woods.

What to do

- 1 Collect sticks, stones or other markers to use to set out your trail. Only pick things up that you find on the floor.
- 2 Set out trail signs along the way with a grown-up e.g. straight ahead, turn left, turn right, don't go this way.
- 3 Make sure you set them at the edge of a path so they don't get knocked by other people who are out walking.
- 4 Ask your family members to follow the trail you set and see if they can find the way you went.

Remember

- + Remember to move your trail signs out of the way of the path when you've finished the trail activity.
- + Remember to wash your hands when you have finished your trail.



Straight ahead



Turn left



Turn right



Don't go this way



I have gone home



How to build a den

Lots of animals make themselves at home in our gardens, woods and parks in shelters and dens they make. Why not have a go at making your own den in your garden or local woods? Although this activity can be done at any time of year, it's a brilliant activity to do in the autumn when fallen leaves and branches are on the ground.

You will need

- + Sticks and twigs
- + Branches
- + Leaves

What to do

Build your den. You are the architect!

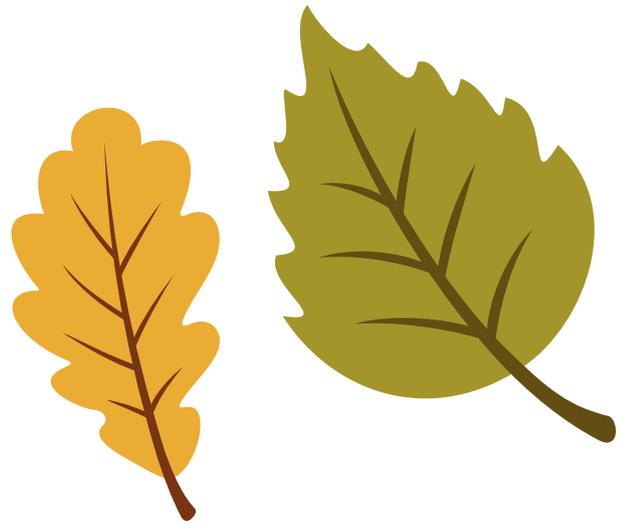


Top tips for a great den

- 1 Try building your den around a tree for extra support.
- 2 Make sure it's camouflaged so no one can find it.
- 3 Make sure it's waterproof so the rain doesn't get you wet.
- 4 Make sure there's room for all of you to fit inside it.

Remember

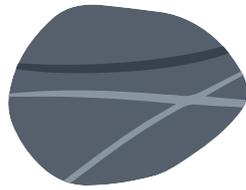
- + Remember to pick up only natural materials that are on the ground.
- + Remember not to pick up anything too big for your shelter or for you! – don't pick up any logs that are thicker than an adult's arm. If you're unsure, check with an adult.
- + Remember that if you're building a shelter in anywhere that's not your garden, make sure you take your den down and leave things as you found them. You can have a go at building a new den each time you visit.
- + Remember to wash your hands when you have finished making your den.



How to make a nature walk picture frame

You will need

- + Cardboard
- + Scissors
- + Ruler and pen/pencil
- + Glue
- + Natural materials, e.g. sticks, leaves, bits of bark, small pine cones, shells, pebbles etc.
- + Photo or a piece of paper



What to do

- 1 Go for a walk in your garden or local green space and to collect some different materials such as sticks, small pine cones, pebbles, leaves etc.
- 2 Leave the materials somewhere to dry off.
- 3 Use your cardboard to cut out a shape to use for your photo frame.
- 4 Draw a rectangle in the middle of your frame that is the same size as your photo. You can make the outside of the frame as big as you like.
- 5 Stick the materials you have collected around the outside of the photo frame.
- 6 Stick your photo in the middle of the frame once the frame is dry.



Extra activities

If you don't have a photo, you could draw a picture of where you went for your walk or make a collage using some of the things you collected and put that in the middle of your frame instead.

Remember

- + Remember to only pick things up that are on the ground.
- + Remember to wash your hands when you have finished making your picture frame.

How to make nature art frames

You will need

- + Piece of paper or cardboard
- + Pen/pencil
- + Scissors
- + Camera (optional)



What to do

- 1 Draw a simple shape or picture in the middle of your paper/card.
- 2 Cut the shape out so you are left with a hollow middle.
- 3 Head outside and hold the frame against any interesting things you see. Explore your garden, your town, local beach, park or woodland. Make sure you look up high and down low.
- 4 Notice the picture you see in your frame changes as you move it around. As you walk in different places, notice the variety of textures and colours can you see.
- 5 Take photos of your frame to capture the different backgrounds you see (optional).

Extra activities

1. When you get home, print out some of the photos you took or draw pictures of what you saw.
2. Perhaps write a story about the different textures you came across. You could use books as inspiration. Try the *That's not my series* or *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

