

West Jesmond Family Dippy School Homework – June Challenge!



“I like eating conifers, cycads and ginkoes, but not flowering plants and grasses as they weren't around in my day!”

Plants

Grow plants in different ways

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 Walk: Record a nature walk using a piece of card and some double sided tape. Add things you have found onto the tape. Remember to discuss what you are allowed to collect and what should and should not be picked up!

Preserving plants: You could preserve your own by pressing some flowers. You could then either draw and label your flowers or even label the pressed flowers themselves. You can find some ways of pressing the flowers at <https://www.ftd.com/blog/create/how-to-press-flowers>

Art work

Natural dyes: Most natural dyes are made from plant sources— roots, berries, bark, leaves— and can be made easily with minimal science equipment.

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

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=kVth1Z5vQOU> and a how to video can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7Y4mosA_8o

Make nettle tea

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

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 (Nettles are amazing— <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/magazine/8692782.stm> or you could do it with dandelions.

Smelly potions

You can also make magic or smelly potions if you love collecting things and using your senses— Pretty much everyone then!

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

Floriography

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

Maths

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/>

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

*As a family go out and investigate one, some or all of these things. It's up to you how you want to record this: pictures, photos, send comments to our Facebook and Twitter threads or come in to talk about it in class.
Please complete by Mon 1st July and be prepared to share what you have done in class.*