

Spectacular horticulture and biodiversity

Plants and animals are all important in making sure our green spaces stay healthy! They make up a team of pest controllers, pollinators and planters all on our doorstep.

Through this pack we'll learn how to look for these biodiversity heroes. We'll learn about the roles many of them, big and small, play to help keep our green spaces looking spectacular. We'll also discover some ways we can help them out.



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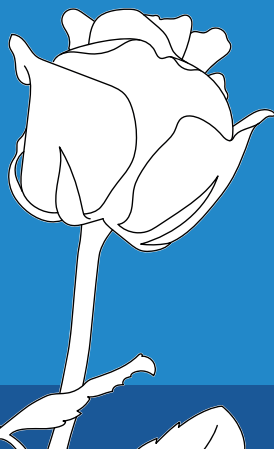


@grosvenorsq



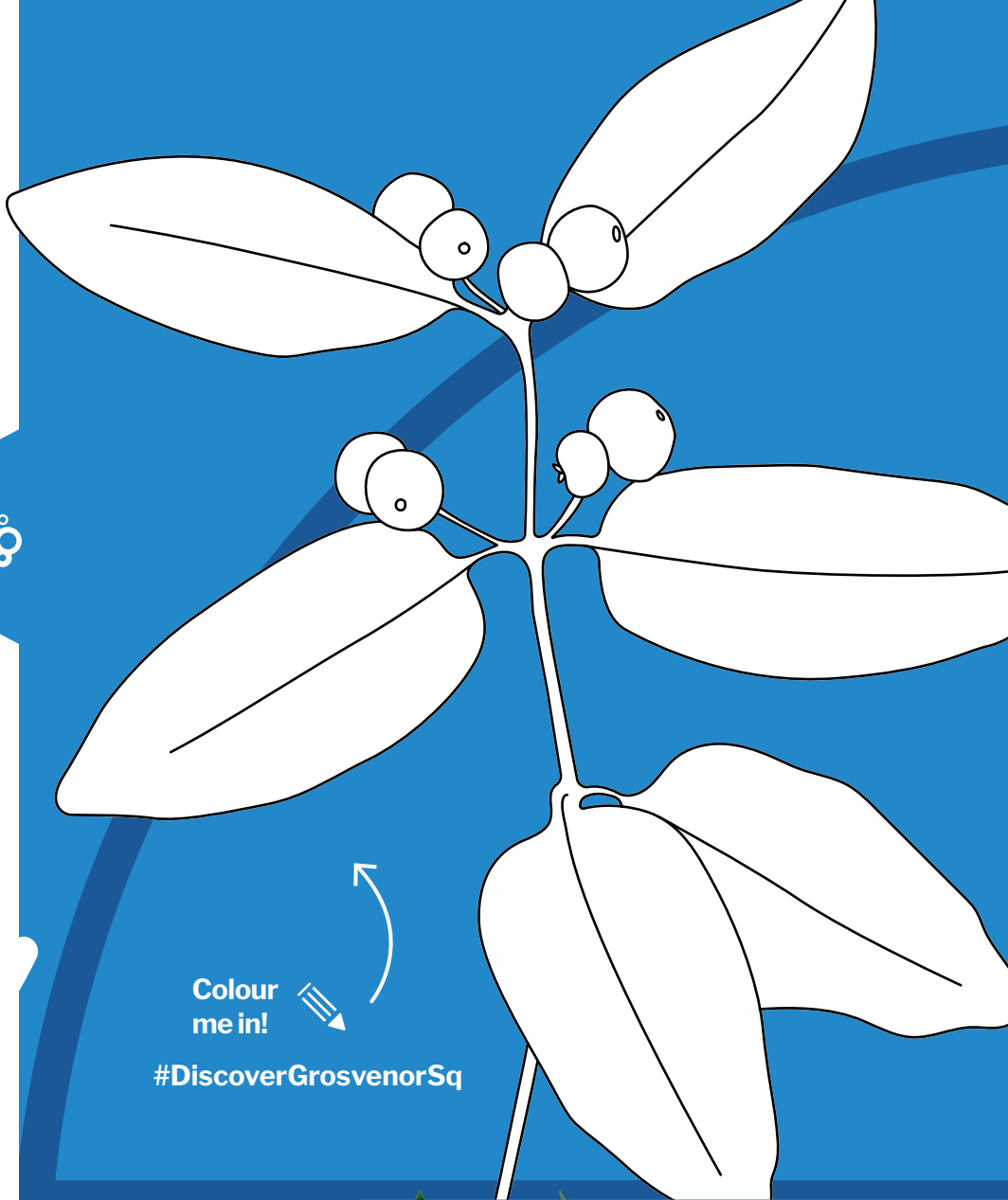
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Keep an eye out for the camera icon in your pack. If you spot it, take a snap of your creations and share with us!





