



Seed bomb sortie

Time:

30 minutes

Who it's for:

5 to 10 year olds

You'll need:

- Wildflower seeds
- Paprika
- Clay soil
- Compost
- Soil water

What to do:

1. Members can help to spread butterfly and bee friendly wildflowers throughout the local area with these exciting seed bombs.
2. Collect one or two buckets of clay-rich soil, compost and water. Hand out a packet of flower seeds to each member.
3. Members should take some clay rich soil and some compost, wet them slightly and knead them until they start to come together. Add a sprinkle of seeds and a little paprika – to stop birds from eating them – and roll everything into a ball.
4. Leave the seed bombs to dry for a few days. At the next meeting give the seed bombs back to the members and get them to place them somewhere where they would like flowers to grow. Remind them that they should get permission from whoever owns the land before distributing their seed bombs.
5. When the conditions are right their seed bombs will start to grow!

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Canal clean

Time:

Dependent
on activity

Who it's for:

10+

You'll need:

- Volunteers
- Bin bags
- Rubber gloves

What to do:

1. Our canals provide an amazing space for wildlife to flourish, especially in urban areas and can be home to some amazing and rare creatures such as kingfishers and otters.
2. However, it is a big job to keep these wildlife-rich waterways in good condition and protect the animals which call them home.
3. Your group could help contribute by taking part in a canal clean.
Details on local volunteer groups and clean up events can be found at:
<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/volunteer/ways-to-volunteer/towpath-taskforce>
This would be a great activity for your district or division.



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Dress up habitat relay

Time:

20-25 minutes

Who it's for:

10+

You'll need:

- Clothes and accessories as listed below
- Printed animal info sheets – one set per team

What to do:

1. Before the game, get together clothes and accessories that humans would need in the following five habitats. Here are some ideas:
 - African savannah: sun-cream, sun hat, sunglasses, mosquito repellent
 - Sea: goggles, swimming trunks, towel, swimming hat, snorkel
 - Antarctic: woolly hat, scarf, thick coat, ski goggles
 - River: wellington boots, raincoat, fishing net
 - Rainforest: walking boots, rain-hat, poncho
2. Set up the game:
 - In the middle of your meeting space, place piles of clothes and accessories, separated into piles of what's suitable for each habitat.
 - At one end of your meeting place, place the printed information on the five animals. You'll need one set of these per team, placed opposite each team.
 - At the opposite end of your meeting place, ask the group to stand in lines in teams of around 5 people, and there should be no more than 5 teams.
3. Get going! The aim of the relay is for teams to be the first to match the habitat the clothes are for with the right animals.

On your 'GO!' the first person or pair from each team runs to the clothes piles in the middle of the meeting space, and chooses a set of clothes.

As quickly as they can they should put on the clothes and accessories, then run to the opposite side of the meeting space and choose an animal from their team's pile that they think they would be most likely to meet in the environment they are dressed for. You'll need a leader at this end to tell them they've chosen the correct animal! Once they find the correct animal, they should run back to the middle, take off the clothes and accessories they put on and put back into a neat pile, and run back to the end of their team line.



What to do: (continued)

Each team should send 5 runners (one for each habitat). If there are more than five people in each team, members can run in pairs or small groups and dress one person up. If there are fewer, team members can run twice.

When all team members have run, they should sit down in a row, waiting until all the teams are finished. The team that was the fastest wins!

4. Go through the answers together afterwards. Ask:

- What were all the habitats?
- If our habitat changes, we can change our clothes, or move away! What can an animal do if its habitat changes?
 - It can't do very much! Some animals can adapt or find new homes but it's unlikely.
- What kind of changes might an animal from the habitats in our game see?
 - Use the info from the sheets.
- What happens if an animal can't adapt to changes in its habitat or go somewhere else?
 - The animal can become threatened or even extinct.

Alternative: if you aren't able to get hold of items like this, adapt the game – instead of asking children to put on the items during the game, write out the names of the habitats in large letters and place them in the centre of the room. Ask each person who comes up to draw at least three items they'd need to take with them or wear on a trip to this type of environment, before they can go on to finding the animal they think matches their habitat.

Take it further: if you're outside, why not make the game into an obstacle course?



Animal info sheet:

Sea: Dolphins



The main threat to dolphins at sea is unsustainable fishing practices. Dolphins can get accidentally caught or entangled in fishing gear and drown – this is known as bycatch. This causes the deaths of over 300,000 dolphins, porpoises and whales every year.

