

MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

What is Making Space for Nature?

What? 'Making Space for Nature' includes weekly indoor and outdoor activities for you to enjoy engaging with the nature on your doorstep.

Why? 'Making Space for Nature' invites pupils to be part of the wonderful green spaces, waterways and lakes in their surrounding area.

How? We invite you to join other school pupils to become part of Making Space for Nature's network of children exploring their own 'naturehood', sharing activities and entering our weekly competitions.

Activity 2: Natural Treasures

In this activity, you will take a closer look at nature, identify species and their habitats, and create an imaginary miniature habitat.

For the outdoor part of this activity, you will need to ask an adult to go with you.

Tasks 1 and 3 will be completed indoors. Task 2 will be completed outdoors.



Task 1: What is Biodiversity?

1. Read the questions below, then watch this video before answering them: Our Planet - What is biodiversity? David Attenborough (3 mins).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=US58f-Sw00k>

a) Biodiversity refers to the number of living things on our planet and how they interact. Can you give an example of biodiversity reducing?

b) A habitat is the natural home of a plant or animal. It provides the organisms that live there with food, water, shelter and space to survive. Can you give an example of a natural animal habitat?

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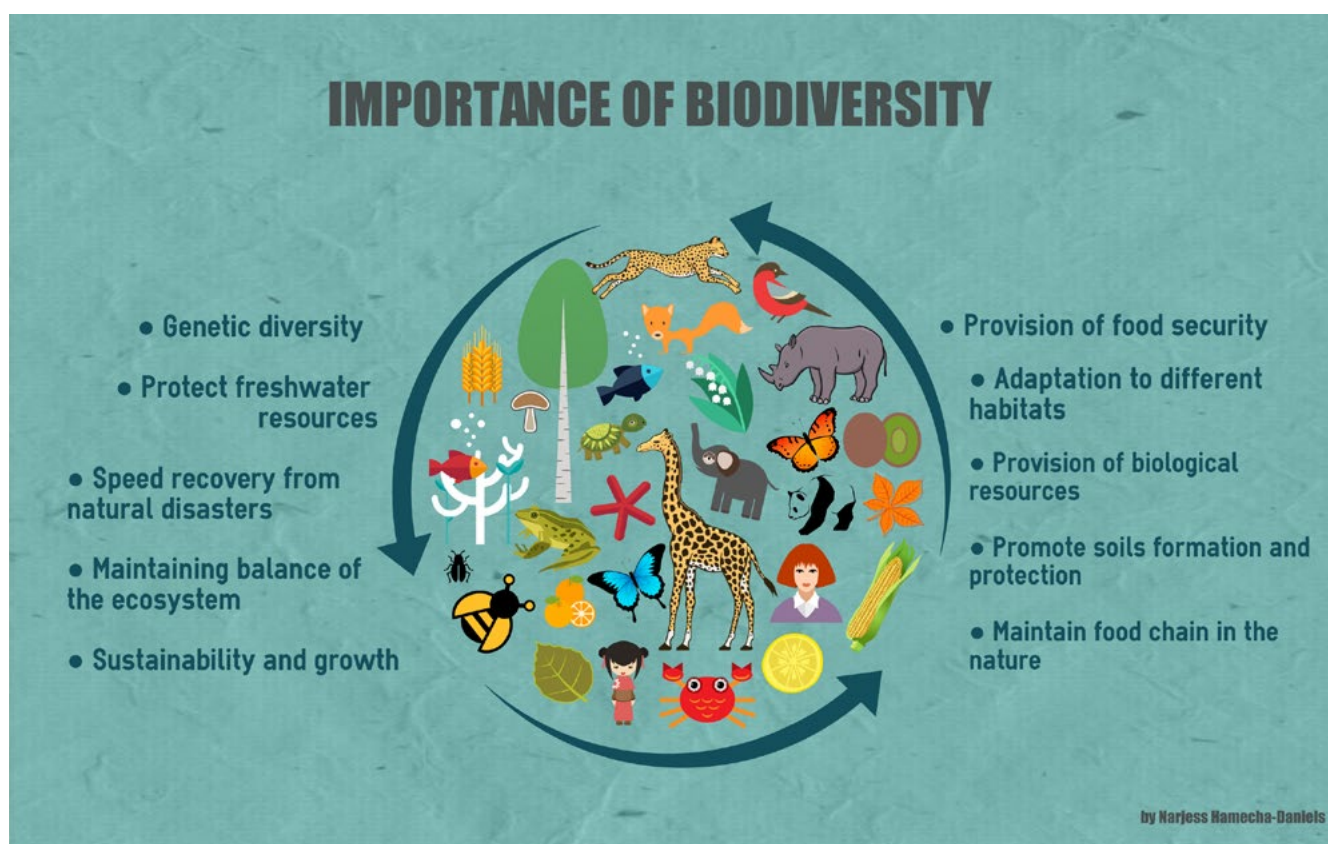
Activity 2: Natural Treasures