Colour
me in!



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London
Wildlife Trust



GROSVENOR

Biodiversity discovery pot

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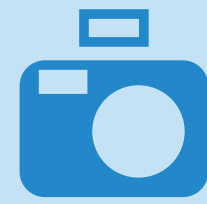
Only use the pot to catch small non-soft winged invertebrates.



Spiders
Woodlice
Centipedes
Millipedes
Beetles
Earwigs



Butterflies
Bees
Wasps
Flies
Any vertebrates



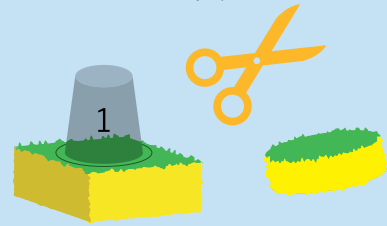
Biodiversity spotter binoculars



You will need

- 2 plastic pots of the same size that fit snugly inside each other
- Foam or old sponge
- Double sided tape
- A pen
- Cling film
- Sellotape
- Scissors
- Knife

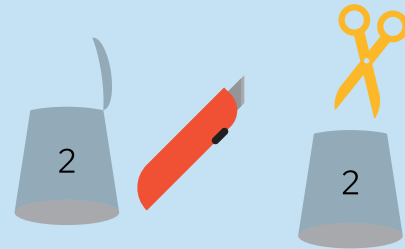
1. Draw around the base of the pot onto the foam/sponge and cut it out with scissors (ask an adult to help you with this step!)



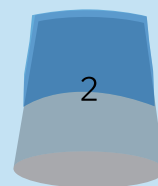
2. Stick the foam circle onto the under side of one pot



3. Ask an adult to help you use the knife to cut the base of the other pot and trim the edges with scissors

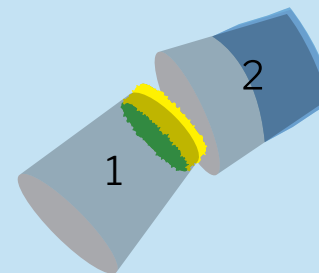


4. Cover the base of the cut off pot with cling film and use the sellotape to secure it in place around the outside of the pot. Try to put the clingfilm wrinkle free on the base.



5. Use the pot with the clingfilm on the end to carefully catch the invertebrate you want to look at.

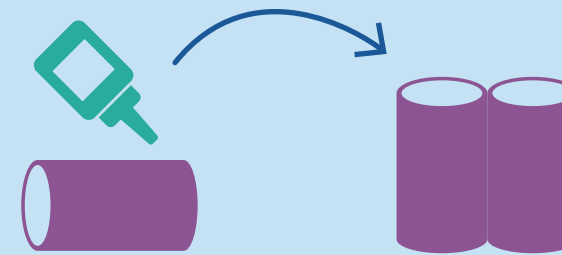
- Slide the pot with the foam on the end inside;
- Move it up to meet the animal, checking all the time that you're not trapping it.
- The clingfilm will hold the animal in place but the foam will mean the animal won't get squashed.
- Make sure you return the animals to where you found them.



You will need

- PVA glue
- 2x toilet roll tubes
- Some string
- Decorative paper
- Scissors

1. Spread some glue on the long edge of one of your toilet rolls, and stick to the other one.



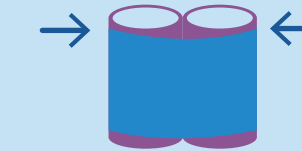
2. Cut a length of paper as wide as the toilet roll tubes and long enough to wrap around and cover them.

Wrap around the tubes, stick with glue and decorate with colourful paper shapes.