Overfishing of our seas is reducing dolphin prey, so they're left with less to eat. Ships and other vessels also sometimes hit dolphins, inflicting serious and even fatal injuries.

Antarctic: Adélie penguins



Climate change is reducing the amount of sea ice in parts of the Antarctic. Also, sea ice across the whole of Antarctica is predicted to decline this century. One of the Adélies' main food sources, krill, breeds and feeds under the sea ice. In part of the Southern Ocean, there's been a long-term decline in the abundance of Antarctic krill. This may well be due to the reduction in sea ice.

With continued warming, this will get worse, reducing the Adélies' food supplies even more.

African savannah: White and black rhino



White rhino: One subspecies - the southern white rhino - is an amazing conservation success story. The population has recovered from fewer than 100 in 1895 to over 20,000 today. But sadly there are no northern white rhinos left in the wild, and only a handful in captivity.

Black rhino: The smaller black rhino has three remaining subspecies. A fourth – the western black rhino – was declared extinct in 2011. About 96% of black rhinos were lost to large-scale poaching between 1970 and 1992, and there are now just 4,800 individuals in the wild today.

Poaching for their horns is still the greatest threat to African rhinos today. In South Africa, rhino poaching has risen to worrying new levels since 2007, after falling to much lower numbers during the previous 20 years.

Rainforest: Orang-utans



Over the past 20 years, more than 80% of the orang-utan's habitat in Borneo and Sumatra has been converted for farm land – mainly for the production of palm oil, a product found in more than half of packaged products in our supermarkets. Peat swamp forests that are home to high densities of orang-utans are often targeted for oil palm plantations.

Road development, illegal timber harvesting and unsustainable logging, mining and developing human settlements also result in habitat loss.

River: Water voles



The water vole has been declining in Britain generally since about 1900. This has happened because of bad management of riverbanks, such as too much vegetation cutting and changing the courses of rivers – like creating canals. Some think that grazing animals stop the vegetation water voles need from growing.



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Song for the world

Time:

40 minutes

Who it's for:

12+

You'll need:

- To ask members in advance to bring in music and lyrics they like
- Phone or laptop to listen to the song
- Paper and pens

What to do:

1. Listen to the song 'Big Yellow Taxi' by Joni Mitchell. This is a famous environmental song, inspired when Joni was on a trip to Hawaii and looked out of her hotel window in the 1970s to see beautiful green mountains in the distance, but in front of her a huge car park.
2. Ask members what their favourite habitat in nature is – this could be a specific place, such as the countryside or beach near their town, or more general like rainforests in Madagascar or the Arctic.
3. Now, ask them in small groups to think of a modern song they know really well, and replace the lyrics with words about their favourite habitat and why it shouldn't be destroyed. To make it easier, suggest songs for them with repeated choruses. Or why not use nursery rhyme tunes?
4. If this works really well, invite an audience of peers and parents to view the performances as a fund-raiser for WWF or to fund an environmental project at your meeting place.



Make a bat box

Time:

1 ½ hours

Who it's for:

10+

You'll need:

- Wood
- Woodworking tools

What to do:

1. The ever changing landscape of the UK has made life difficult for bats. Their natural habitats have been decreasing and the use of pesticides and other intensive farming processes have all contributed to a decline in bat numbers throughout the UK.
2. One way to help protect bats is by providing safe spaces for them to nest. Get your group involved by building bat boxes for the local area.
3. Full instructions for building a bat box can be downloaded from www.bats.org.uk/pages/bat_boxes.html
Remember that it's illegal to disturb or handle bats.



Make a bird feeder

Time:

1 hour

Who it's for:

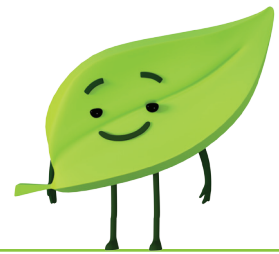
5 to 10 year olds

You'll need:

- Clean plastic bottles
- String
- Bird seed
- Scissors
- 'Make a bird feeder' instruction sheet

What to do:

1. It can be tough for birds to find enough food during the long British winter. With this activity your group can create birdfeeders to hang in their gardens or around your meeting space, helping birds to stay healthy.
2. Download the bird feeder instruction sheet to run this activity with your group.



Make a bird feeder

You'll need an adult to help you with this task.



