

Peckham
Platform



Seek, Sort, Sense



LOTTERY FUNDED

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A guide for connecting with local nature through art and ecology activities for young ones

Intro

This pack is for children & families to engage with green spaces in the area through fun activities to be completed outdoors and at home.

The activities here are designed for children aged 3–6, their carers and families to enjoy some special outdoor time while finding creative ways to study and enjoy nature.

All activities should be completed with an adult's supervision and support.

Activities are completed in three stages:

1) SEEK:

Get to your nearest green space and collect some of nature's treasures. We have provided maps of some of Peckham's local gems to get your started.

2) SORT:

Bring your specimens home, prepare them, and arrange them into different groups with our guides.

3) SENSE:

Observe your specimens and interpret them through the eyes of a 'SciArtist'!



Nature quest!

For this activity you will visit a local green space. Bring along a **carrier bag** to place your specimens in; a **pair of tongs or takeaway chopsticks** to pick things up; and some paper towels to dry things off.

When you get there, you will complete a nature hunt to find your specimens. In our area, there is the large and lovely **Peckham Rye Park**, but we have provided maps of a few smaller green spaces that are also full of plant and animal wonders.

Use our maps while visiting **Surrey Canal Walk**, **Warwick Gardens**, or **Cossall Park**.

In these spaces you will do the following activities:

1) **FIND** specimens and mark where you found them on the map using the stickers provided

2) **COLLECT**:

Feathers

Flat stones or pebbles

Acorns, seeds or seed pods

Twigs

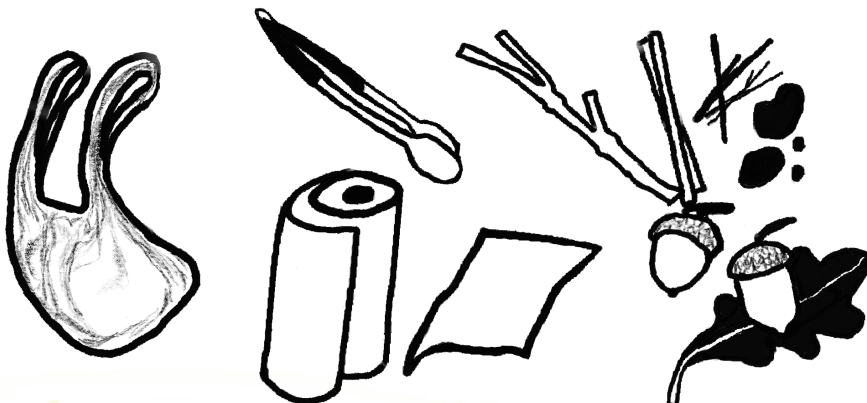
Leaves (3 kinds)

Snail shells

Bark

Moss chunks

Once you get to each space, have a good **LOOK** around for the items on the list. Place a sticker over the area where you found the item pictured. Shake off any dirt and place items in your carrier bag for later.