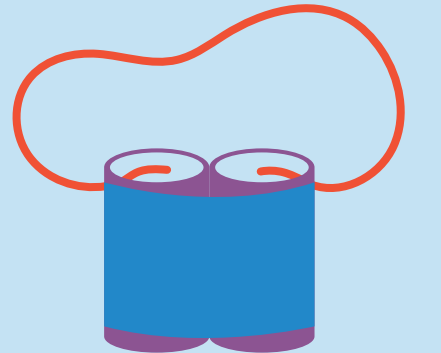
3. Mark a hole on the outer edge of each toilet roll tube, towards the end.

Get an adult to cut small holes where you've marked.



4. Cut a length of string and tie a big double knot at one end.

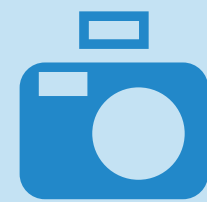
Thread the string through both holes, and tie another big double knot at the other end to secure.



These are a great way to help you spot some of the larger vertebrate biodiversity such as birds and mammals like foxes.

DIY bug hotel

Bug hotels are a great way of encouraging pollinators into your garden. They provide safe spaces for invertebrates such as bees and bugs - and they are super easy to make!



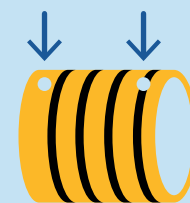
You will need

- Empty tin can or plastic bottle (ask an adult to make sure the edges are safe and no longer sharp!)
- A handful of bamboo pieces (or regular sticks from your garden or local park)
- Water-resistant paint
- String

1. Start off by decorating the outside of your tin can with craft paint - (black and yellow stripes make it look like a giant bee, but you can use any colour you like).

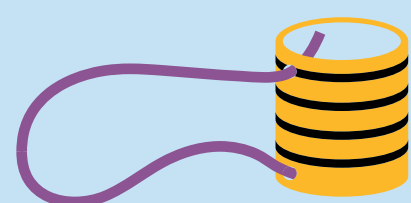


2. Get an adult to punch two holes in the can - one on either side.



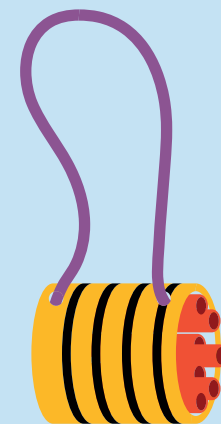
3. Cut a length of string and tie a big double knot at one end.

Thread the string through one hole from the inside, into the other hole and then tie another knot.



4. Take your handful of sticks or bamboo pieces and stack them inside the can.

Use sticks and old leaves to help wedge the hollow sticks in place.



5. You're finished! Find a low branch to hang your hotel from - it will attract bugs and bees and bring biodiversity to your garden.

Easy bird feeder

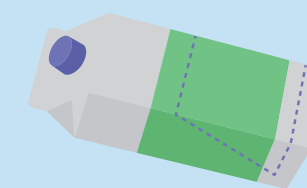
Putting out bird seed in this home made feeder, especially in the winter, can give birds a helping hand when food sources may be low. Hang your bird feeder up from a branch in a tree, find a spot nearby to sit quietly and watch which birds come to snack!



You will need

- An empty cleaned and dried drink carton
- Bird seed
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- String
- Pen

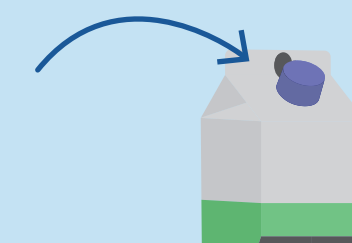
1. Draw a window about 12cm long half way down on your carton. Make the bottom of the window around 3cm from the base and slanting backwards



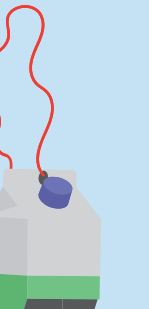
2. Carefully cut out the window using scissors or ask an adult to help you. Follow the lines you drew.



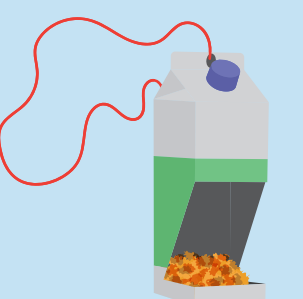
3. Use the hole punch to make a hole in the top of the carton



4. Thread the string through the hole and secure tightly



5. Fill the bottom of the tray with seeds and you're ready to hang your feeder! Make sure to keep your bird feeder clean to stop the build of bacteria.





