

# URBAN NATURE CHALLENGE



## Natureal Treasures

### Objectives:

- Think about how your life has changed during the COVID-19 period
- Use the SEEK ID app to identify plants
- Create a time capsule to share with your future self

### **Have you ever heard the phrase 'knowledge is power'?**

It is a simple way of saying that the more you know about something, the more power you have over it. This is true in science but also for our internal thoughts and feelings.

In this session we're going to look at how naming something can give it meaning and significance.

If you are unable to type in this document make sure you have a piece of paper and pen so you can write your answers down as you go through the worksheet.

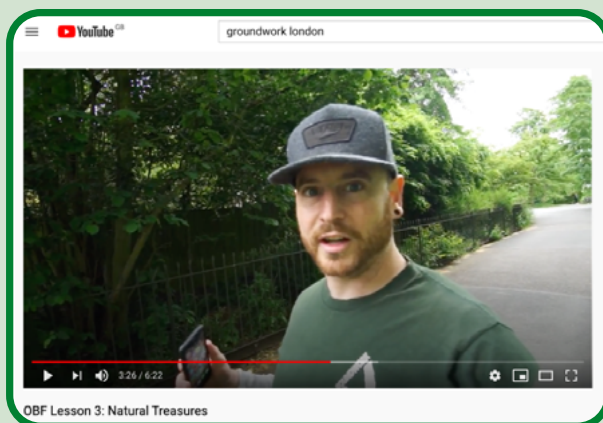
Before you start there is 1 important thing you need to do:

1. Fill out this questionnaire: <https://tinyurl.com/y8ssja8r>

### Watch me - Challenge 3

To get you inspired and thinking more about plant identification, we set our Groundwork gardener Ben a lockdown nature challenge.

Watch this video to find out what he got up to: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TecFKCbJoj8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TecFKCbJoj8)



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## Task 1

Think of three things that are important to you and write them down below.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Now think about how you could represent these things using a shape and a colour. For example – being outside is important to me and I would represent that with a green cloud shape.

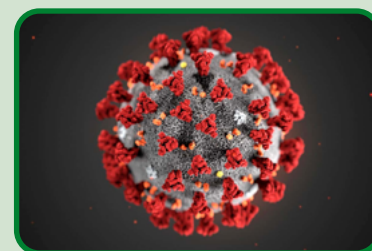
- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Feel free to draw your answers.

## Task 2

For many of us COVID-19 has had a big impact on our lives. Think about the three important things you identified above. How has the COVID-19 period changed the way you feel about them or relate to them?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



If you had to give COVID-19 a shape and a colour what would you choose?

Answer:

FACT: When the virus first emerged, it was called SARS-CoV-2 but as scientists learnt more about the virus it was given a new name: COVID-19.

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## Task 3

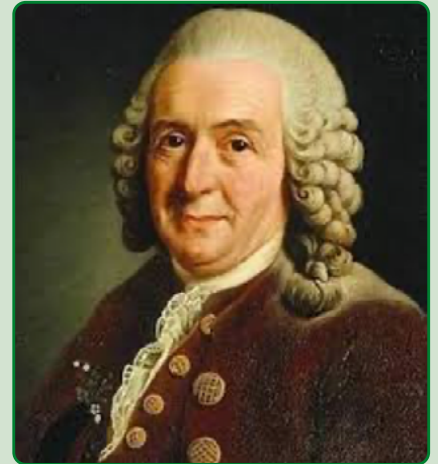
Naming things, whether they're viruses, plants, animals or parts of the human body, has always played an important role in scientific understanding.

This is partially thanks to Carl Linnaeus, one of the giants of natural science. He devised the formal two-part naming system we use to classify all lifeforms. This is called Taxonomy.

A well-known example of his two-part system is the dinosaur *Tyrannosaurus rex*, another is our own species *Homo sapiens*.

Watch this video to find out more about taxonomy:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbFEde2Bb6k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbFEde2Bb6k)



When Carl Von Linné went to university he decided to give himself a Latin name - his new name was "*Carolus Linnaeus*".

What would your Latin name be?



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## Task 4

Now that you've learnt the basics of taxonomy and identification it's time for you to give it a go yourself! You're going to make a time capsule to remember the COVID-19 period using only natural objects.

Imagine you're an older person (over 70) and you want to remind yourself what life was like during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Using only natural materials collected from spending time outside, collect 3 items and put them into a box. These can include stones, feathers, plants etc.

**One of these items will need to be part of a plant that you have identified.**

To get started you'll need to download the "Seek" by iNaturalist app on your phone. You can do this through the app store. If you don't have a smartphone ask someone in your household if you can use their phone.

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.

Now you are ready to go!



1. Use your daily exercise time to walk to a local park or green space. Check current government guidelines to make sure your daily exercise is allowed.
2. Take your phone with you and when you are on your walk use the camera function in the app to photograph and **identify at least one species of plants. Feel free to ID plants you are not putting in your time capsule.**
3. While you are outside collect two other natural items that you would like to put in your COVID time capsule.

## Competition Alert!

Take a nature photo during your time outside and send it to your teacher. All photos will be judged by a panel at Groundwork London and the best three photographs will receive a **£20 prize voucher!**



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## Task 4 Continued

Once you have returned home you can save any perishable items you have collected (leaves/plants/flowers) by putting them in between the pages of a heavy book to press them and dry them out.

You can find more instructions on how to press plants and flowers here:

[www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-press-flowers.html](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-press-flowers.html)



You can store your items in a cardboard box, plastic container or even a recycled tin like the one in the picture.

Now write a note to your future self to explain why you've collected the items you did, and what they mean to you. Here's an example below, but you should choose your own 3 items.

Dear future (insert your name),

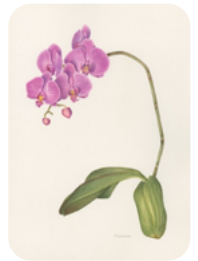
I've collected a heart shaped stone, a buttercup (pressed) and a white feather. The reason I've collected them is because they mean something to me:

1. The heart shaped stone is because it reminds me of my family – we spent lot of time at home during COVID-19.
2. The buttercup reminds me that there is always a bright side to life.
3. The white feather reminds me of birds and the freedom that we once had. I miss spending time with friends.

From my younger self  
(insert your name and age)



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## Task 4 Continued

### Your Answers:

What 3 items did you collect – including the scientific name of the plant.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write a copy of your note to your future self below:

Before you go there is 1 important thing you need to do:

1. Fill out this questionnaire:  
<https://tinyurl.com/yb2r7fnb>

Now that you have finished this worksheet please **SAVE** it and send it back to your teacher.