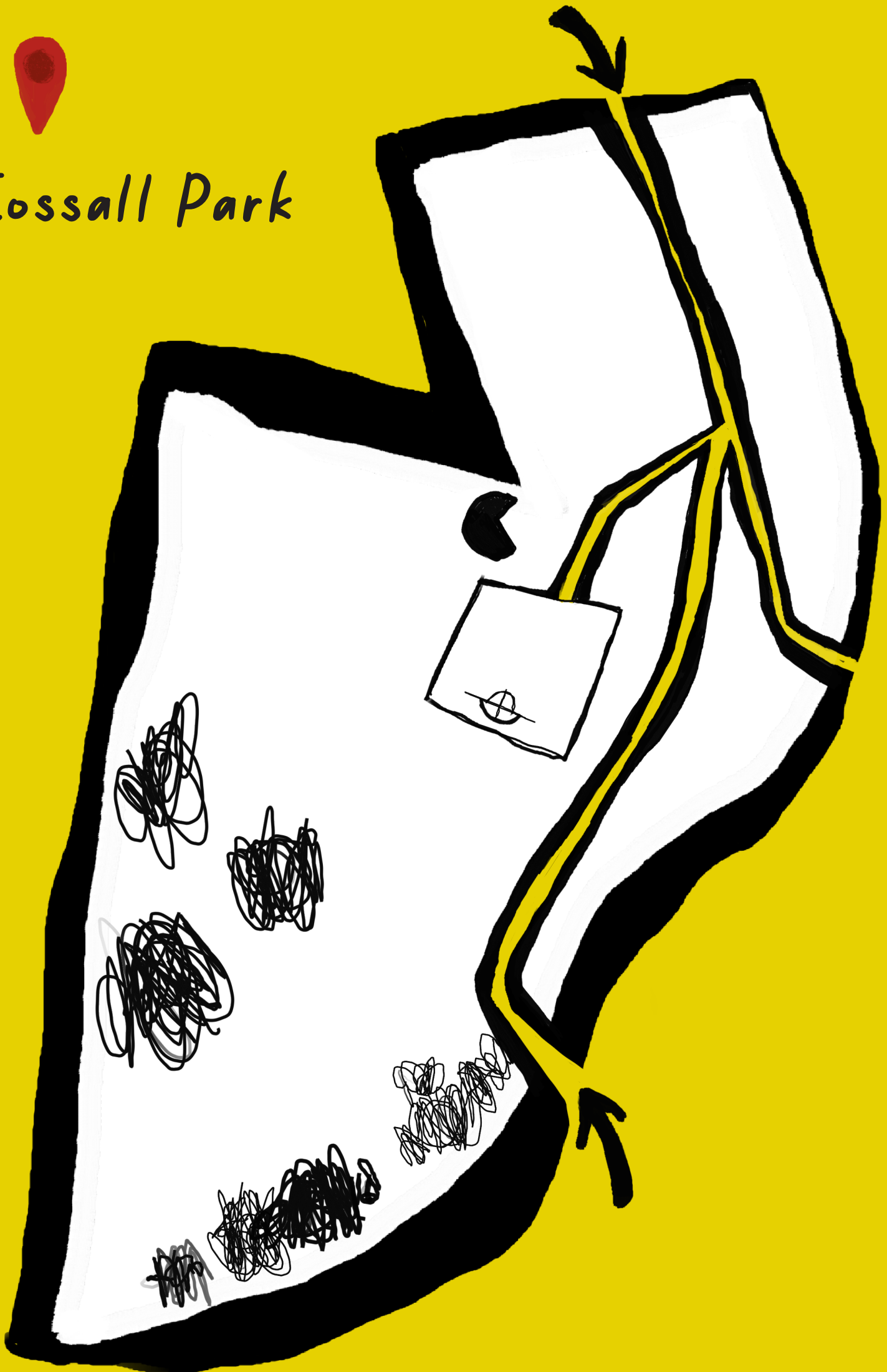




Warwick
Gardens



Cossall Park

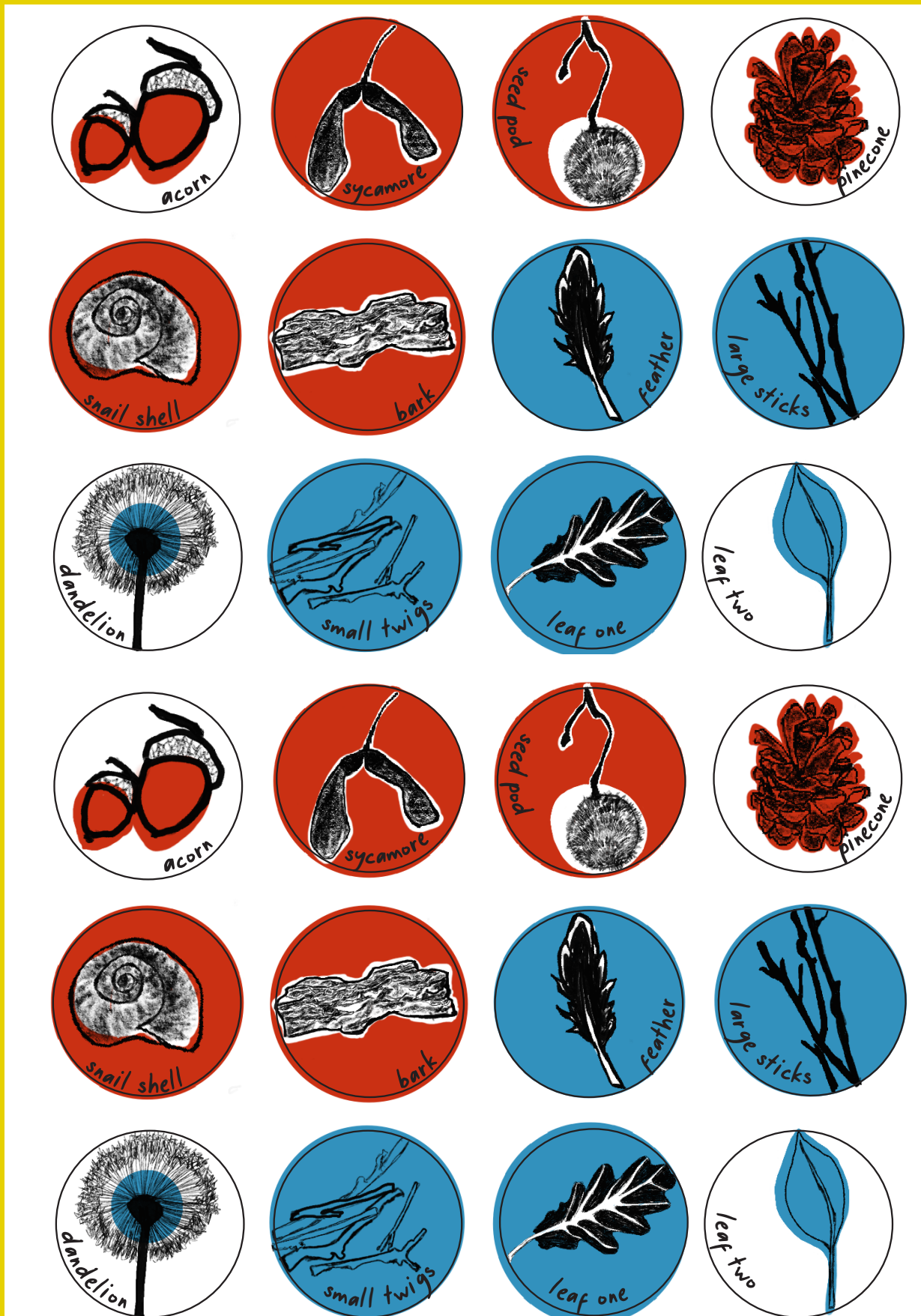




Surrey Canal
Walk

Mapping stickers

For the digital version please download the sticker template available using the QR code



Outdoor terrarium activity



My outdoor terrarium!

Watch the demo video (see the [QR code](#) on Page 16) and [create your own outdoor terrarium](#) using twigs, leaves, moss, rocks and other specimens. Try to create trees, paths, and other features of a park in miniature. [Take a photo of your 'terrarium' and share!](#)

Preparing for the next activities



When you get home, lay some newspaper over a table before taking out your specimens. **Wash any dirty ones with warm, soapy water** (being especially gentle with feathers) and let them dry.

Put them in a safe place until you are ready to go on to the next activity.

Sorting & arranging

Once your specimens are clean and dry, we will try to **SORT** them into different groups using **what we can see** and **feel** as well as **what we already know** about them.

