



NATURE SPOTTING SHEET

Name _____



Chaffinch



Blue tit



Great tit

Notes _____

Notes _____

Notes _____



Coal tit



Long-tailed tit



Blackbird

Notes _____

Notes _____

Notes _____



Robin



Dunnock



House sparrow

Notes _____

Notes _____

Notes _____

Find the Four!



EMPOWERING
BLIND
CHILDREN
YOUNG ADULTS



For Blindness Awareness Month and World Sight Day, The Wildlife Trusts and VICTA are setting you a Sensory-Scape challenge - Find the Four! The challenge is to identify four different things with four different senses.

This is a four senses nature scavenger hunt - by completing this challenge you will learn to engage with nature WITHOUT using your sight!

Time: One-two hours

Make sure that you wash your hands carefully after handling anything and don't eat anything you find!

You'll need

- Something soft
- Something prickly
- Something wet
- Something smooth

Touch

Once you've found your four items or textures, use your hands, and not eyes, to explore the objects, and ask questions, for example:

- Do all trees feel the same?
- Are all leaves the same size and shape?
- Why are some things smooth and some things rough?

You'll need

- Water
- Soil
- A tree
- A flower/fragrant leaves

Smell

Smell each of the four items and ask the following questions:

- Do flowers, leaves and trees smell the same?
- What does a pond or water source smell like?
- If you rub the leaves with your finger first, do they smell stronger?

Listen out for

- A bird singing
- A bush rustling
- A snapping sound
- A crunching sound

Hear

Go on an adventure and try to hear the four things on the left!

- Can you identify a bird just by the sound of its song?
- Can you hear the wind? How does it affect the other sounds?
- Can you hear any other types of animals?

You'll need

- Something a bird eats
- Something an insect eats
- Something a squirrel eats
- A stinging nettle

Taste

Find four things that can be edible to wildlife. Make sure not to eat them, as some things can be dangerous for humans!

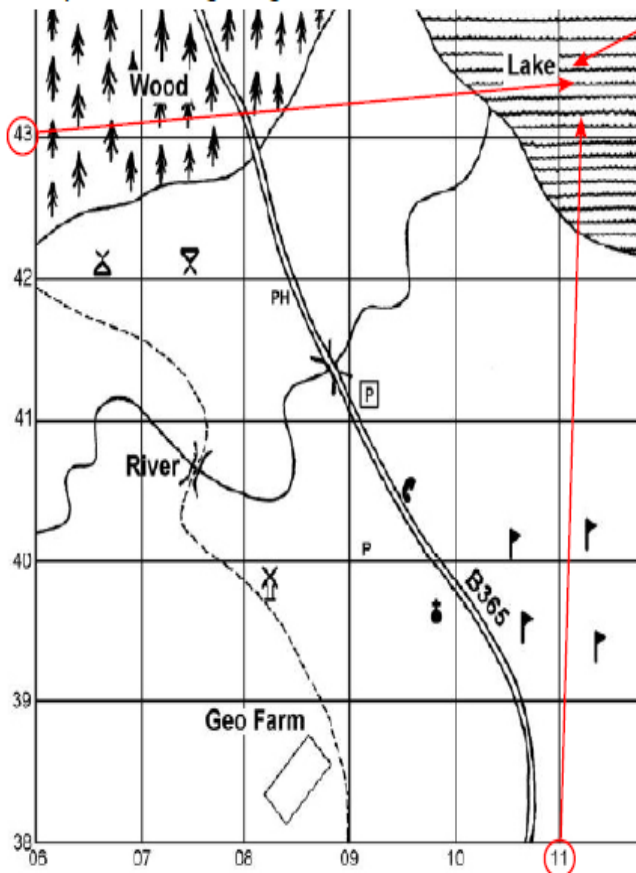
- Use your other senses to examine the objects
- Can you identify the type of berry, nut or seed that you've found?
- Did you find it difficult to find things? Talk about how wildlife might find their food

Task 1: Review map skills

A key (or a legend) on a map is a list of symbols that appear on the map.

