

Nature Activities—June

Plants

Plants is a lovely topic for lots of long term hands-on growing experiments, that can be revisited at several points over the summer term (or year if done inside).

Here are some fun ideas to grow plants in different ways for your plants topic...

Wildflower seed bombs

Wildflower seed bombs are better than seeds as being nutrient-rich they give the plants a head start to grow. Each seed bomb is a combination of seed, peat-free compost and clay.



<https://growtherainbow.com/blogs/news/how-to-plant-wildflower-seed-bombs>

As an alternative, you can plant seeds for an edible garden—lots of vegetables are beautiful to look at too!

Seed paper

Another way to plant seeds is to add them to pulped paper; you can find instructions at: <https://climatekids.nasa.gov/seed-paper/>



Nature Activities—June

Record a nature walk using a piece of card and some double sided tape. Children can add things that they have found onto the tape. Remember to set up some rules before you start on what they are allowed to collect and what should and should not be picked up!



The museum has a large herbarium collection. This is the way in which plants are preserved for future scientific study and can include all parts of the plant. You could make your own version by pressing some flowers (this would work very well as

part of working scientifically, particularly for the year 1 and year 3 curriculum where you could then either draw and label your flowers or even label the pressed flowers themselves. There is a lesson plan at: <https://www.scienceworld.ca/resources/activities/pressed-flowersplants> and you can find some more ways of pressing the flowers at:

<https://www.ftd.com/blog/create/how-to-press-flowers>

Obviously you can also make some amazing artwork with the flowers!

What plants you can pick or pull up in the wild is controlled by law. The simple answer is to use garden flowers or bought flowers, but you can find an outline of the rules at: <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/picking-wildflowers-and-the-law>



Nature Activities—June

For some lovely hands on science we have a couple of fun ideas...

Natural dyes

Most natural dyes are made from plant sources— roots, berries, bark, leaves— and can be made easily in the classroom with minimal science equipment. Here is a nice resource from the Society of Dyers and Colourists :

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/natural-dye-activities-6290661>

Also here is another:

<https://kidsgardening.org/lesson-plans-exploring-plant-dyes/>

This could form part of a history topic as well as a science one!

Stop start/ timelapse animations

Make your own timelapse of a plant growing—GoPro type cameras are quite good for this. If you don't have time to grow the plant from scratch, you could do make a plasticine model in a shorter space of time and use stop-start animation. You can find about how at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kVth1Z5vQ0U>

And a how to video can be found here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7Y4mosA_8o



Nature Activities—June

The Woodland Trust

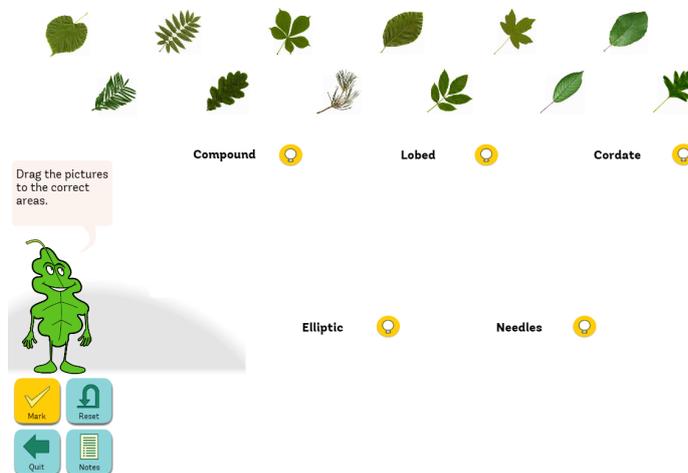
The Woodland Trust has lots of great free downloadable activities and lesson plans:

<http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/menu/?>

[_ga=2.120673544.1817766470.1557741764-349570476.1550564719](http://treetoolsforschools.org.uk/menu/?ga=2.120673544.1817766470.1557741764-349570476.1550564719)

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/>

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/schools/curriculum-linked-resources/>



<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100146207/Getting-outside-the-classroom-learning-pack.pdf>

Free trees for schools

The Woodland Trust have two delivery periods per year, one in March and the other in November. They are currently taking applications for trees to be delivered in NOVEMBER 2019 and there is a little bit of delay as they are very busy! <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/free-trees/>



Nature Activities—June

Dippy Plant trail in the GNM: Hancock Gardens

If you are planning a visit to see Dippy, don't forget to leave some time to also visit our gardens and do the Jurassic Plant Trail. The trail is a way to introduce your children to plants that were around in Dippy's time to be eaten and those plants that were not around then that are flourishing today, such as flowering plants.

