



Glorious Cotswold Grasslands ART PACK

The Glorious Cotswold Grasslands project is using flower power to save bees, beetles and birds by creating grassland habitat full of beautiful wildflowers.

In this art pack you will discover amazing facts, create some brilliant artworks and learn how to plant your own mini-meadow.

Have fun and get creative!



INTRODUCTION



What is a wildflower grassland?

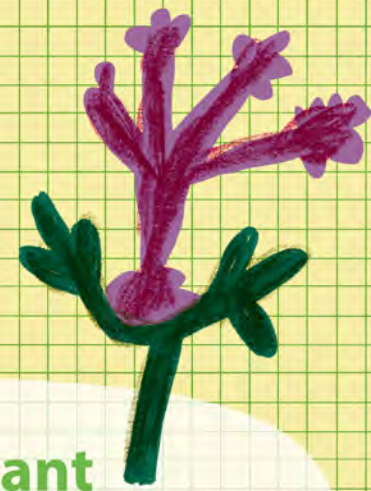
Anywhere where there are grasses and flowers left to grow such as meadows, road verges or wild gardens. In the summer, wildflower grasslands are alive with colourful flowers such as ox-eye daisies and cowslips and all the bees and butterflies that feed on them.



Why is it important to protect this habitat?

Sadly nearly ALL of our wildflower grasslands have been lost over the last 50 years due to farming practices and towns and villages getting bigger. Luckily, the Glorious Cotswold Grasslands team are working hard to create new wildflower habitats in the Cotswolds by collecting and sowing wildflower seeds onto new areas.

Wildflower grasslands support a huge number of invertebrates providing food for birds, such as skylarks, and mammals, such as mice, voles and bats. In turn, these feed predators, such as barn owls and kestrels. A brilliant habitat that feeds and supports lots of wildlife!





Pollinators are insects and birds that help with pollination. A bee will land on a flower and, whilst it is feeding, the pollen from the flower sticks to the bee's body. The bee carries this pollen to a new flower. The pollen drops onto the new flower which results in the flower making seeds.



GLOSSARY

- **Habitat** - The natural home or environment of an animal or plant.
- **Native** - A kind of plant or animal that originally grew or lived in a particular place.
- **Wildflower** - A flower growing freely and in the wild.
- **Larvae** - A young wingless form (such as a caterpillar) of many insects that hatch from an egg.
- **Conservation** - Conservation is saving and protecting the environment.
- **Pollination** - The process that allows plants to reproduce and make new plants.
- **Life Cycle** - A series of stages a living thing goes through in life.
- **Predator** - An animal that lives mostly by killing and eating other animals.

FLOWER PRESSING

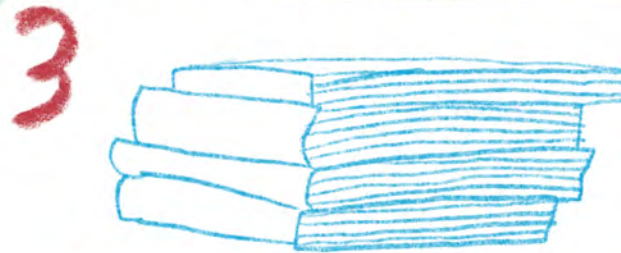
Have fun creating your own meadow artwork, using your pressed flowers, on the page titled 'MY MEADOW'.



Open your book and place a piece of paper on the page to protect it.



Place your flowers on the paper and place another piece of paper on top.



Gently close your book and add some heavy books on top.



Wait for 2 to 4 weeks until the flowers have dried.

THINGS YOU WILL NEED!



FLOWERS



PAPER



BIG BOOKS

Once your flowers are pressed you can add them to your meadow artworks by gently glueing them down.



MY MEADOW

LEAF PRINTING AND LAND ART

You will need:

- Leaves
- Marker pens
- Paper
- Rolling pin
- A cloth to wipe your hands on



LEAF PRINTING

Start by going on a leaf hunt! The best leaves for leaf printing are fresh leaves that are thick with a strong veined texture.

Place your leaf face down on the paper on a flat surface.

Choose your favourite pen and colour in your leaf. Make sure to colour in all the veins and go right to the edges.

Gently turn the leaf coloured side down onto a clean piece of paper. Try not to move the leaf around once it is on the paper. Get your rolling pin and roll it firmly once across the leaf.

Peel the leaf carefully off the paper to see your amazing leaf print!



LAND ART is a fun way to get creative in nature! It involves making art and sculptures using materials you find in nature.

Where can I make land art?

Any place outside where you can find natural materials to make your art or sculpture. Try finding materials in places like woodland, parks, beaches and even your own garden.