Reading a map is like reading a graph with a horizontal X-axis and a vertical Y-axis. The grid lines on a map are called eastings (along the corridor) and northings (up the stairs). Remember go along the horizontal X-axis first and then up the vertical Y-axis.

For example, the 4-figure grid reference to locate the lake is 1143.



Legend:	
	Wood
	Lake
	Bridge
	Camp Site
	Car park
	Picnic Site
	Public House
	Post Office
	Golf Course
	Church
	Windmill

Referring to the map on page 1, answer the following questions:

a) Give a 4-figure grid reference for the bridge. _____

b) Give a 4-figure grid reference for the Geo Farm. _____

c) What is located in grid reference 0939? _____

d) What is located in grid reference 0743? _____



How to make your own bird feeder



What you need:

- dry ingredients
 - bird seed
 - dried fruit
 - cooked rice
 - breadcrumbs
 - grated cheese
 - chopped nuts

- hard cooking fat (lard or suet)

- a pine cone, coconut shell or yoghurt pot



Use an old yoghurt pot for this, and always recycle after it's been used

- string



1 Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl



2 Add the fat and give it a good mix around

3 Choose your feeder



plaster all over a pine cone



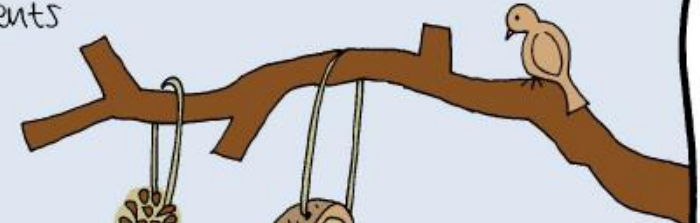
put it round the inside of a coconut shell



press into a yoghurt pot

You can hang this upside down like a bell or turn it out like a cake

4 Hang your feeders with string (you may need to make holes and tie the string in before adding the mix)



Hang your feeder where you can watch birds without disturbing them

If you need to melt the fat, ask an adult to help



Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

Hedgerow wildlife detective



Hedgehog



Hawthorn blossom



Bullfinch



Harvest mouse



Painted lady



Hawthorn shieldbug



Great tit



Common toad



Red campion



Yellowhammer



Nature is full of great opportunities in turning natural objects into musical instruments...

Maracas

You will need

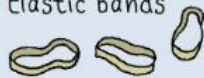
- An empty, clean tin can (with the label removed)



- A balloon



- Elastic bands



- A handful of seeds, rice, lentils, nuts or small stones



- 1 Put your loose materials into your tin can.



- 2 Stretch the balloon over the open end of the tin.



Be careful of sharp edges.

- 3 Once in place, secure it with elastic bands.



- 4 Give it go - shake your maraca!



Grass whistle

You will need

- A wide blade of grass



- Your two thumbs



- 1 Hold the grass taut between your thumbs.



- 2 Blow into the gap between your thumbs until you hear a whistle.

If you don't hear anything at first, try re-positioning the grass between your thumbs. Don't worry - it can take a bit of practice!



Countryside Butterflies



				
Meadow brown <input type="checkbox"/>	Common blue <input type="checkbox"/>	Ringlet <input type="checkbox"/>	Gatekeeper <input type="checkbox"/>	Small copper <input type="checkbox"/>
				
Wall brown <input type="checkbox"/>	Brown argus <input type="checkbox"/>	Clouded yellow <input type="checkbox"/>	Small heath <input type="checkbox"/>	Large skipper <input type="checkbox"/>

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

Meadow brown (c) David Longshaw / Common blue (c) Keith Warrington / Ringlet (c) Rachel Scopes / Gatekeeper and Clouded yellow (c) Margaret Holland / Small copper (c) Andrew Kerr / Wall brown and Small heath (c) Richard Burkmar / Brown argus (c) Amy Lewis / Large skipper (c) Paul Lane

