

# RSNO

SCOTLAND'S NATIONAL  
ORCHESTRA



## Activity Plan Part 2

### **Taking Action – Be a Pollinator Protector**

*Resources created by the Scottish Wildlife Trust in partnership with  
the Royal Scottish National Orchestra*

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## General information for teachers and parents:

The Scottish Wildlife Trust is Scotland's leading nature conservation charity.

These worksheets, provided by the Scottish Wildlife Trust for *Once Upon a Tune*, aim to encourage children to learn more about pollinators, plants, and their conservation. They involve various aspects of nature discovery and play, encouraging children to connect with the natural world.

Spending time outside and learning about how living things depend on each other is important when re-establishing our connection to nature. It also has many benefits for children, who are naturally curious about the world around them. Spending time in nature can improve health, reduce stress, increase confidence, and many other amazing things!

There are three activities within this pack which each have corresponding resources that can be used to support learning and teaching. The suggested age range for these resources is P1 – P7 although the activities can be adapted for older and younger learners. Please amend the resources to suit your own needs and that of your pupils/children. If using the resources within the home, you could encourage older siblings and family members to support the younger children to join in with all activities.



## Taking Action – Be a Pollinator Protector

Our bees, moths, butterflies and other minibeasts are struggling. Insects are sadly dying out up to eight times faster than larger animals and 41% of insects face extinction. Habitat loss and changes in the way we use our landscape have meant that many insects struggle to find the food and shelter they need. But it is not all doom and gloom! There are lots of actions people are taking to try and protect our important insects. This section dives into some conservation tools and encourages children to think how they can help.



## Activity 4: Design a Pollinator's Perfect Home

### Information for teachers and parents:

Bees and other pollinators rely on a diverse range of landscapes from meadows and hedgerows to urban parks and gardens. Pollinators are struggling largely due to loss of habitat. They are having to travel further and further to find food. Urban green spaces help reconnect fragmented pollinator habitats and increase the amount of floral habitat for them. By taking small actions, your garden can serve as a fantastic habitat for a wide range of species throughout the year.

**Curriculum:** Expressive Arts, Technology

### Questions to consider:

- What is a wildlife garden?
- Why do we need to garden for wildlife?
- What do wildlife need in their habitats to survive - food, water, shelter.
- What could we put in our gardens to provide this for pollinators?

### Resources needed:

- Printed worksheet.
- Pens/pencils/crayons.
- Access to online resources or related books.

### Instructions:

1. Explain to the children that they are going to design their very own pollinator-friendly garden. Get into the mind of a pollinator... what would they need in a garden? Children may like to work in small groups.
2. Allow the children to research online or through related books about what they could include in their garden. Have the children draw their pollinator garden on their worksheet.
3. Ask the children to present their garden to other groups and talk through their choices.

Check out Scottish Wildlife Trust's Learning Zone to see how easy and fun it is to create wildlife-friendly additions to your garden! <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do/learn/>

### Extra info:

Check out these weblinks for some garden designing inspiration.

- <https://www.buglife.org.uk/get-involved/gardening-for-bugs/>
- <https://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do/helping-wildlife-at-home/>
- <https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities>



## Activity 5: Seed Bomb Making

### Information for teachers and parents:

There are many ways you can improve your school grounds or garden for pollinators and other wildlife. There are lots of creative ways of doing so that are fun and engaging for children. This activity involves making seed bombs, which bloom into beautiful wildflowers, providing pollen and nectar for pollinators. All you need is a clear area of soil whether it is a flowerbed, a pot or a planter.

**Curriculum:** Science

**Description:** Pollinators need areas of wildflowers to collect their pollen and nectar. Having wildflowers in your garden or school grounds helps pollinators collect their food without having to travel too far to get it!

**Questions to consider:** Where would be a good place to plant seed bombs and other flowers in our space?

Discuss some of the flower species in your seed mix. What are they called? Do they have different colours and shapes?

Plants attract pollinators through colours, shapes and scents. Different pollinators like different flowers. For example, a bee's favourite colour is purple!

### Resources needed:

- Wildflower seeds
- Peat-free compost
- Water
- Powdered clay or clay soil
- Mixing bowl/bucket







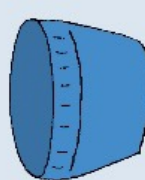
### Instructions:

1. In your mixing bowl, add 1 cup of seeds, 5 cups of compost, and 2-3 cups of clay powder together. It's almost like following a recipe for a soil cake!
2. Slowly add in water and start to mix all of your ingredients together until the mixture becomes thick.
3. Grab a handful of the mixture and roll it into a ball, making sure they are firm.
4. After deciding where you are going to plant your seed bombs, you can throw your seed bomb down!