Task 1: What is Biodiversity? (continued)

2. Look at the picture and find out why biodiversity is important.

Choose the one you think is most important to you.

(There's no right or wrong answer, but it's your opinion).



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Activity 2: Natural Treasures

Task 2: Spotting Biodiversity Outside

You are going to go outside and identify some of the biodiversity around you.

You can either use an app (if you have access to a smartphone) or the 4 identification sheets on pages 8-11.

If you're using the app, following the instructions below. If not, skip this box and move on to the second box.

To get started download the SEEK by iNaturalist app on a smartphone.

You can do this through the app store - the app is free.

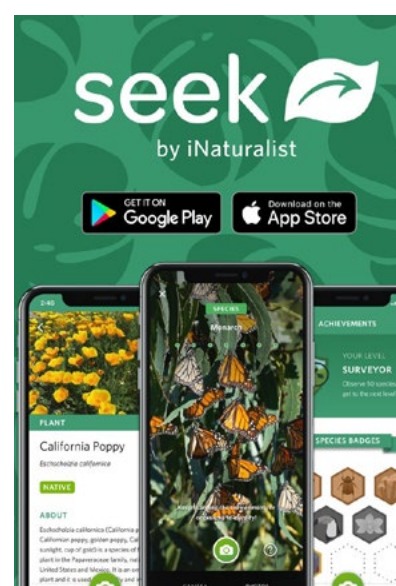
This is what the app looks like.

Once the app has downloaded, open it.

You will be asked if you would like to make an account but click on the bottom option to continue as a guest.

Take your phone with you and, when you are on your walk, use the camera function in the app to **photograph and identify five different species of plants, animals or insects.**

These photos will be saved on your phone and you can share them with us by sending them to your teacher.



YOU WILL NEED:





- Binoculars or a magnifying glass (if you have one) – if you don't, your eyes will work just fine.
- Activity sheets on pages 4 and 5 (or a notebook)
- A pen/pencil
- Mobile phone with SEEK app
- OR the bird, flower, tree spotter sheets provided on pages 8-11
- A bag or a box for collecting nature's treasures to create your miniature habitat (soil, twigs, leaves, petals, moss, seeds, little stones).

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Activity 2: Natural Treasures





Task 2: Spotting Biodiversity Outside (continued)

Complete the chart below identifying the species, its habitat and draw a picture of it (if you have no phone, record what you see by referring to the nature spotter sheets available on pages 8-11).