ARRANGE them into groups according to:

colour

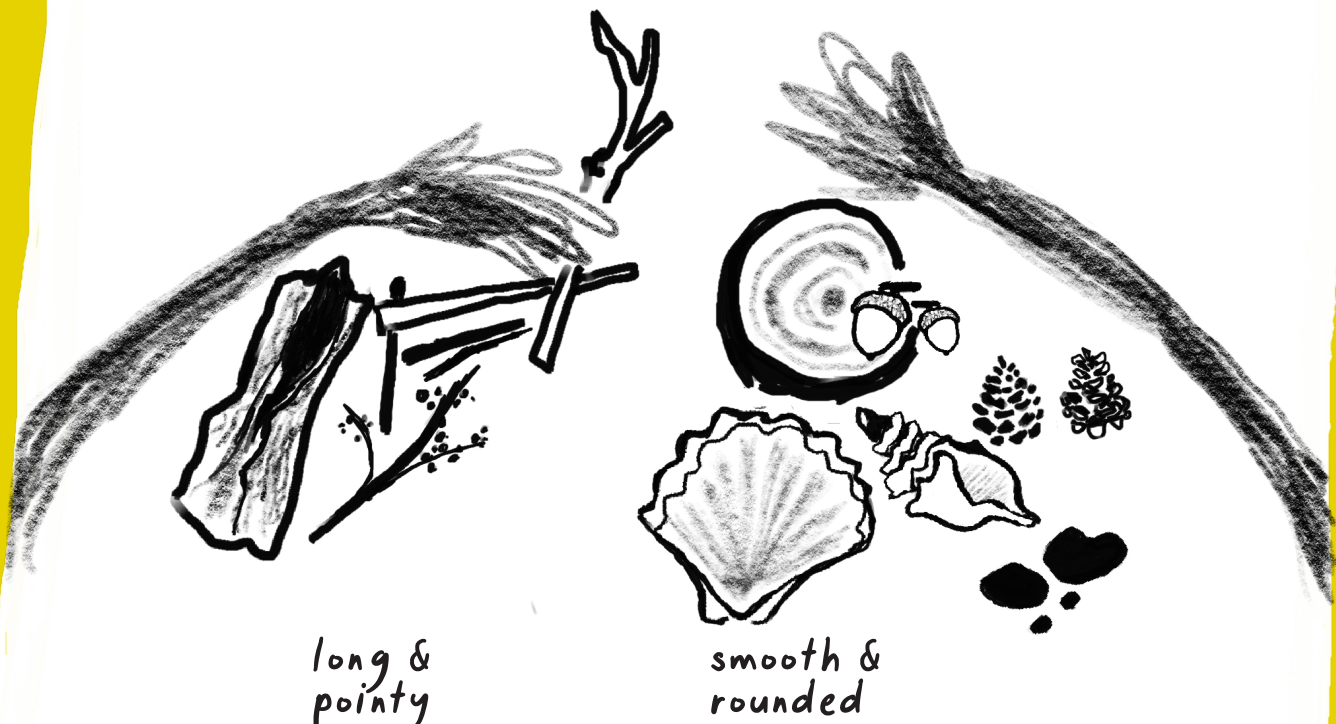
shape

texture (*smooth, bumpy, soft, hard, prickly*)

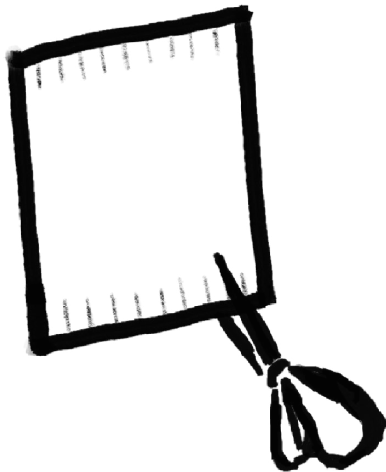
alive or non-living

animal, plant or neither

Or create your own category! Draw and describe your categories in your nature book.



Nature weaving



Cut some notches at the top and bottom of the board, **about 1 cm apart**.