Fungi identification

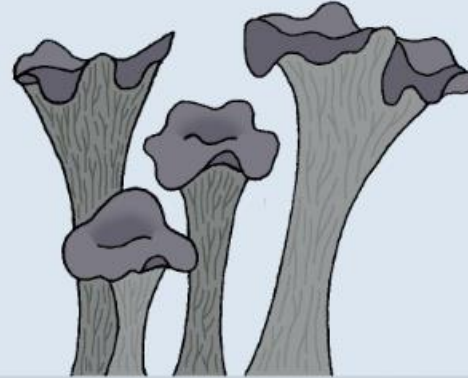
NEVER pick and eat wild mushrooms unless you're with a qualified expert who has told you it is safe.



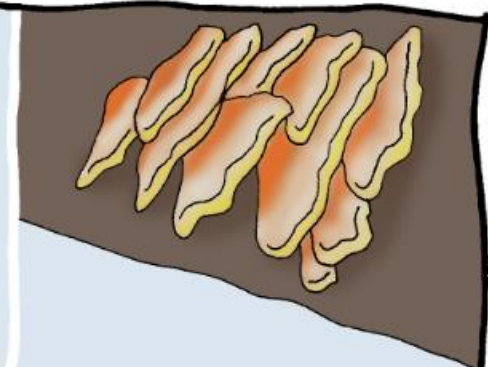
Chanterelle



Waxcap



Horn of plenty



Chicken of the woods



Jelly ear fungus



Yellow stagshorn



Fly agaric



Cep

Make a deluxe hedgehog house

You will need

- 20mm FSC plywood boards cut to the sizes shown

- Hammer and nails



- 2 metal hinges



- Soil



- Dry leaves



- Pet straw

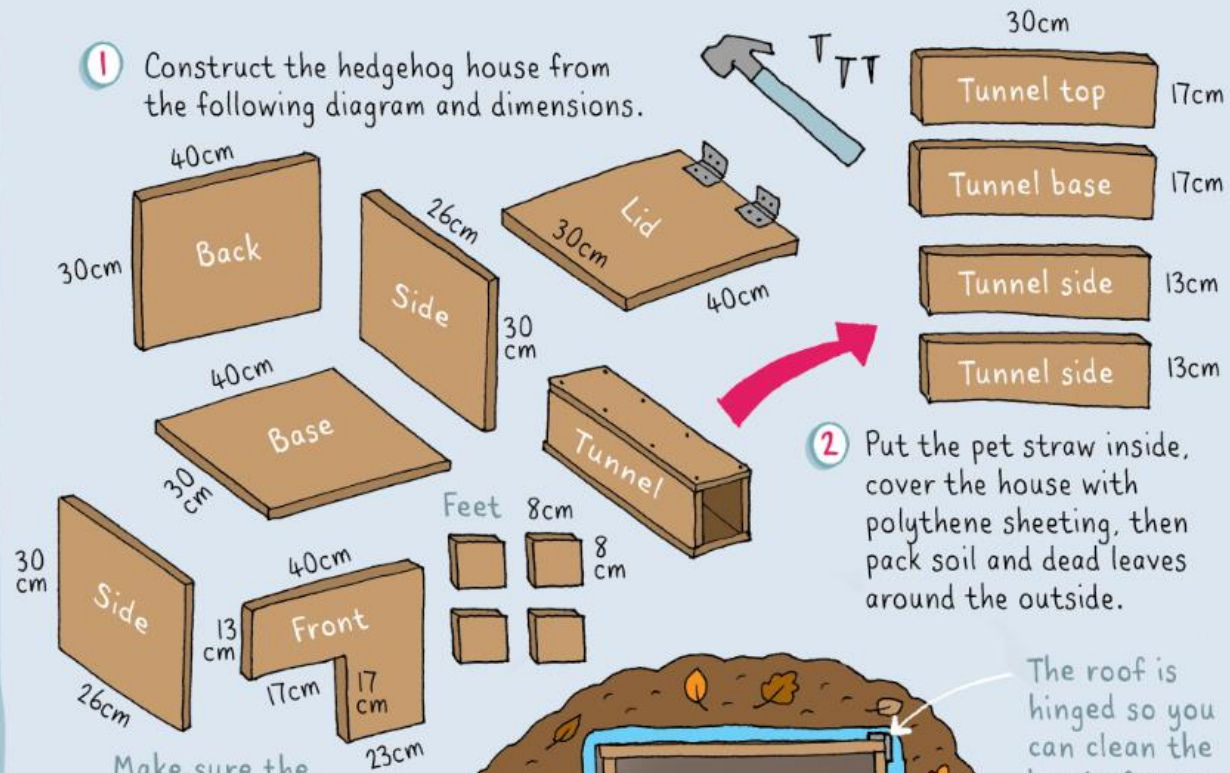


- Polythene sheeting



Birch is ideal

1 Construct the hedgehog house from the following diagram and dimensions.

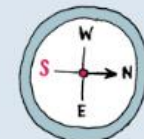


2 Put the pet straw inside, cover the house with polythene sheeting, then pack soil and dead leaves around the outside.

Do not creosote or treat the wood

Make sure the entrance tunnel faces south, and is kept clear at all times

The roof is hinged so you can clean the box in future



raised up on feet

Minibeast detective



Cricket



Harvestman



Woodlouse



Lacewing



Moth



Nettle Weevil



Millipede



Bluebottle fly



Slug



Bumblebee

Task 2. Choose your area.

There are important elements you need to consider before beginning your design. Decide on an area near your home or school. This could be an empty green space in a park, in your school, or an open space. Look at areas that might have natural features like a slope or a big tree.

These ideas might help you choose an area for what's there already.



Is there a good tree to climb?



Is there a wildflower area to protect?

Take a pen and paper, go outside and walk around the boundary of your area counting your footsteps. How many steps wide and long will it be? Note it on the paper. My space is 60 steps long and 40 steps wide so it is rectangular. Yours can be whichever shape you like. Complete the following questions by filling in the spaces below.