What you need

- 1 x empty, clean plastic drinks bottle with labels removed
- 1 x length of string
- 1 x pair of scissors
- Bird seed

Instructions

1. Ask an adult to help you by cutting a hole in the side of your plastic bottle, making sure it's large enough to allow the birds to reach the seeds but not too large that seeds will be blown onto the ground on a windy day.
2. Then ask your adult helper to make a few holes in the base of your plastic bottle to allow any water that may become trapped to drain away when it rains.
3. Tie some string around the top of the bottle and fill it with bird seed to the level of the hole.
4. Now hang it from a tree or washing line at a height that you're able to re-fill it easily but not too low that it can be easily reached by cats.
5. Remember to re-fill your feeder with new seed, especially during winter months when birds come to rely on it.





Make a bee hotel

Time:

1 ½ hours

Who it's for:

All ages

You'll need:

- Clean tin cans
- Bamboo canes
- Plant pot
- Soil
- Paints
- 'Make a bee hotel' instruction sheet

What to do:

1. Britain has around 200 species of solitary bees; these differ from bumblebees in that they build single nest cells for their larvae. Some species nest in tunnels in sandy banks or old bricks; others use hollow stems of dead plants or old wood to create their nests.
2. Your group can make use of recycled materials to create their own bee hotels, providing spaces for solitary bees to nest. These bee hotels could be positioned in members' gardens or around your meeting space throughout the summer. Just make sure they are placed in a south facing position as bees love the sun.
3. Download the bee hotel instruction sheet to run this activity with your group.

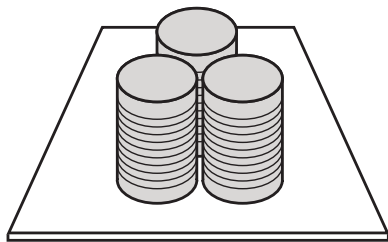


Make a bee hotel

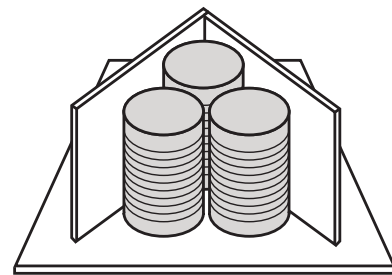
What you need

- Three clean tin cans
- Bamboo canes
- Non-toxic PVA glue
- Wood glue
- Paint
- Two thin pieces of wood for the roof
- A thin square piece of wood for the back of the hotel

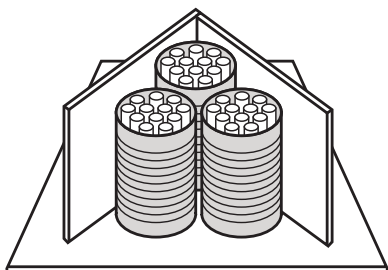
Instructions



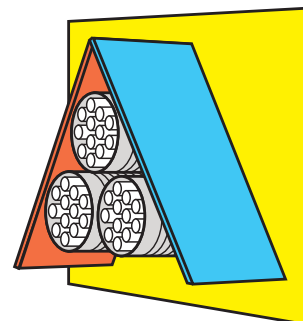
1. Place the piece of wood you have chosen for the back of your bee hotel on the floor. Put wood glue on the bottom of the cans and stick them to the wood in a pyramid shape (two below one on top). Leave them to dry for an hour.



2. Take the pieces of wood for your roof and place them in a triangle shape covering the cans and glue them into place. Leave them to dry for an hour.



3. Ask an adult to help you cut the bamboo canes into short sections the depth of the tin cans. Place a little PVA glue on the end of each cane and push it into the can. Fill up the can with the canes.



4. Now your bee hotel is nearly ready. Paint it in bright colours (with non-toxic paint) and leave it in a quiet place outside for the bees to start using.

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Make a wildflower garden

Time:

Up to 6 hours

Who it's for:

All ages

You'll need:

- A disused space
- Wildflower seeds
- Watering cans
- Gardening tools

What to do:

1. Britain's bees have a very important job, helping to pollinate our crops; however bee numbers have been declining in recent years.
2. Why not help support our bees by transforming a local space, no matter how big or small into a wildflower garden, providing plenty of food for bees, butterflies and other insects.
3. You can find some guidance on what plants to use in your wild flower garden at **www.rhs.org.uk/Gardening/Sustainable-gardening/Plants-for-pollinators**
4. If space is at a premium, why not make a butterfly feeder?
Visit **http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/butterfly_feeder.pdf**



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Wildlife – camera, action!