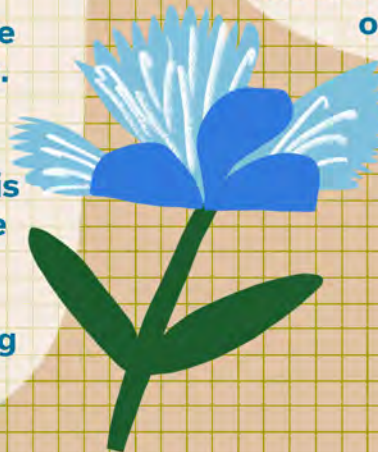
What materials should I look for?

Flowers, leaves, twigs, pine cones, shells, stones and more! Why not try looking for leaves with different colours and shapes?

What can I make?

Let your imagination run wild! How about a butterfly made out of colourful leaves or patterns like circles, spirals or zigzags?

If you want to keep your land art, glue it down onto a sheet of cardboard with double sided tape/glue stick or get an adult to photograph it for you.



Kidney Vetch and the Small Blue Butterfly

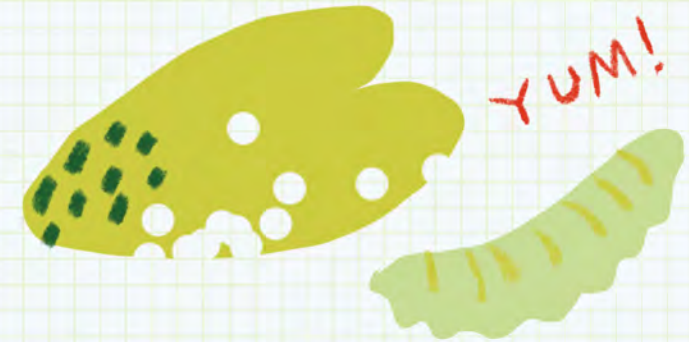


This is the story of the Small Blue butterfly and its life cycle. This butterfly is the smallest of all the UK's butterflies and the hardest to spot!

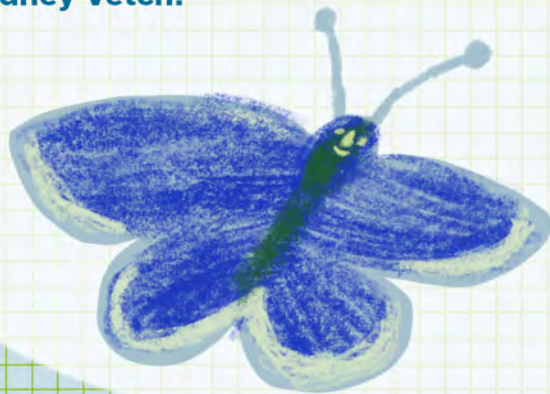
1. The female lays her eggs, tucked into the flower heads of the Kidney Vetch flower.



2. The larvae (caterpillar) of the Small Blue feed on the seeds of the Kidney Vetch flower.



4. The Small Blue is a declining species so we need to protect our species-rich grassland habitats and its favourite flower - the Kidney Vetch!



3. When the caterpillar is fully grown it climbs down to the ground for the winter ready to pupate into a pupa and emerge as a butterfly the following spring.





YELLOW RATTLE - May to September
 Yellow-rattle is important for restoring grasslands because it weakens grasses making space for wildflowers to grow.



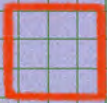
SKYLARK - January to December
 Skylarks are famous for singing whilst flying and nest on the ground.



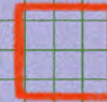
MARBLED WHITE - June to August
 The marbled white butterfly has a distinctive black and white checked pattern and can often be seen feeding on purple flowers!

WILDFLOWER BINGO!

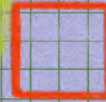
Can you spot this meadow wildlife? Use the photographs and descriptions to help you identify all 6 species and tick the box once you have found it.



BIRDS-FOOT TREFOIL - May to September
 Birds-Foot Trefoil is a member of the pea family. It is a food plant for several species of butterfly and is a healthy food for farm animals!



COMMON KNAPWEED - June to September
 Common Knapweed is a favourite food source for insects and its seeds provide food for birds too.



OX-EYE DAISY - June to September
 This common grassland plant is much larger than a common daisy. It's also known as a 'moon daisy' because they are so bright they appear to be glowing!

MAKE YOUR OWN MINI MEADOW



You will need:

- Spare well-drained patch of the garden in full sun.
- Packet of native meadow wildflower seeds
- Rake

Making a mini-meadow is an easy way of creating a small wildflower area in your garden or school field. Don't have a garden? Plant your wildflowers in a flower pot!

- ① With the help of an adult, prepare the area by removing weeds and cutting and raking the grass. Scrape off some grass to create bare earth for seeds.



- ② Sprinkle your seeds in your chosen area. It is best to sow your seeds between August and October.



- ④ Lightly water the seeds if the weather is very dry.

Watch and enjoy as your mini meadow starts to grow!

- ③ Walk lightly over the area to push the seeds onto the soil so that the roots can grow properly.