Natural Treasures			
BIODIVERSITY: BIRDS 		INSECTS, SNAILS & WORMS 	
		TREES 	FLOWERS 
<p>Species:</p> <p>Habitat:</p> <p>(e.g. water, woods, grasslands, gardens, under a log or stone)</p>		<p>Species:</p> <p>Habitat:</p>	
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Activity 2: Natural Treasures

Natural Treasures			
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MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

Activity 2: Natural Treasures

Task 3: Create a MINIATURE IMAGINARY HABITAT

A 'habitat' is a place where animals find shelter and food, where they reproduce, and where plants find the water, soil (food) and solar energy they need. Habitats are essential for life and survival. Your habitat is your house (shelter) and everything else you need to live (food, heat, sleep, love, affection, and adults who take care of you).

Follow the instructions below to create a miniature habitat for an imaginary species.

In its habitat, your species will need a sun, food, plants, animals which eat plants and animals which eat animals, water, shelter, and protection.

YOU WILL NEED:

- A shoe box, a seed tray or a plastic box
- Add a thin layer of soil, sand or peat-free compost (which you can collect from outside)
- Natural treasures like twigs, leaves, petals, moss, seeds, little stones
- Clay or play dough (optional)

Transform the items you collected from outside into miniature trees and plants, and combine them with clay or play dough to make tiny creatures. Don't forget to add the sun, the essential ingredient supporting life on earth.

When your mini-world / habitat is complete, perhaps you could make up a story about an explorer discovering everything that lives there.



Photograph your miniature world and enter our weekly competition by sending it to your teacher!

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Activity 2: Natural Treasures

Well done – you are ‘making space for nature’!

Please send to your teacher:

- Your answers from Task 1 (page 1)
- Your biodiversity sheets (pages 4 and 5)
- Your biodiversity photos
- A photograph of your miniature world

If you're interested in other nature activities, you'll find some here:

- www.goingwild.net
- <https://www.facebook.com/goingwild/>
- <https://twitter.com/goingwildnet?lang=en-gb>
- <https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/57739/petition/1>
- <https://www.backyardnature.org/resources/>
- <https://www.wwf.org.uk/things-to-do-home>
- <https://mailchi.mp/johnmuirtrust.org/wildinside>
- <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/05/nature-activities-for-kids-to-do-at-home-part-6/>



Be a super spotter!

How many trees can you identify?



Alder



Beech



Oak



Sycamore



Birch



Holly



Elder



Ash



Horse Chestnut



Field Maple



Hawthorn



Hazel



Rowan



Found any other leaves? Do you know which trees they're from?

Feel free to copy and share this for personal and educational use – and don't forget there are loads more brilliant activities to download on our website!

woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives | 0330 333 5301 | naturedetectives@woodlandtrust.org.uk

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Garden bird detective



wildlife
watch



Chaffinch



Greenfinch



House sparrow



Blackbird



Blue tit



Goldfinch



Great tit



Collared dove



Starling



Wood pigeon

July Wildflowers Spotter's Sheet



Pyramidal Orchid
Anacamptis pyramidalis

STAR FIND *

Bright pink and pointy, this orchid produces a musky scent to help attract butterflies and moths.

Where to find it:
Chalky meadows & verges



Bramble
Rubus fruticosus

The wildflower from which we get blackberries. Part of the rose family, it's a great source of nectar.

Where to find it:
Hedgebanks, roadsides



Field Scabious
Knautia arvensis

A popular plant with butterflies & bees. Its rough stem resembles irritated skin, hence its scabies-related name.

Where to find it:
Meadows & pastures



Knapweed
Centaurea nigra

Also known as **Hard-heads** or **Black knapweed**, this wild flower is one of our toughest meadow plants.

Where to find it:
Meadows & roadsides



Lady's Bedstraw
Galium verum

Once used to coagulate cheese. Its flowers were also used to add the colour to Double Gloucester.

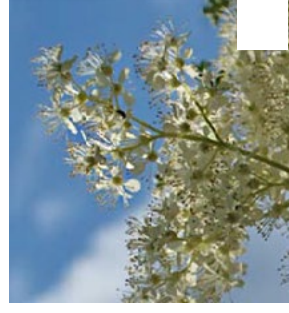
Where to find it:
Grassy places



Meadow Crane's-bill
Geranium pratense

Once common in hay meadows, it now largely grows on road verges instead due to changes in agricultural practices.

