

Gardening Club

Autumn Term 1 2019

Activities



Name..... Class.....

Activity 1

Draw a sound map

Activity

Use the sense of hearing to make a sound map of your school garden or local park.

- Estimated time: 30 minutes
- Location: Outdoors
- School term: All year round
- Level of experience: No experience needed
- Subject(s): Science, Art&DT, Geography

Learning objectives

- Use the sense of hearing as an observational tool to create a sound map
- Enhance locational and place knowledge through mapping

Preparation

Listen to bird songs on CDs or online to recognise common British bird calls.

Think about the sounds of nature that are affected by the weather such as trees rustling in the breeze, waves crashing on the shore and so on.

Equipment needed

- Small wipe boards and pens
- Or clip boards, paper and pencils
- Kneelers or cushions to sit on

Step by step

1. Have you ever thought of all the different creatures that live in the garden? We can't always see them but if we are really quiet, we may hear them.
2. Find a quiet spot in the garden on your own to sit quietly. If we are all quiet we may be able to hear some of the garden creatures – from the birds in the trees, to small insects buzzing by. Even plants make sounds – their leaves moving in the wind. Listen out for people and man made sounds too.
3. We can draw a map of these sounds. Draw yourself in the middle of your map then draw an arrow to where each sound comes from.
4. Try to draw the actual sound so you can tell someone about it. Come back together and compare each other's sound maps.
5. Point out the different sounds and try to repeat a sound – and describe it, making a guess as to whether it came from a bird or animal or if it was a man made sound.

Hints & tips

- Try closing your eyes for the first few minutes in your quiet spot, this will help you focus in on the sounds... the more you practise this the better you will be at hearing the different sounds...
- Use this activity as part of [Sensory Sensations](#) class growing topic.

Outdoors –

Planters and tubs at the front of school to dead head and plan refilling of them with winter plants.

Reading tree area– clean up and tidy leaves in the area.

Activity 2

Make a bird cake

Supplement wild birds' winter diet by making a bird seed cake to hang in your garden.

- Estimated time: 30 minutes
- Location: Outdoors & Indoors
- School term: Late Autumn, Early Spring
- Level of experience: No experience needed
- Subject(s): Science, Art&DT

Learning objectives

- Learn what birds eat from the garden
- Learn which foods are suitable to feed birds
- Select suitable tools for the task



Preparation

Monitor which birds are visiting your school grounds. Look up what they like to eat. Think about what you can do to attract more wildlife to your school garden.

Equipment needed

- A range of suitable containers, such as plant pots, yoghurt pots or pine cones
- Vegetable fat, animal fat (both solid form), spoon & bowl
- A selection of bird food, either wild bird seed mix, dried fruit, oats, popping corn, millet or hemp seeds

- String to hang the feeder & tools (bradawl) to make holes with and scissors
- A bird spotter or book to find out what they eat

Step by step

1. Add the ingredients together in a mixing bowl and stir.
2. Ask the pupils to choose their container or pine cone and add the hanging string. Pupils must only use the bradawl under supervision.
3. Use the string to make a wick through the mixture for maximum strength. Using a spoon, pack the mixture into the container until it is full and leave it in a cool place to solidify before hanging in the garden.
4. For a more naturalistic looking bird feeder use an upside down pinecone instead of a container. Push the mixture into all the crevices for the birds to find.

Hints & tips

- Beware! Some prepackaged bird food contains nuts. Check if pupils have any nut allergies before using.
- Keep the vegetable fat at room temperature before use. It will be easier to mix the ingredients.

Activity 3

Make a simple bug or ladybird home

Activity

Create an insect home for the garden at school or to take home.

- Estimated time: 30 minutes
- Location: Outdoors & Indoors
- School term: All year round
- Level of experience: No experience needed
- Subject(s): Science, Art&DT

Learning objectives

- Learn about hibernation
- Learn about native wildlife and insects
- Care for the environment
- Make an object fit for purpose



Preparation

Think about which insect you are looking to attract with your bug home. Try to find out more about them and where they usually hibernate.

To reduce, reuse and recycle plastic plant pots, milk cartons, plastic bottles or old cardboard coffee cups can be collect to make these bug homes.

Equipment needed

- 2 litre plastic drinks bottles, plant pots, milk cartons or old cardboard coffee cups
- Use a piece of plastic pipe e.g. down pipe

- Bamboo canes or rolled newspaper straws
- Corrugated cardboard
- Scissors
- Waterproof tape

Step by step

1. Cut the end off a plastic drinks bottle or cut a plastic pipe to 20cm in length. To reduce, reuse and recycle plastic plant pots, milk cartons or old cardboard coffee cups can also be used.
2. Make newspaper tubes by cutting newspaper lengthways and rolling up. Ensure there is a hole in the centre of around 4mm. Rolled corrugated cardboard can also be used.
3. Cut the material to the length of the pot or bottle. The bamboo needs to be cut so that the solid node is at the closed end or the whole length is hollow.
4. Fit the materials tightly into the bottle or pot, so they won't fall out. Ensure the hollow ends are facing outwards, and will be protected from rain.
5. Place your bug home almost horizontally in a warm spot with the open end slightly lower to prevent water logging. Bug homes are best placed no higher than 1m above the ground. The best places to put them are in a tree, bush, at the base of a tree and most importantly in a quiet place.
6. The best season to make a bug home would be early autumn, so the insects have somewhere to hibernate for the winter.