**Extra info:** You ideally want to throw your seed bomb on bare ground or in a soil planter. Before making the seed bombs, you could get an area in your garden prepped by weeding or adding compost.

# How to make seed bombs

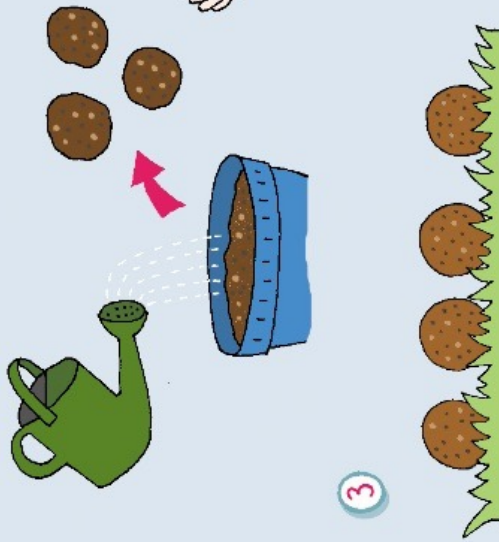
## You will need:

- Meadow flower seeds or seeds collected from the garden 
- Peat-free compost 
- Water 
- Powdered clay (from craft shops - use clay soil if you can't find any) 
- Mixing bowl 

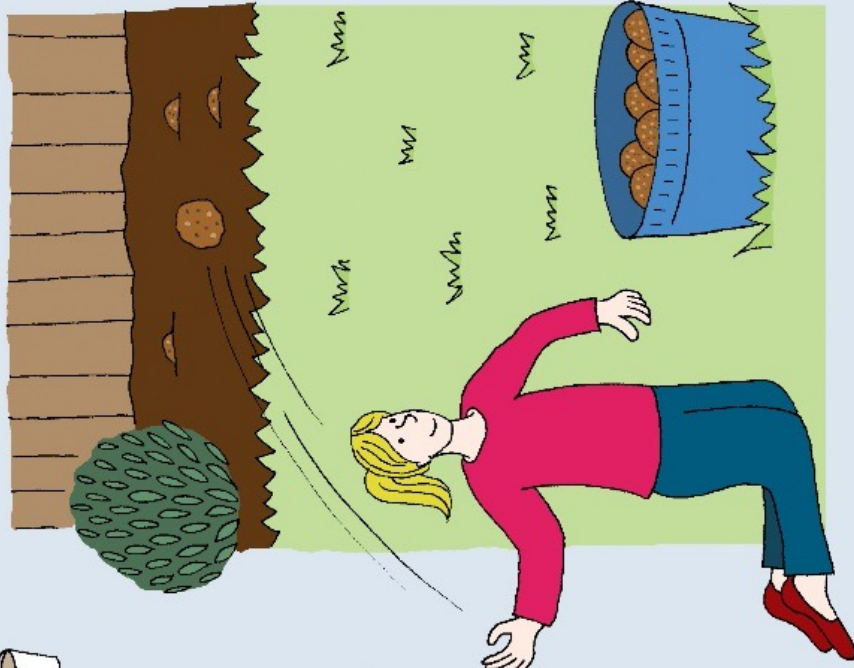
**1** In a bowl, mix together 1 cup of seeds with 5 cups of compost and 2-3 cups of clay powder.



**2** Slowly mix in water with your hands until everything sticks together, then roll mixture into firm balls.



**4** Now for the fun bit - plant by throwing your seed bombs at bare parts of the garden!



## Activity 6: Pollinator Pledge

**Curriculum:** Languages

**Description:** Encourage children to think about how they can take action for pollinators. This could be anything from creating a poster to raise awareness, making a bug hotel, planting flowers, or just telling their friends and families about pollinators! Ask the children to write their own Pollinator Pledge and come up with some ways of taking action. Some of the ideas you could even do as a class.

**Resources needed:**

- Worksheet
- Pens/Pencils

**Instructions:**

1. Discuss different ways of helping protect pollinators with the class. Does anyone already do anything?
2. Print Pollinator Pledge worksheets and give one to each child.
3. Have the children fill out their pledge card. When complete, the cards could be read out to the class or hung like bunting in class for everyone to see.





# My Pollinator Pledge



Name

Age

Date

I am going to help pollinators by

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# My Pollinator Pledge



Name

Age

Date

I am going to help pollinators by

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