



# Bursting with life

## LINKED CHALLENGE

To make a biodegradable plant pot and grow wildflowers

### ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

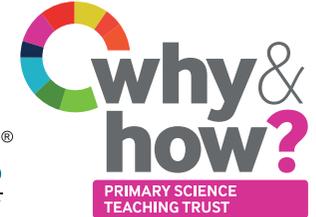
Discuss the importance of diversity in living things. The supporting online video (link below) may be a useful starting point. In this session, the children will plant wildflowers.

1. Fold a piece of newspaper vertically in half and then in half again, making a thin piece of paper.
2. Wrap the paper around the top of the cup by rolling the cup along the edge of the paper. Make sure half of the paper is above the beaker for the next step.
3. Tuck the newspaper inside the cup then slide it off the end. Your tube should remain rolled. \*This stage can be tricky; children may need help to remove it.
4. Make the bottom of the pot, by pushing the paper down into the middle to make a base.
5. Fill  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with compost.
6. Sprinkle wildflower seed mix on top, then cover with a small amount of soil. Water and then set the pots in a warm place with plenty of sunlight.
7. When the plants are established and any risk of frost has passed, plant out the seedlings and compost the newspaper pots.

**Extension:** Take a PE hoop (or length of strong/rope tied to make a loop) outside to a patch of grass. Look inside the hoop and count how many different plants you can find. Try another area. Are the same plants present? Why do you think this is?

### KEY FACTS/SCIENCE

Our world has a huge variety of life. All these different plants and animals have a role to play in keeping our planet healthy and they all help each other. However, due to the impact of humans, our world is becoming less diverse. For example, areas of countryside are farmed with fields for crops being much larger than in the past. Hedgerows between fields have become smaller, reducing habitats for the creatures that used to live there and the diversity of plants in those areas. Lack of diversity is also a particular problem in our towns and cities. By planting wild flowers, we can increase the biodiversity in our part of the world and improve the environment for many living things.



### RESOURCES

#### Main Activity

Newspaper  
Stiff plastic cups  
(beakers)  
Soil/compost  
Wildflower seed mix

Water

#### Extension Activity

PE hoop(s) or length of  
string/rope tied to make  
a loop

### Health & Safety:

Ensure children wash hands thoroughly after handling compost and that hands are kept out of mouths.

### QUESTIONS/FURTHER LEARNING

- Where, outside, would be a good place for the plant to grow? Why?
- Are all the seeds the same size, shape, colour? Why is this?
- Why do some plants produce more seeds than others?
- Pots could be taken home to plant into gardens to increase biodiversity.

Online supporting video:

<https://tinyurl.com/y7hfjpa3>

