



# How to make a tumble trap

wildlife  
watch



## What you need:

- an old yoghurt pot, jam jar or tub



- a cover - an old slate, tile or bit of flat wood



- bait - try cheese, bacon rind, bread or fruit



- trowel - for digging



1 Dig a hole in the ground with the trowel

2 Put the pot, jar or tub into the hole and fill the gaps around the edge with soil

3 Bait your trap with your food to attract tiny visitors

4 Use the slate, tile or bit of wood to stop the rain getting in - prop up with twigs or stones

5 Go away and wait

6 Inspect your tumble trap for minibeasts

7 Pack your trap away when you've finished



# Make your own wormery

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## You will need:

- 2-3 earthworms



- 1 litre clear plastic drinks bottle



- Garden soil



- Compost



- Light-coloured sand



- Scissors



- Cling film and an elastic band



- Water



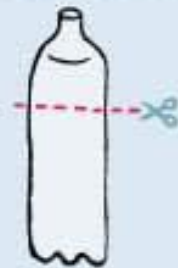
- Leaves



- Paper or card and tape



- 1 With the help of an adult, cut the top off the drinks bottle and remove any labels



- 2 Build up layers of different kinds of soil and sand in the bottle



- 3 Sprinkle fallen leaves over the top and water until damp



- 4 Add your worms!



- 5 Secure cling film over the top to stop your worms escaping. Pierce with tiny holes.



- 6 Wrap the bottle in paper to keep it dark for your worms. You can remove this when you want to have a look at how they've mixed the layers.



- 7 Keep in a cool place and top up with water when needed. Release your worms back into the wild after you've finished your experiment.





# Make your own wind vane

## You will need:

- a helpful adult
- garden cane
- long nail, metal washer and hammer



- piece of wood



- ruler



- saw



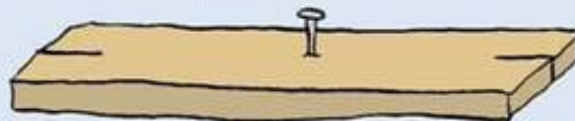
- old aluminium food tray or strong card



- scissors and glue

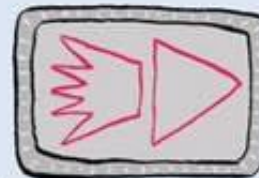


- 1 Saw a vertical slit at each end of the piece of wood.



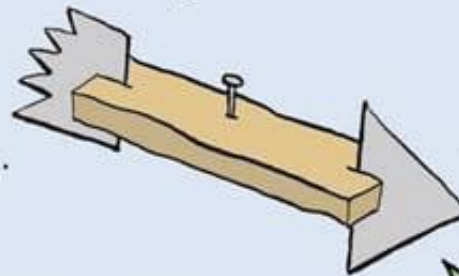
Hammer the nail through the midpoint of the wood, and spin the wood to make sure it turns freely on the nail.

- 2 Cut out a head and tail from the aluminium tray or cardboard.



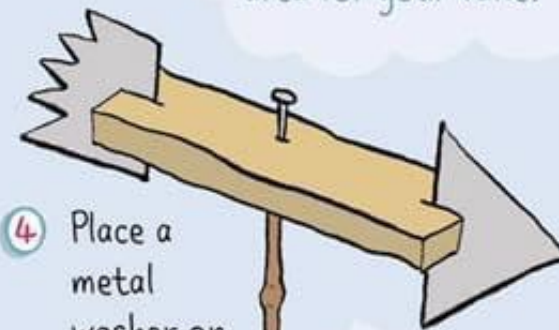
Be careful of sharp edges - ask an adult to cut the aluminium tray.

- 3 Glue into slots and leave to dry.



Choose a windy area for your vane.

- 4 Place a metal washer on top of the garden cane. Hammer the nail through into the top of the cane.