Biodiversity identification sheet!



On your next walk or wander around your nearest green space, take this biodiversity identification sheet and the activity sheet overleaf and use it to search for all the different insects, animals, plants and feature helping our ecosystems thrive!

Bring along a pencil and a pair of binoculars (see our DIY binoculars tutorial overleaf) and see how many you can find! Don't forget to share your completed sheet with us via email or social media [#DiscoverGrosvenorSq](#).

What's the difference between an invertebrate and a vertebrate?

Invertebrates

are animals that don't have a backbone. Some have soft bodies, like worms, slugs and jellyfish. Other invertebrates, like insects, spiders and crustaceans, have a hard outer casing called an exoskeleton. This protects their body a bit like a suit of armour.

Vertebrate

are animals that have a backbone inside their body. The major groups include fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.



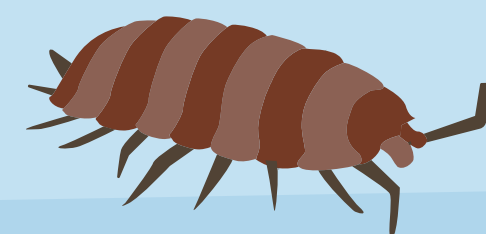
Slug



Shield bug



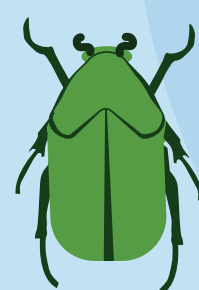
Ant



Woodlouse



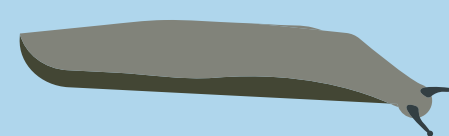
Earthworm



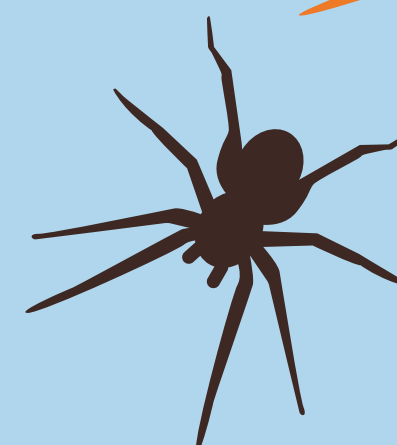
Beetle



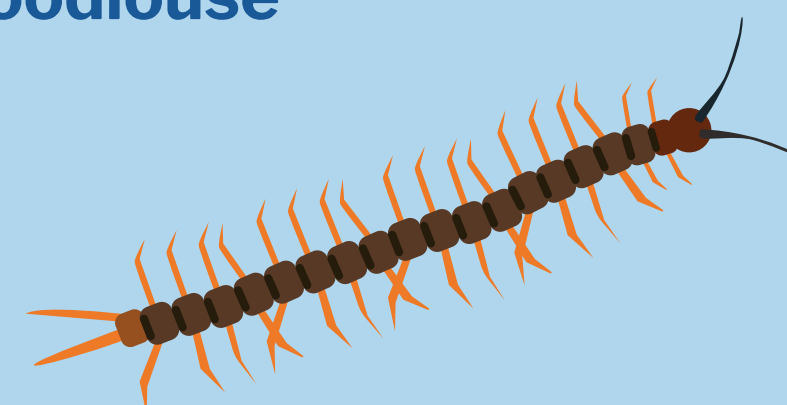
Earwig



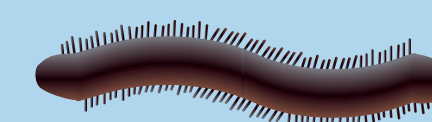
Slug



Spider



Centipede



Millipede



Dragonfly



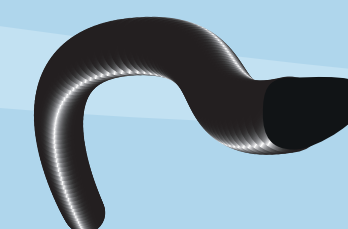
Fly



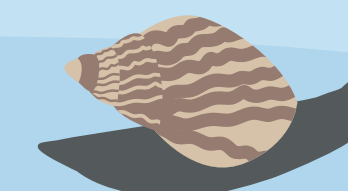
Moth



Wasp



Leech



Pondsnail



Damselfly



Shrimp



Bee



Stag beetle



Butterfly



Ladybird



Mayfly larvae



Hoglouse

Biodiversity heroes — what roles do they play?