Make nettle tea

Have a go at collecting and making nettle tea such as at <http://www.freerangers.org.uk/our-blog/2015/3/6/stinging-nettle>



From The Royal Horticultural Society gardens at Harlow Carr

This is good for showing children about things we associate as being very harmful that are actually good for us, and also to show that we can collect items safely using correct risk management. (Nettles are amazing—<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8692782.stm>).

Smelly potions

You can also make magic or smelly potions with children if they love collecting things and using their senses— Pretty much everyone then!

<https://www.edenproject.com/learn/schools/lesson-plans/positive-potions>



Nature Activities—

8th June world oceans day

This year, the theme for World Oceans Day is “Gender and the Ocean”, an opportunity to explore the gender dimension of humankind’s relationship with the ocean.

More information and resources at :

<https://www.unworldoceansday.org/page/home>

<https://www.unworldoceansday.org/taxonomy/term/56>



Literacy Activities—June

Floriography

Floriography is a means of cryptic communication using flowers. While using flowers to convey one's feelings was long used in Persia and the Middle East, the practice really came to fruition during the Victorian era.



This could be developed into a lovely independent learning project for children, with researching their own flowers using ICT and designing poems and creating art works, even designing their own bouquet of flowers, be it from printouts, drawings or real flowers.

Some places to find meanings:

<https://www.treehugger.com/lawn-garden/language-flowers-herbs-and-trees-plants-meanings.html>

<https://www.flowershopnetwork.com/blog/flower-dictionary/>

'the last tree in the city'



Maths Activities—

Shapes, symmetry, fractals repeating patterns can all be found in plants and flowers. Here are some ideas...

<http://almostunschoolers.blogspot.com/2012/05/symmetrical-flowers-mixing-art-and-math.html>

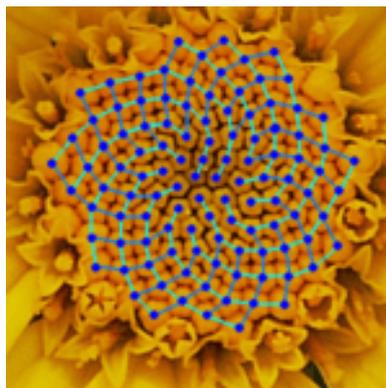


<https://thestemlaboratory.com/flower-symmetry-for-kids/>

<http://fractalfoundation.org>

<http://mathathome.org/patterns-in-leaves-and-flower-petals/>

<https://www.shademetals.com/blog/2018/2/22/math-in-flowers-symmetry-and-the-fibonacci-sequence>



Art, Artsmark, Arts Award — June

Botanical Art

Although photography and modern printing processes have replaced the need for cataloguing plant life with detailed drawn and painted illustrations, botanical illustration is a much loved art form that has seen a resurgence in popularity in recent years.

A nice project could include researching the history of plant observational drawing through time and using some different techniques to replicate botanical art from different periods.

To make an accurate rendering of a plant, you can create an impression in plaster, then trace the shape and details with colored pencil, ink, or watercolour, such as at: <https://cdn.dick-blick.com/lessonplans/botanical-illustration/botanical-illustration-botanical-illustration.pdf>



Another example of botanical art is here, along with a bit of history of the timeline of botanical drawings in art:

<http://www.jeannedebons.com/storage/Paint%20and%20Plants%20PP.pdf>



Crest Awards —June

Crest Awards (<https://www.crestawards.org/>) are run by the British Science Association and support science work and working scientifically. Star level is aimed at KS1; Superstar at KS2 and Discovery at KS3 and all have pre-made downloadable challenges which you can put together to achieve the awards. Beyond that, Bronze, Silver and Gold levels give more scope for individual projects. The awards are cheap to do (£1 per child for Star and Superstar and £3 each for Discovery) and you can record the activities online to get the children's certificates and badges.

Investigating Nature Challenges

Star (<https://www.crestawards.org/crest-star>)

Plant Detectives

Discovery Bag

Superstar (<https://www.crestawards.org/crest-superstar>)

A Special New Tree

Drifting Dandelions

Surprising Stains



Things to look out for in June

roses



honeysuckle



moths



butterflies



lizards



long tailed tits



puffins