Direction of the wind

# How to make a pooter

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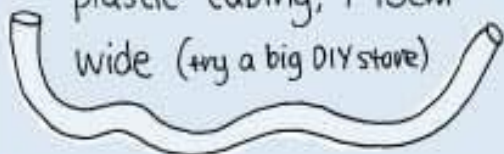


## What you need:


- plasticine 


- jar with lid 


- 40cm of clear, flexible plastic tubing, 7-10cm wide (try a big DIY store)



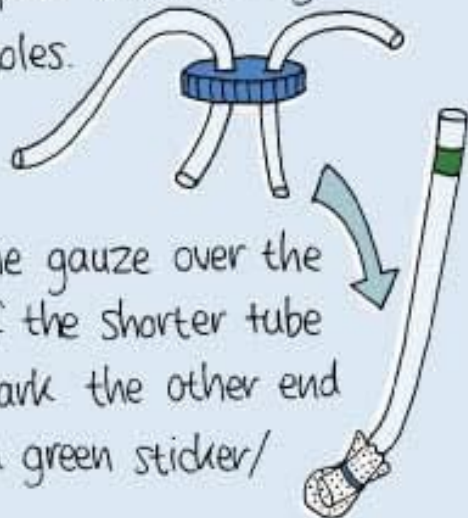
- a small piece of gauze, net curtains or tights 

- elastic band 


- green and red stickers or tape 

- 1 Make 2 holes in the lid (ask an adult to help with this) 

- 2 Cut 2 lengths of tubing about 15cm and 25cm long and poke them through the holes.



- 3 Put the gauze over the end of the shorter tube and mark the other end with a green sticker/tape.

- 4 Mark the longer tube with a red sticker/tape (red means 'don't suck this tube'). 

- 5 Put some plasticine around the tube holes to make them airtight.



Now you're ready to pooter!





# How to help birds avoid windows

## You will need:

- card  A4
- black marker pen 
- scissors 
- thread or fishing line 
- suction cup, blu-tack or duct tape



You can find these on most shower puffs.

- 1 Sketch a large bird shape on your card, and colour it in with your black pen. Cut it out.



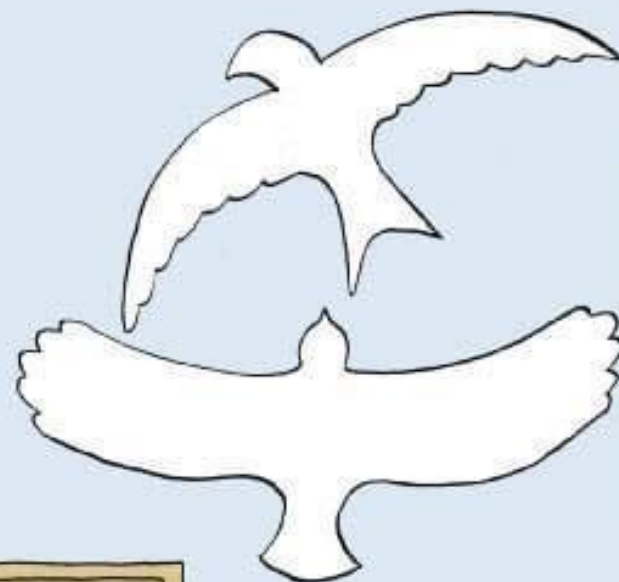
- 2 Make a small hole in the top of the bird and tie it onto a short thread.



- 3 Hang the bird outside a window to break up reflections on the glass. It will also move in the wind.



## Some shapes to try:



Attach with a suction cup, blu-tack or duct tape.

# Make your own small mammal tunnel

## You will need:

- 2-3 square-sided juice cartons



- Scissors



- Small margarine tub lid



- Bottle top



- Thin cleaning sponge



- Food colouring



- White paper



- Sellotape



- Bait - dog or cat food, peanut butter, mealworms, seed etc



- Branches, rocks and leaves



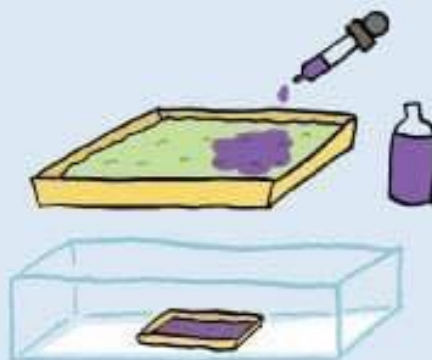
- 1 Cut the top and bottom off the juice cartons so that they slide together to create a tube.



