

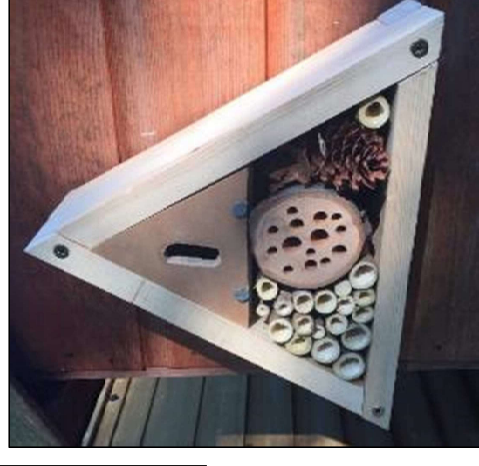
'Bee & Bee' for Bees

Some bees such as Bumblebees and Honey bees choose to live in groups but some bees are solitary. The females spend most of their time trying to find places to nest. You could help them by building a Bee hotel in your garden. It can be as simple as tying a bunch of hollow stems together and hanging them in a bush or instructions for a more elaborate version can be found here:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-bee-hotel>

You could create a few different Bee hotels and place them different locations in your outdoor space. You could monitor each Bee hotel to see if the hotels become inhabited. You might like to grow some 'Bee food' too? Can you research why we have solitary bees in the world?

Key Questions: Why is it important that we care for bees? What skills do you think you have used in the construction of your Bee hotel?



Smelly Cocktails

Gather up a jar/cup/glass and find yourself a stick to stir your concoction with. Go and explore the different plants, trees, and muddy areas outside. Collect the smells you like by taking, small, finger nail sized sections and add them to your jar/cup/glass. Herbs are my favourite ingredient. When you've created your best smelling cocktail, give it a stir and then add a small amount of magic water. This makes it smell amazing! When finished, give it a name, have a toast, and throw it over your shoulder! REMEMBER it's for smelling, **never for drinking!**

Try closing your eyes and see if you can identify different smells without seeing them. Maybe you would like to create several different smelly cocktails and then compare them? Perhaps you could some recipes for the best smelly cocktails? You might even like to research the ingredients!

Key Questions: What was your favourite and least favourite smell and why? Were you surprised by the different smells that you found and why/why not?



Close Up on Nature

There are some amazing patterns, textures, shapes, and colours within nature. If we get really close to a natural object and really focus in on it, we discover so much more! Find something that interests you in your outdoor space or out in nature. Take close up photo of it and afterwards see if you find out more about it.

You might like to use your photo as inspiration for an art project. Can you draw it in your nature journal? Maybe you could make a collage of it? Perhaps you could take several close up shots, research each object, and then make a fact file/slideshow on them?

Key Questions: Why do you think you chose your close up objects? Were you surprised by your close up shots? Why/why not? Which shot are you most proud of?



Natural Portraits

Can you create your own portrait out of natural items? Gather up what you can find in your garden or outdoor space that's easy to get hold of. Now create your own portrait. Be creative and think outside the box. Be as abstract as you want.

Maybe you want to create many different portraits showing the different emotions you've felt? Maybe you could create a speed portrait in 5 mins and then create another portrait in 20 mins? Can you explain why the two portraits might differ so much? What have you discovered about creativity and time?

Key Questions: What drew you to the natural items you used for your portrait? How many different textures did you use and why did you use them? How and why did you use colour within your portrait? What part of your portrait do you like best and why? What was the biggest obstacle you had to overcome during this activity?



Fairy/Elf Houses

At Burwell House we have a Fairy tree. We have several fairy and elf doors which allow these magical beings to enter. See if you can create your own elf and fairy house in your outdoor space. What materials can you collect and use? Use your imagination to come up with some special magical features that the elves and fairies will like. Remember to not peel bark off your trees, our fairy tree is special.

Perhaps you could create several different fairy and elf houses in your space? Can you give each house a name? Maybe each house has a different theme? You might like to give a tour of your elf and fairy village? Maybe you could come up with a poem or story that describes how the elves and fairies use your magical land?

Key Questions:

What materials did you use to create your elf and fairy land? Did you have different themes for each house? Did you use any other themes from nature to help create your elf and fairy land? If so, why? Which elf/fairy house are you most proud of and why?



Sticky Weed Fun

May is a great time of year to go out for a walk and look for Sticky Weed (*Galium Aparine*) It's an easily recognisable, common, annual weed that is native to hedgerows, woodlands and wasteland in the UK. There's all sorts of things you can do with Sticky Weed. Gather some Sticky Weed and weave together to make a crown. This can be used as a base to which you can add some spring flowers.

Sticky Weed challenge; the weed gets its name because it has Velcro like hairs and fuzzy seeds that stick to clothes and pet fur as they pass by. See if you can stick some Sticky Weed to someone's clothes without them noticing!

Key Questions: Sticky Weed is known by lots of other names, can you find out any? How does this plant disperse its seeds? Can you find out about other types of seed dispersal?



Natural Paint Brushes

This is a great way to explore different textures and get creative. Collect some sticks. Then collect some items to act as the 'brush' at the end of your stick. Make sure your 'brush' is securely attached to your stick. Make a few different natural paint brushes to experiment with. Instead of paint, you could use watered-down mud, which is easy to wash off.

You could create a whole artists' range of natural paint brushes using different 'brushes'. Perhaps you could create natural dye to use, e.g. Onion skin in water, Turmeric and water, Beetroot peel and water? You could create a natural paint brush sketch book, which collates all your natural paint brush creations. You might want to see who can create the 'best' natural paint brush at home?

Key Questions: Which natural material worked best as a paint brush? Why do you think this is? Which natural paint brush created your favourite pattern? What did you discover when making and using your natural paint brushes?