Hints & tips

- Insects need somewhere to stay during the winter
- Ladybirds are very helpful to gardeners as they eat aphids that damage plants

Outdoors – Sprinkle planters with green manure ready for use. Tend to tubs/planters out front with flowers in.

Activity 4

Onion crop sheet

Activity

Onions are believed to be the oldest cultivated vegetable in the world. They are bulbs which are underground storage organs. Onions can be grown from seeds or sets.

- Estimated time: 30 minutes
- Location: Outdoors & Indoors
- School term: Early Autumn, Late Autumn, Late Spring
- Level of experience: No experience needed
- Subject(s): Science

Learning objectives

- Learn how to sow seeds or bulbs
- Learn what seeds and plants need to grow
- Learn to plant at a specified distance
- Learn to harvest vegetables



Preparation

Organic matter or fertiliser should be incorporated at least one month beforehand. The soil, raised bed or planter should have already been cultivated, weed free with a fine, crumbly texture ready for planting.

Equipment needed

- Rake or hand cultivator
- Measuring stick

- Onion sets purchased from a garden shop (correct variety for time of year)
- Label and pencil

Step by step

Buy autumn onion sets to plant from September to November or spring sets from February to early April.

1. Make a shallow drill about 2cm deep in the soil, using the measuring stick .
2. Space the onion sets 10-15cm apart. Make sure they are the right way up with the roots at the bottom.
3. Gently push the bulbs into the soil so that just the tip is showing above the soil surface.
4. Make the next row 30-40cm away and remember to label each row.
5. Keep the area weed free and watch out for birds pulling the onion sets up.
6. Wait for the leaves to die down in the summer, lift the onion bulbs and leave them to dry on the surface of the soil. When they are fully dry the onions are ready for storing.

Onion seeds can be sown late summer or spring.

Hints & tips

- Growing onions from sets rather than seed means that they are less prone to disease and provide reasonable crops in poorer soils

Activity 5

Make a rainbow

Activity

Explore the colours in the garden. Make your own artist's palette of colour by collecting natural materials on a sticky strip on cardboard.

- Estimated time: 30 minutes
- Location: Outdoors & Indoors
- School term: All year round
- Level of experience: No experience needed
- Subject(s): Science, Art&DT, Geography, Social Studies

Learning objectives

- Explore the local area or school garden and collect natural materials
- Make links between art and the natural environment

Preparation

Talk about the difference between evergreen and deciduous trees and how to tell the difference between them.

Equipment needed

- Double sided sticky tape or glue
- Card cut into strips or artist palette-shape

Step by step

1. Ask the children to think of all the colours in a rainbow and the colours they like to draw or paint with.
2. Show them the artist palette and explain how artists place their paints on the palette and mix them.
3. Ask the children to go around the garden searching for natural colours by collecting tiny pieces of petals, leaves, seeds that they come across on the ground and to stick these pieces onto their artist palette-shaped piece of card or sticky strips.
4. Some children may like to collect various shades of their favourite colour and arrange them from light to dark.
5. Come together to look at each other's garden palettes and see the variety of colours that have been found.

Hints & tips

- Press and dry some autumn leaves and laminate them into window hangings or bookmarks
- Use this activity as part of Sensory Sensatio

Activity 6

How to sow seeds outdoors

Use this method to sow large or small seeds outdoors (in the correct season). This method is particularly suitable for vegetables and hardy annual seeds.

- Estimated time: 15 minutes
- Location: Outdoors
- School term: All year round, Early Autumn, Late Autumn, Early Spring, Late Spring
- Level of experience: No experience needed

Introduction

Check on the seed packet for the precise sowing instructions. Make sure the ground is well prepared beforehand. Use a rake, trowel, string line and watering can.



1.

Prepare the ground ready for sowing. Ensure the soil is fine and the surface is level. Use a rake to do this.



2.

Look at the seed pack for the distance between rows and mark them out with string. Use a hoe to make a seed drill (row).



3.

If the ground is dry it's a good idea to water the drill before sowing the seed.



4.

Sow the seeds at the distance and depth specified on the seed packet.



5.

Complete the entire row of seeds.



6.

Gently cover the seeds using a rake or trowel and then lightly compact or firm them in. Remove the string and move to the next row.