Butterflies



Why am I spectacular?
In the UK alone there are 59 species of butterfly and 2,500 species of moths! Not only are they fab pollinators, but they are also a great natural way of keeping pests under control.

How many butterflies can you spot? Try searching near some bright flowers and count them here:



Flowers



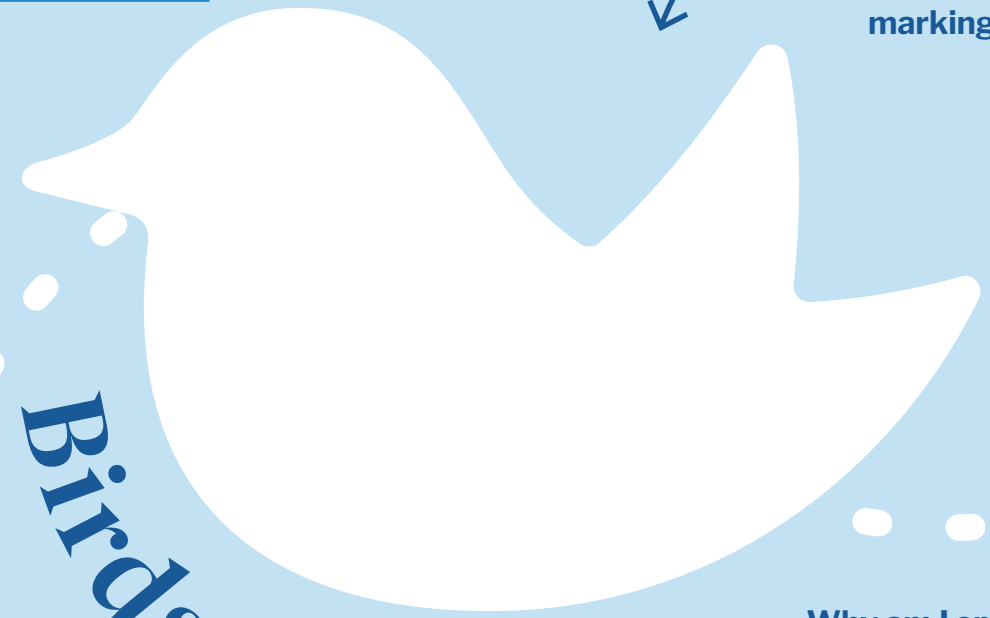
Why am I spectacular?
The colourful petals and sweet smells of flowers help attract pollinators like bees and butterflies!

Draw your favourite flower here!

Flowers come in so many colours - count how many of each colour you see here:

- Pink:
- Purple:
- Yellow:
- Blue:
- Red:

Birds



See if you can watch a bird at home or on a walk - study its markings and draw them on this bird shape!

Why am I spectacular?
From blue tits to sparrows and robins to goldfinches! Small birds help out by munching on insects and seeds - and then spreading those seeds as they fly around.

Count all the different types of birds you see here:



Tally every time you find one of these decomposer heroes!

Water

Why am I spectacular?
Raindrops, puddles and ponds! All plants need water to grow, but it can also be home to wildlife like frogs or pond skaters, and provides a drink for bigger critters.

Can you spot 2 different types of water on your walk? Tell us what they are here..

Bees



Why am I spectacular?
Honey bees, bumble bees, mason bees and more all play a crucial role in our ecosystem. Each brilliant bee visits as many as 5,000 plants in 1 day, pollinating hundreds of thousands of plants in its lifetime!

Watch a patch of flowers for 60 seconds and count how many bees you see:

While some bees live in hives, others build their own nests or even live alone in soil or wood.

Design your very own fancy bee hotel in the circle above!

You may spot some of these heroes on your streets at night, keeping our rodent numbers down!



Why am I spectacular?
Apples, berries, plums and chestnuts are all tasty fruits feeding our wildlife! But not just delicious snacks, fruit trees and bushes are also habitats to a whole host of bugs, birds and bees.

Can you spot any fruit growing on your next walk? Don't forget to count and draw them!

Fruit



Draw any different fruits you see here!