1. What size (in steps) and shape is your space?

2. What's there already? (e.g. trees, plants, paths, slopes, uneven ground, water)

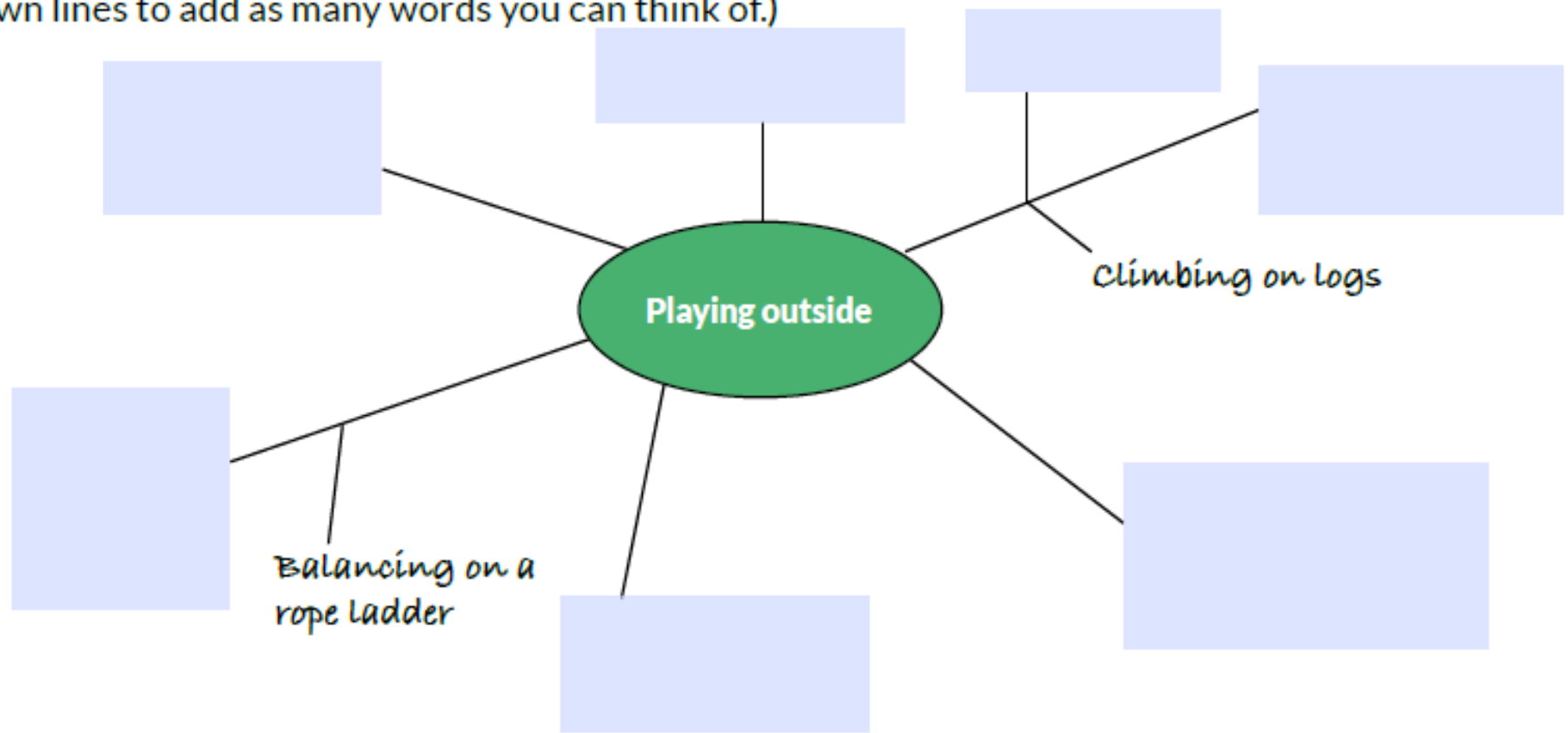
3. Who is it for? (e.g. age range of children, parents and carers, teachers)