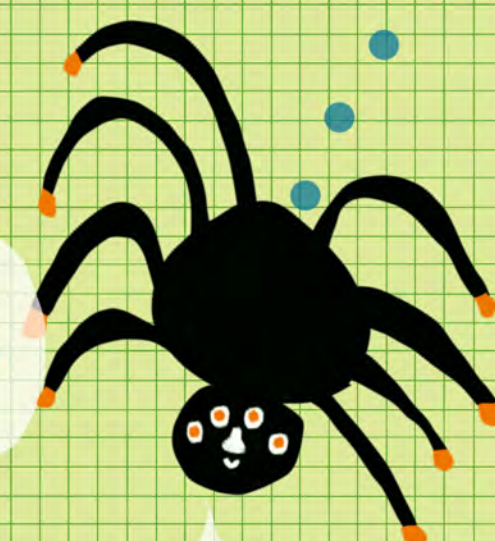
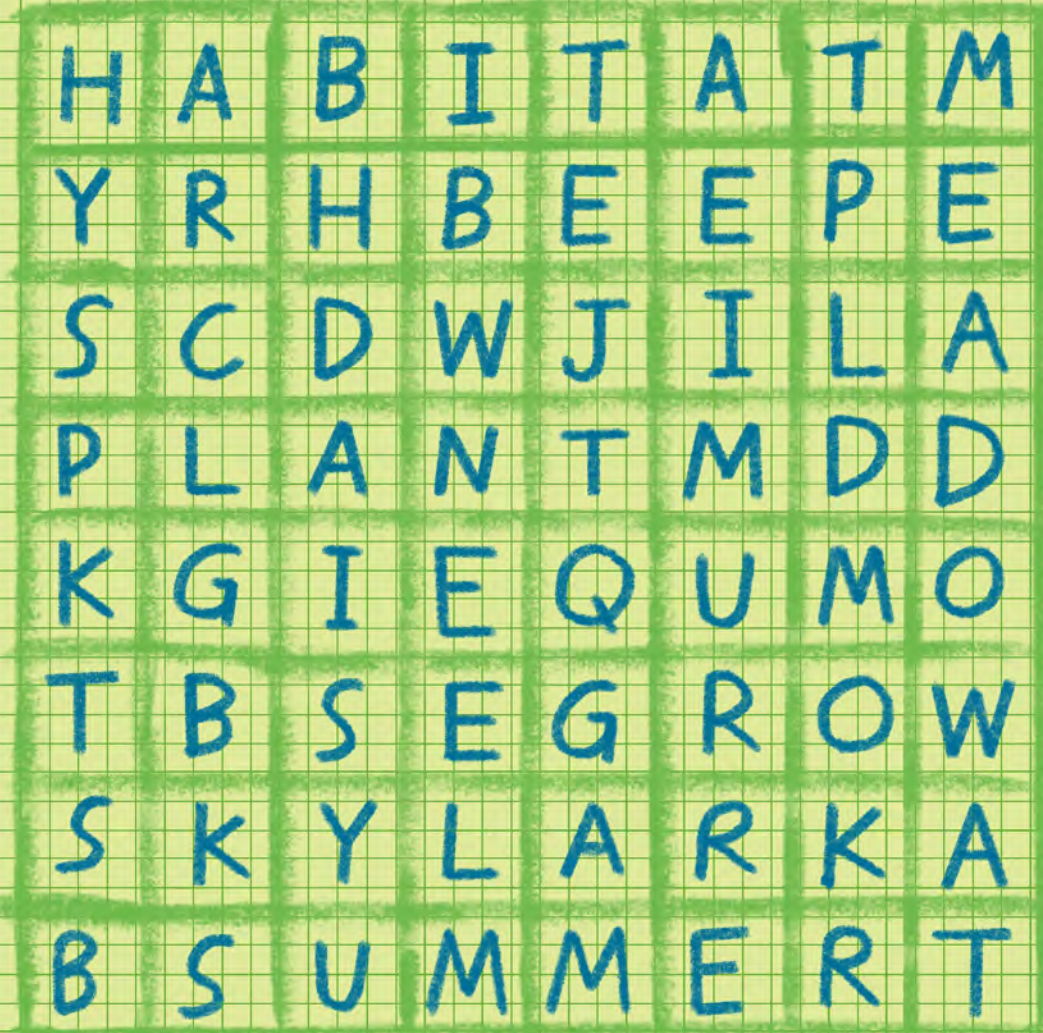
- ⑤ Cut and remove cuttings once a year in late summer.



PUZZLES & FACTS

Can you find all 8 words in the word search below?

SKYLARK PLANT BEE SUMMER
MEADOW GROW DAISY HABITAT



Did you know skylarks make their nest on the ground?



Seeds are an important food source in winter for birds when food is limited in the countryside.

Wildflower grasslands like to be grazed by farm animals to stop bushes and trees from growing and shading out wildflowers.