- 2 Line the bottom with white paper and stick in place.



- 3 Cut a thin, clean sponge to size and place inside the margarine tub lid. Soak with food colouring and slide it to the middle of the tunnel.



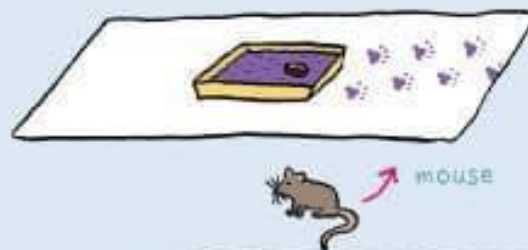
- 4 Put bait in a bottle top, and place this on the sponge.



- 5 Put the tunnel along a wall, fence or hedge. Cover with rocks, leaves and branches.



- 6 Leave overnight and check in the morning for prints.





# Make an edible pond

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## You will need:

- 500ml pack of lime jelly 
- Sachet of blackcurrant jelly 
- Sachet of gelatine 
- Blue food colouring 
- Dragon fruit or cooked tapioca  
- Jelly worms, bugs or fish 
- Green apple fruit bars 
- Green grapes 
- Chocolate frogs 
- 1 litre clear bowl 
- Measuring jugs 
- Sieve 
- Scissors 



Follow packet instructions to mix each colour of jelly in a jug. Allow jelly to cool (but not set) before pouring it into the bowl to create a new layer.

In your bowl, allow each new layer of jelly to set for an hour in the fridge before adding another layer.

### LAYER FOUR

Half a pint of gelatine, add a few drops of blue food colouring

### LAYER THREE

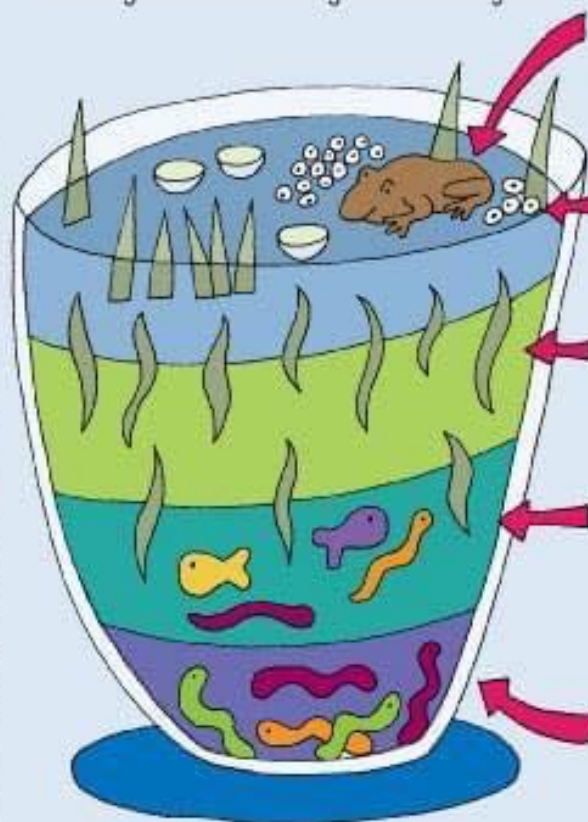
Remaining green jelly

### LAYER TWO

Half the green jelly + two drops of blue food colouring

### LAYER ONE

Make up the blackcurrant jelly, pour it into the bowl, and leave to set.



Add a chocolate frog near the spawn and enjoy!

A clump of chopped dragon fruit or tapioca (frogspawn) with some sliced green grapes (lily pads).

Stick the remaining reed shapes upright into the jelly

Another layer of worms or bugs and half of reed shapes cut from the apple fruit bar

A layer of jelly worms

# How to make an animal footprint trap

You will need:

- old baking tray



- long ruler



- fine grain sand



- water



- low-sided dish



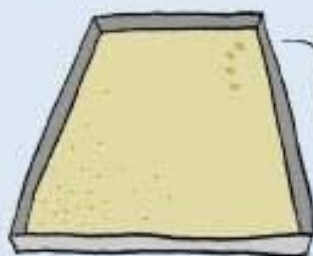
- cat or dog food



- footprint ID guide



- 1 Fill an old baking tray with damp sand and smooth out the surface with a ruler.