4. What wildlife lives there already and what needs to remain there to protect its normal habitat? (e.g. hedgehogs, birds, insects, plants, trees, shade, sun, water)

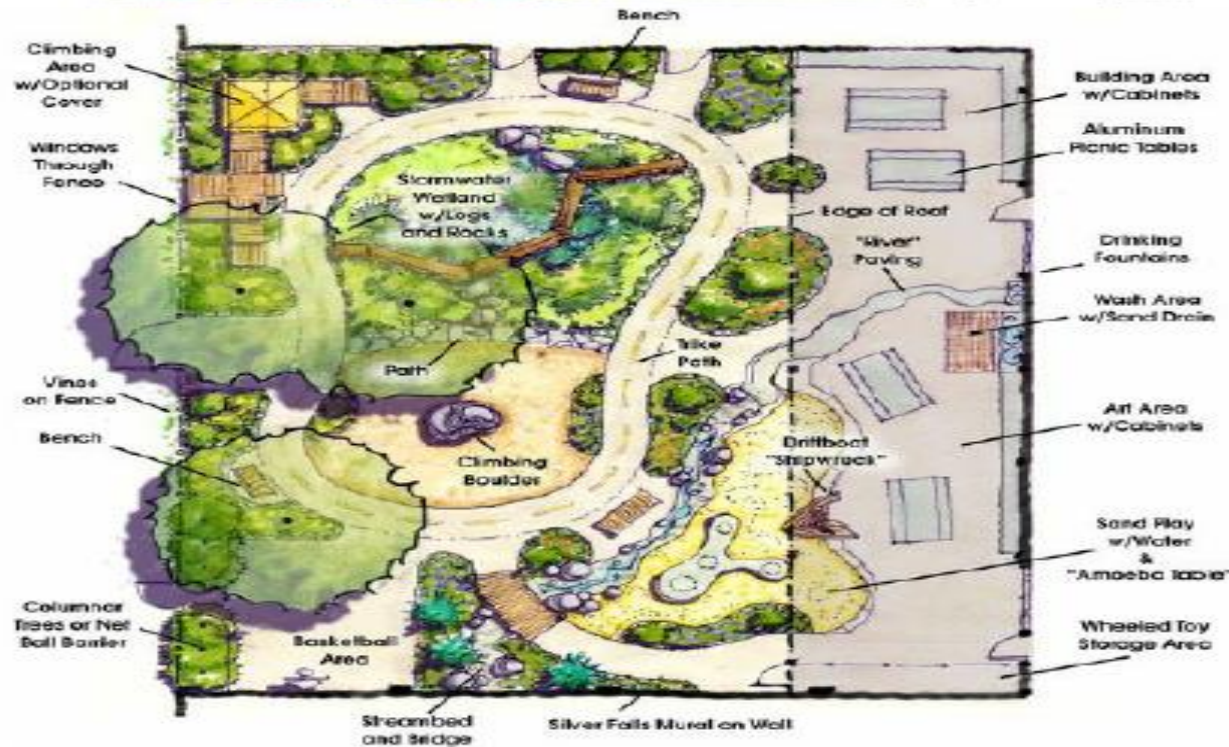
Task 1: What do you love about playing outside?

