

"Wild" School Holiday Fun

Don't get bored in the school holidays, try our fun nature activities instead!

WELLY SCRAPING

Have you ever wondered what your wellies are picking up when you go for a wildlife wander?

Probably not, unless you have stepped in something smelly!

Well now is the time to find out!

1. Put some compost in a baking tray and get an adult to put it in the oven for a while to sterilise it.

2. Let the compost cool and then scrape the mud from the bottom of your wellies into the compost.

3. Water the tray regularly and see what grows!



MAKE A SCENT JAR

1. Collect some petals of smelly flowers. Dog rose, honeysuckle and wild strawberry are good flowers to use, but remember not to take too many – leave some for the bees and other insects!

2. Put the petals between two sheets of blotting paper and press them under a pile of books.

3. When the petals are dry, put them in a jam jar with some pieces of dried orange and lemon peel, and a bay leaf.

4. With a pencil, punch holes in a circle of tin foil to make the lid. Fix it over the jar with a rubber band.

5. Enjoy the wonderful scents from your jar!



LEAF PRINTING

1. Collect some fallen leaves on your travels. Try and get as many different shapes and sizes as you can.

2. Put your leaf onto a flat surface with its underside facing you.

3. Cover it with a piece of thin white paper and rub back and forth with a

coloured crayon until the shape and veins show through.

4. Stick your leaf prints into a scrap book or make a collage with them.



Make a plaster cast animal print

This is a great activity to help you identify the animal prints you find - you could make a collection to keep or decorate them with paints!



How to go plaster casting



wildlife watch

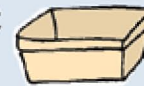


What you need:

• plaster of paris (from a pharmacy)



• an old 500g margarine tub for mixing it in



• a stick or spoon for stirring



• water



• strips of card, 10cm wide and long enough to fit around the footprint



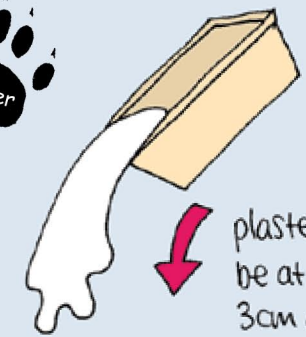
• paperclips



1 Find a footprint and clear away any twigs and leaves from the area around it

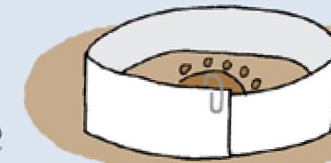


2 Make a circle with the strip of card, join the ends with the paperclip, and push it into the ground around the footprint



plaster should be at least 3cm deep

3 Mix 5 tablespoons of dry plaster with water until it is like smooth cream



4 Pour the plaster into the card collar. Wait 5-10 mins for it to set then dig it out



5 Take home, wash, identify and label

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