

Year 4 - Living things

National curriculum objectives:

Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways and explore and use classification keys to help group them.

Ideas of how to do this whilst on lock down:

- If you have a garden, or when taking your daily walk, encourage your child to observe the different types of plants and trees that they see
- Talk about how they are the same and how are they different. You may want to consider leaf or petal shape, colour, size, where they are found etc.
- Take photos so you can continue to talk about them together when you return home.
- Use the internet or reference books and together try and identify the names of the plants or trees.
- Explore ways of grouping different plants into categories e.g. flowering plants (including grasses) and non-flowering plants, such as ferns and mosses.
- Have a mini-beast hunt in your garden or on your daily walk. Ask your child to complete a tally chart of what find. Consider how they can be grouped e.g. number of legs, colour, size, micro-habitat found in etc.
- Look at a range of animals and begin to put vertebrate animals into groups such as fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals; and invertebrates into snails and slugs, worms, spiders, and insects.

Identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment and recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

Ideas of how to do this whilst on lock down:

- Research the positive human impact on Spike Island of Wigg Island nature reserves and how this has benefitted the local wildlife.
- Research the negative effects of population and overdevelopment on our wildlife such as bees and butterflies.
- Write a persuasive letter to a housing developer to convince them to stop building new homes due to the effect it has on the population of bees and the long-term effect of this.

Make your own nectar bar

Wildlife
Watch



No matter how big or small your space, there's lots you can do to help our insects!

Window box nectar bar

- 1 You'll need a window box (or two if you've got space) with drainage holes.



- 2 Use peat-free compost in your window box.

- 3 Stock up on pollinator friendly plants that are suitable for window boxes. Choose from...



Lavender



Thyme



Sage



Early crocus



Agrimony



Rosemary

- 4 Water regularly over spring and summer!

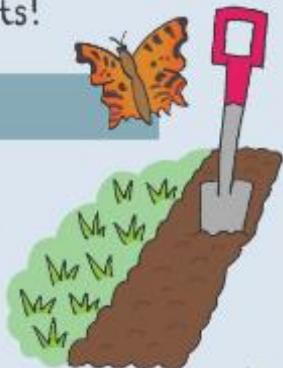


A garden border

- 1 Identify a strip of your garden border that you can keep just for pollinators.



- 2 Dig up any old roots to prepare your border.



- 3 Choose your pollinator friendly plants. We recommend:

Back of
border



Foxglove



Vipers bugloss



Buddleia



Borage

Front of
border



Oxeye daisy



Yarrow



Cowslip



Hellebore

- 4 If you have a fence, wall or tree stump grow ivy and honeysuckle against it! Ivy flowers in autumn so is a great source of nectar later in the year.



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Challenge:

Find out about Spike Island Nature reserve in Widnes.

What species can be found there?

Produce an information leaflet to encourage families to visit.