Fill in the squares in the mind map below or draw your own mind map on a piece of paper copying the one below.

Add any words or phrases that come into your head when you think about what you love about playing outside and how that links with nature. (2 suggestions have been added. You can add your own lines to add as many words you can think of.)



Firstly, make sure you've watched the video (link on page 1). These pictures and map may give you inspiration, but be inventive with your own brilliant ideas! Imagine you are looking at your area from above, so it will look a bit like these plans.



Spring flower spotter



Snowdrop



Daffodil



Wood-sorrel



Winter aconite



Wood anemone



Bluebell



Primrose



Wild garlic (ramsons)



Cowslip



Lesser celandine

Task 3. Plan your nature play space (continued)

Make a list of what you will include. These pictures might give you some ideas.



A climbing wall on a tree trunk, climbing steps with logs and layered planting for biodiversity.



A rope or tyre swing



A living willow tunnel

My List

Climbing Area

Swings Area

Crawling Area



Seating – wooden carved mushrooms



Seating and shaded areas



Planting and paths (make sure there's enough room for buggies and wheelchairs)



You might choose to use tree stumps, logs, recycled wood, tyres, rope or pipes to design rope ladders, seesaws, tunnels, bridges, boats, forts, or musical pipes. Think of your favourite trees, flowers and colours, design a natural maze, or encourage biodiversity by adding bug hotels, bird feeders and food growing boxes.

