

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

HERE ARE TWO EASY ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO AS A CLASS OR IN SMALL GROUPS.

GROW YOUR OWN POTATOES 2020

BENEATH THE SOIL PROJECT

Each year, Cygnet PB kindly donates 1 extra Rocket seed potato for each school to grow in a clear plastic bottle. This activity will let you see what happens 'beneath the soil' and how the potatoes are formed.

You will need:



A clear plastic bottle, 2 litres or bigger, with the top cut off (adult supervision required)
Newspapers, some compost and the remaining chitted Rocket seed potato.

Method

Fill the plastic bottle 1/3 full with compost.

Place the chitted seed potato in the soil with the shoots facing up and cover with at least 5 cm of soil. Water lightly.

IMPORTANT: Do not soak the compost at this stage as it will rot the tubers. It should only be kept slightly damp.

Wrap the bottle in a loose newspaper sleeve; as the potatoes grow, they should then form in the dark against the side of the bottle. Place on a sunny windowsill and watch them grow.

When the tops of the plants are level with the top of the bottle, add more soil to halfway up the stems. As the plant starts growing, it sends out potato-bearing side shoots all the way up the stems. These shoots will soon become covered in small potatoes.

The bottle should be left as long as possible. To check progress, simply lift the newspaper sleeve, allowing the children to watch what is happening beneath the soil.

Do not expect the tuber to last longer than 7 weeks, due to the lack of nutrients/compost and space.

Do not eat the potatoes harvested from the Beneath the Soil project.

Why not let us know how you get on and send in your stories or pictures of your Beneath the Soil project and your Bug Hotel? Share your results on social media:

 @potatoesforschools

 @potatoes4school

BUG HOTEL

Bugs play an important part in any garden. These simple instructions will help you build the perfect habitat to encourage bugs into your school garden.

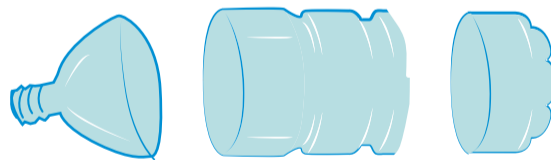
You will need:



A large plastic bottle, scissors, string, Selection of: sticks, pine cones, bamboo, bark

Method

Cut your bottle down to make a large cylinder.



Get the children to hunt around schools and collect lots of different materials, all sizes and textures, suitable for filling your cylinder.

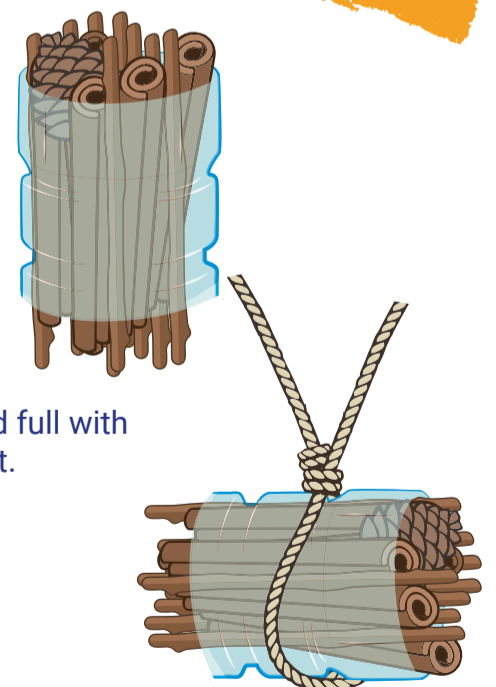


If hanging your bug hotel, add some garden twine/string. Then stuff it nice and full with the materials you've collected. Make sure it is packed tight so nothing falls out.

Done, now find a suitable place to leave it.

Where you place your Bug hotel will determine the type of bugs you attract. If hanging it, you will attract flying insects, whereas a dark damp corner will attract more creepy crawlies

NEW for 2020



Why not give your Bug Hotel a name like: Wiggly Manor and decorate the outside too, to make it look more inviting, maybe cover it in straw or moss.