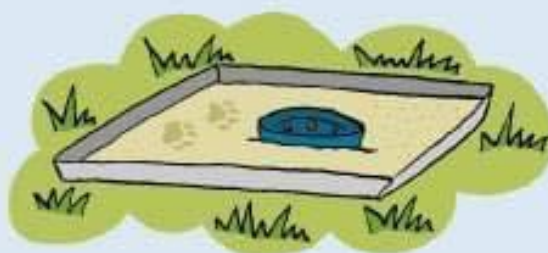
Check to make sure your fingers leave a mark.

- 2 Place cat or dog food in a low-sided dish in the middle of the tray.



(you could also try seeds, peanuts or mealworms)

- 3 Leave the trap overnight in a garden and check in the morning for footprints left by curious visitors.



hedgehog



cat



bird





# How to make your own bird feeder

## What you need:

- dry ingredients
  - bird seed
  - dried fruit
  - cooked rice
  - breadcrumbs
  - grated cheese
  - chopped nuts
- hard cooking fat (lard or dripping)
- a fir cone, coconut shell or yoghurt pot



- string



1 Mix all the dry ingredients together in a bowl



2 Add the fat and give it a good mix around

3 Choose your feeder



plaster all over a fir cone



put it round the inside of a coconut shell



press into a yoghurt pot

You can hang this upside down like a bell or turn it out like a cake

4 Hang your feeders with string (you may need to make holes and tie the string in before adding the mix)



Hang your feeder where you can watch birds without disturbing them

If you need to melt the fat, ask an adult to help



# Make your own salt dough creatures

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## You will need:

- 2 cups of plain flour 
- 1 cup of salt 
- 1 cup of water 
- shaping tools



forks

pencils

- baking tray lined with parchment



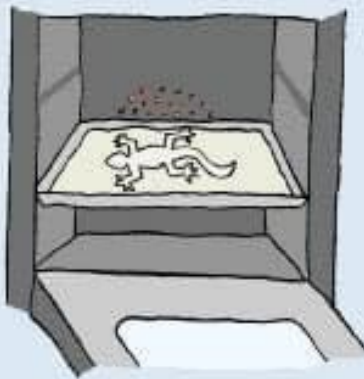
- oven or airing cupboard
- acrylic paint, varnish and brushes (optional)



- 1 Mix the flour, salt and water together until you have a dough that sticks together.



- 3 Place your creature on a tray in an oven on a low heat until the dough is hard.



You could also use an airing cupboard or even a sunny window ledge.

- 2 Use your hands to mould the dough into the shape of an animal. Use any tools you have to add finer detail.



- 4 When the dough has cooled, paint it and add a final layer of varnish.



Varnish stops the dough from going soft.



# Mark and recapture garden snails

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## You will need:

- an area of garden or pond



- tub or pot

- waterproof paint (non-toxic)



- small paint brush



- pad and pen



- 1 In your chosen area, find as many snails as you can and collect them in a tub. Write down how many you find.



- 2 Place a tiny dot of paint on the shell of each snail. Don't let the paint touch their bodies, and don't use too much.



Small dot to avoid attracting predators

- 3 Release the snails back where you found them, and leave them for a few days. Return and do another search - count how many are with and without a paint spot.



You can work out how many snails might be living in your chosen area with this sum:

$$\text{No. of snails in the area} = \frac{\text{No. of snails in first visit} \times \text{No. in second visit}}{\text{No. of marked snails in second visit}}$$

# How to Make a Mini nature reserve

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## 1 Choose your site

Choose a safe place to put your window box – somewhere like an old bench or wall at an easy height for inspection.

## 2 Gather your materials

- window box
- a small log
- yoghurt pot
- some compost
- a rock

## 3 Fill the box with compost

Always use peat-free compost and save our precious peat bogs.

## 4 Add a few features

Dig in the yoghurt pot and add the small log and rock.

## 5 Leave!

## 6 Keep a diary

Record the changes you see. Make notes using guidebooks and take a photo every week.

## 7 Management

Remove out of control plants or cut them back with scissors.