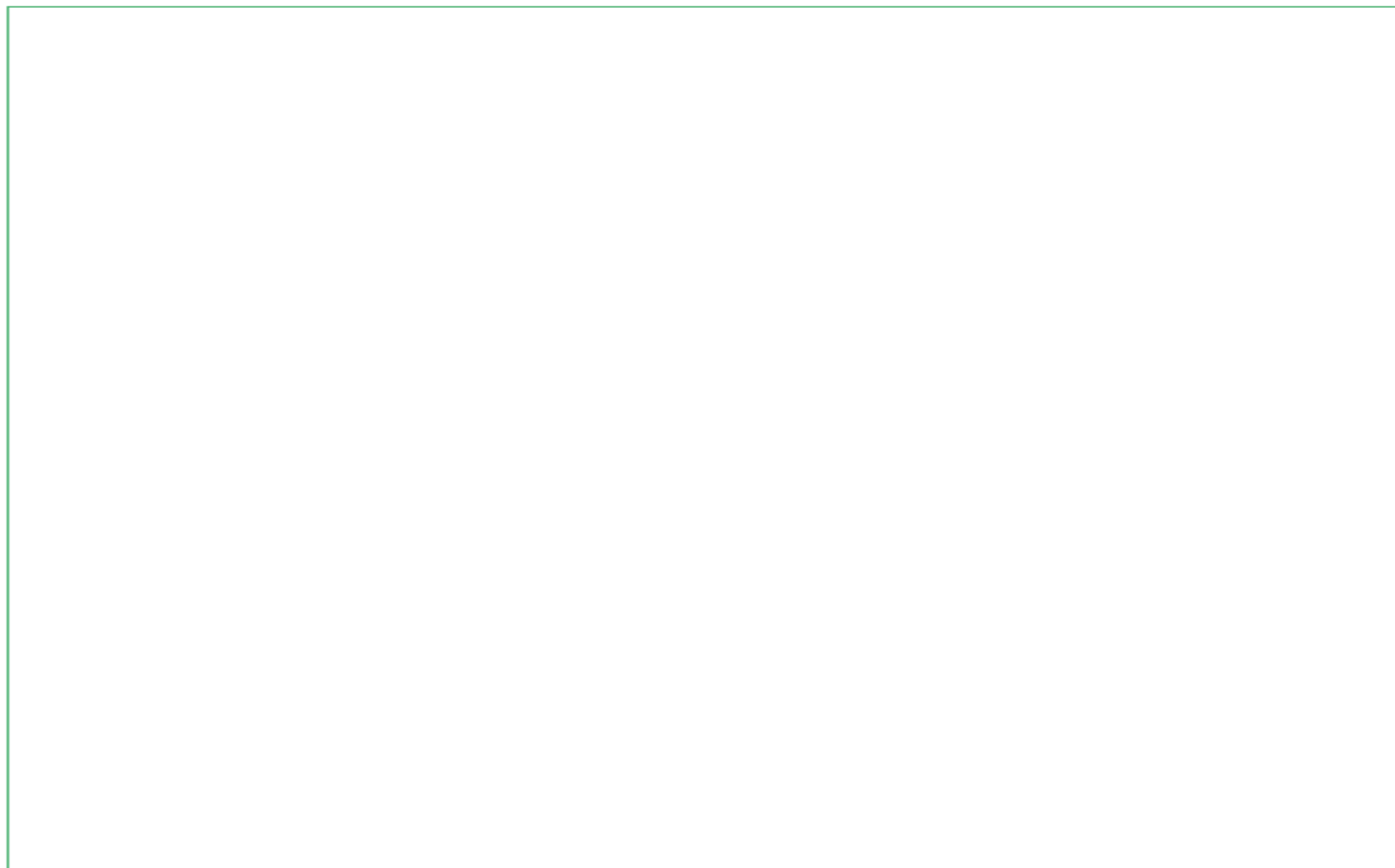
When you've finished your design on page 6, use this checklist to check you've remembered key elements. Tick each box if accomplished.

- Have you explained what materials your equipment is made from?
- Have you included seating and shaded areas?
- Have you included elements to encourage biodiversity?
- Have you included planting of your favourite trees, plants, flowers, vegetables or herbs?
- Are there busy and quiet play areas and a variety of play equipment?
- Have you designed paths and space for people to move around easily?

Start by drawing the shape and fill the sheet with the boundaries. Then draw what is there already that you will keep. Add your own designs to it and label them.

Colour in your design.

My first name: _____



How to make seed bombs

You will need:

- Meadow flower seeds or seeds collected from the garden



- Peat-free compost



- Water



- Powdered clay (from craft shops - use clay soil if you can't find any)



- Mixing bowl

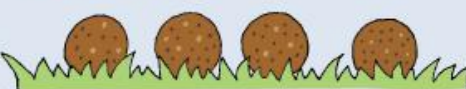


- 1 In a bowl, mix together 1 cup of seeds with 5 cups of compost and 2-3 cups of clay powder.



- 2 Slowly mix in water with your hands until everything sticks together, then roll mixture into firm balls.



- 3
- 

- 4 Now for the fun bit - plant by throwing your seed bombs at bare parts of the garden!