Time:

Dependent
on route

Who it's for:

10+

You'll need:

- A camera
- A noticeboard/website for display

What to do:

1. Organise a nature walk and challenge members to 'capture' the best nature photo they can. They could choose to capture an amazing animal or beautiful landscape, a 'mood' or action shot, or try to take images from an animal's eye view – eg a beetlecam or eaglecam shot!
2. They will need a camera (although many smartphones now have cameras) and to keep their eyes peeled for interesting angles and exciting animals.
3. Ask members to check their photos and print off their favourite and create a display with these. You could take votes.

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Diversity games

Time:

Part 1: 15 minutes**Part 2:** 25-30 minutes

Who it's for:

All ages

You'll need:

- Plant/animal card per person (it's ok if more than one child has the same)
- Diversity sheet per person
- One pen each

What to do:

Part 1:

We are all different

This first part helps especially younger children to understand what we mean by diversity, thinking about ourselves first. Older children may wish to skip to Part 2.

1. Get into a circle. If you have a parachute or large sheet, this can make this game even more fun! Ask everyone to think of one thing that they enjoy doing – anything from swimming to baking, and what they need to be good at it.
2. As a group, chant “you can dance and I can sing, we are great at lots of things! X loves to...” then shout out the name of someone in the group, who says what s/he enjoys and what makes it possible – for example “I like reading and my eyes help me see the words” – everyone who also likes this (eg also likes reading) then runs around the circle and comes back to their space. The last person back is the next person to speak!
3. Afterwards, the leader should explain that the game shows that we are all different and enjoy and are good at different things – and the world is a much more exciting and fun place because everyone is different. This is called diversity – and we are just one animal in a whole world full of millions of type of plants and animals.

Part 2:

Biodiversity of the animal and plant kingdom

1. Give everyone a plant or animal card, and ask them to walk around the room acting like what's on their card – if they're a tree they should stand up tall and put out their arms like branches, penguins should waddle, and so on. Children should pay close attention to what everyone is doing.
2. Give out to each person the game sheet card and a pen. They need to find a different person for each of these characteristics – the first person who finds someone for each wins!
3. Explain afterwards that each of these animals or plants is unique. Aren't they all amazing? Every one of them is affected by changes to the environment which means the world could have much less variety as some of these amazing species could be lost.



Plant/animal cards

elephant	tortoise	ape
whale	giraffe	hummingbird
snake	shark	polar bear
sheep	owl	rhino
jaguar	bamboo	cactus
Giant Sequoia tree	dolphin	frog



Diversity game sheet

Animal/plant: Elephant, tortoise, ape, whale, giraffe, hummingbird, snake, shark, polar bear, sheep, owl, rhino, jaguar, bamboo, cactus, Giant Sequoia tree, dolphin, frog.

Can pick up food with its nose Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Can live for over 100 years Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Can swing from tree to tree Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____
Has four stomachs Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Can grow up to 5.5 metres tall Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Can fly backwards Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____
Can see through its eyelids Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Holds water in its thick stem Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Has black skin Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____
Voice can be heard from 800 kms away Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Can turn its head nearly all the way around Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Has a horn made from compacted hair Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____
Has a more powerful bite than a lion Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Can grow almost a metre in one day Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Lays the biggest eggs in the world Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____
The largest living thing in the world Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Communicates through clicks and whistles Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____	Uses its sticky tongue to catch food Name: _____ Animal/plant: _____

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Dolphin tag

Time:

20 minutes

Who it's for:

All ages

You'll need:

Nothing

What to do:

1. This is a game of tag. Choose one person to be 'on' – they are playing the fishing net. Choose around 3-4 members to be dolphins. The rest of the group are fish. The dolphins and the fish must try to 'swim' away from the fishing net (acting out swimming!).
2. When a fish or a dolphin is tagged by the net, they join the net by joining hands with the person who is 'on', and keep chasing the fish and dolphins – so the net grows longer and longer. The last dolphin or fish swimming wins.

Chat afterwards: explain that the way some people around the world fish means that they don't only get lots of fish in their nets, but they catch other animals too like dolphins, sharks and sea birds. This can cause huge problems for the populations of these animals that may already be endangered. They can also damage things that live on the bottom of the ocean, like coral. There's a lot of things fishing companies can do to avoid this by changing the way they fish, and governments can put laws in place to make sure this happens.