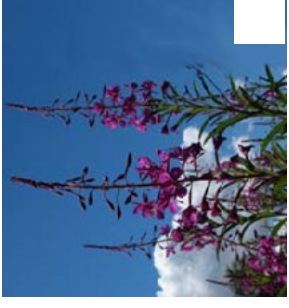
Where to find it:
Hedgerows



Meadowsweet
Filipendula ulmaria

A multi-perfumed plant: the flowers smell of marzipan, but when crushed the scent is more antiseptic!

Where to find it:
Damp meadows & verges



Rosebay Willowherb
Chamerion angustifolium

Often one of the first flowers to return to burnt ground, it was a common sight during the Blitz.

Where to find it:
Waste ground & verges



Self-heal
Prunella vulgaris

As its name suggests, self-heal was once used in herbal remedies - particularly for sore throats.

Where to find it:
Grasslands & lawns



Teasel
Dipsacus fullonum

So called because textile makers used it to 'tease' cloth. Now is when the oft-seen seed heads are in flower.

Where to find it:
Woods & grassy places

Help us bring colour to the countryside. Join today: www.plantlife.org.uk/support-us/join-us

June Wildflowers Spotter's Sheet



Ragged Robin
Silene flos-cuculi

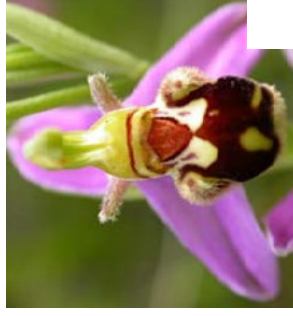
Once a common wild flower, it is now classed as near-threatened. It is particularly beloved by long-tongued bees.

Where to find it:
Wetter woods & meadows

Agrimonia
Agrimonia eupatoria

Also called 'church steeples' after its tall floral spikes. In Victorian times it symbolised "Thankfulness".

Where to find it:
Hedgebanks, roadsides



Bee Orchid
Ophrys apifera

In a clever ploy to attract pollinators, it not only looks like a bee, it also emits a female bee scent!

Where to find it:
Pastures, banks, chalk



Common Poppy
Papaver rhoeas

Poppy seeds only sprout when the earth around them is disturbed, hence why so many grew on the battlefields of WWI.

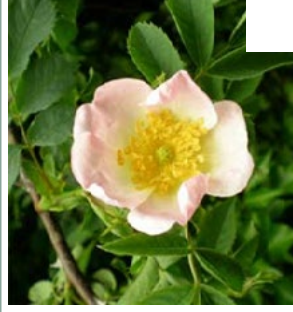
Where to find it:
Disturbed ground



Common Spotted-orchid
Dactylorhiza fuchsii

Our commonest orchid, as its name suggests. It can range in colour from deep lilac to light pink & even pure white.

Where to find it:
Alkaline grasslands



Dog-rose
Rosa canina

Syrup made from this wildflower's rosehips have twenty times as much Vitamin C as orange juice!

Where to find it:
Hedgerows



Foxglove
Digitalis purpurea

Its mottled markings were once thought to be the handprints of fairies. A single 'glove' can produce a million seeds.

Where to find it:
Woods and banks



Oxeye Daisy
Leucanthemum vulgare

Often in bloom around the summer solstice. If cattle eat it, it can affect the flavour of their milk.

Where to find it:
Grassy verges



Yellow Iris
Iris pseudacorus

Also known as 'Yellow Flag', it grows where water runs shallow - hence it can indicate the presence of a ford.

Where to find it:
Damp soil, water margins



Yellow Rattle
Rhinanthus minor

Great for wildflower meadows as it restricts the growth of grasses by feeding off their nutrients.

Where to find it:
Grassy banks