Winter nuts and berries



Yew berries



Acorns



Ivy berries



Conkers



Rose hips



Beech nuts



Holly berries



Crab apples



Rowan berries



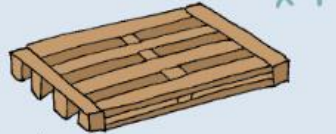
Hawthorn berries

How to build a bug hotel

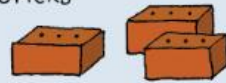


You will need:

- Wooden pallets



- Bricks



- Plastic bottles*



- Bamboo canes



- Straw



- Leaves



- Tiles



- Cardboard



- Stones/pebbles

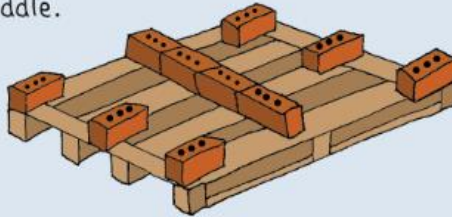


- Twigs/loose bark

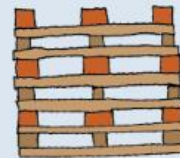


*Use old plastic bottles for this, and always recycle after use.

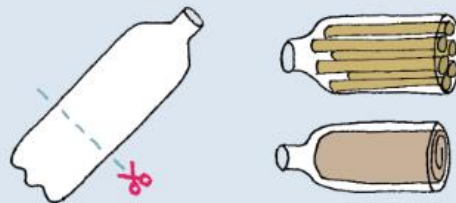
- 1 Place a wooden pallet in your chosen location. On top of the pallet, line bricks around the corners and across the middle.



- 2 Place your next pallet on top of this and repeat the process for all of your pallets.



- 3 Cut off the top two-thirds of your bottles. Fill up half of them with bamboo canes and the other half with rolled up cardboard. Place these inside the hotel.



- 4 Fill in the remaining spaces with bricks, leaves, pebbles, stones, tiles, loose bark and straw.



- 5 Add in any extra materials that you want to recycle e.g. old pipes, carpeting, toilet tubes, old plant pots. Be creative - add a welcome sign or give your hotel a name!



Autumn tree and leaf detective



Beech



Ash



Oak



Sweet chestnut



Horse chestnut



Hazel



Silver birch



Sycamore



Hawthorn



Elder

Caterpillar identification



Oak eggar



Peacock



Mullein



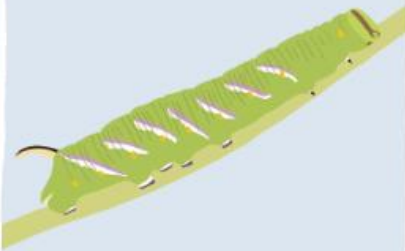
Fox moth



Puss moth



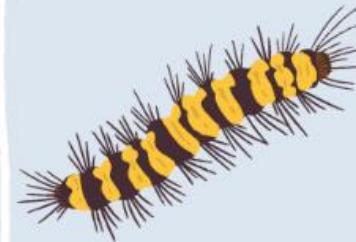
Garden tiger



Privet hawk-moth



Drinker moth



Cinnabar



Elephant hawk-moth

Make a nature mandala



You will need

- Bags or baskets to collect natural materials
- Natural materials:



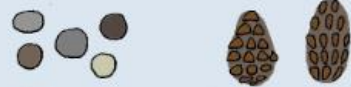
Sticks

Grass



Leaves

Feathers



Pebbles

Pine cones



Flowers

Only pick from your own garden and leave plenty for pollinators!

- 1 Head outdoors and collect your natural materials. Try to find a few of the same thing as this will help with your shape (eg. five yellow leaves, four twigs of equal length).



- 2 Find a flat surface – maybe a table or even your lawn or yard outside. Place one of your finds down first to act as the middle of the mandala.

- 3 Use the rest of your finds to make a pattern coming out from the centre. Consider the symmetry of your pattern, making one side mirror the other. You can be as creative as you like.



- 4 Remember to take a photo of your finished mandala!

The word 'mandala' is Sanskrit for circle. The circular shape symbolises how nature doesn't begin or end, but is always connected.

Wildlife and railways sharing a space



Wildlife spotting by train