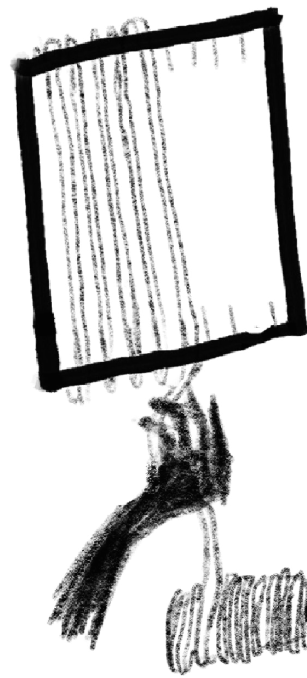
Wrap twine around from top to bottom, making sure it goes into the notches. Tie the ends together at the back so you have one side of parallel lines of string. This will be your nature weaving 'loom'.



Now, weave one of your flat specimens into the top of the loom by **threading it under a string, then over the next one, repeating this across the rows of string**.

Go onto the next specimen and **repeat until you have filled up the weaving card**.

Take a photo of it for sharing (see instructions by following QR code on P16).



Now you'll make a weaving using your specimens. You'll need **a flat piece of card**. The card on the back of a notepad is great. You can also use one side of an old cereal box, a cardboard envelope, or any reasonably strong, thin piece of board.

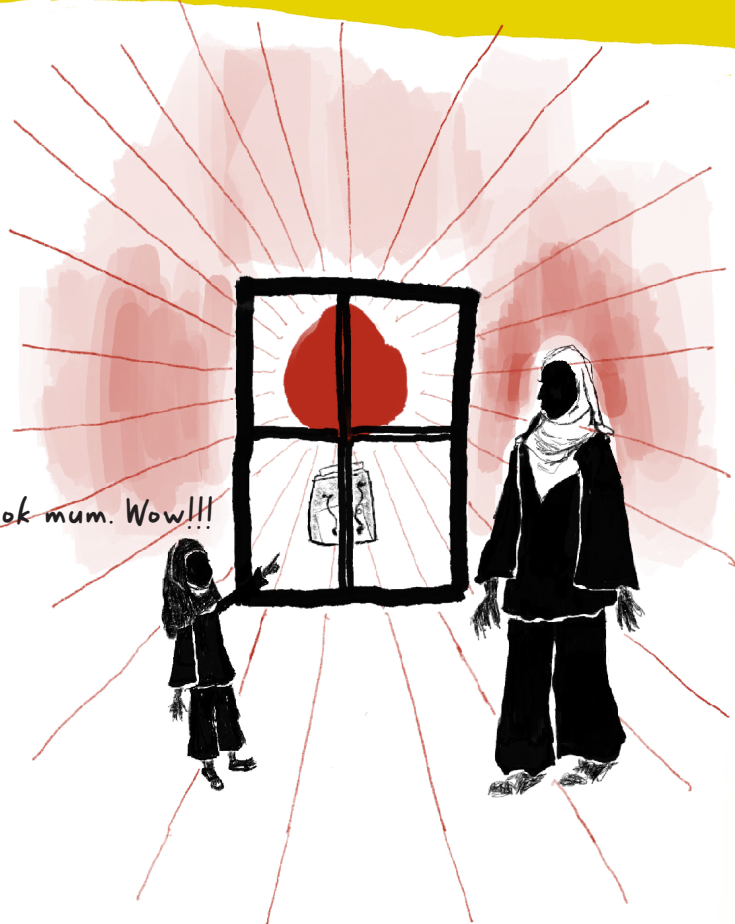
Germination & documentation



You'll need:

Grip seal bags (2)
Paper towels
2 types of bean seeds
Some water
Tape
A window

Look mum. Wow!!!



How to do it:

Watch the demo video by following the QR code on P16 (make sure to soak your bean seeds overnight before you start to ensure quicker germination time!)

Find a window that gets daylight and isn't open most of the time.

Wet a paper towel and place it inside. Place two beans inside.

Seal it **only partly** (leave a space for small amount of air to get in). Use the tape to tape it to the window.

A few days later, do the same thing again with one other type of bean. This will allow you to compare the growth cycles in the two bags.

Documenting your growing bean

Every day you'll need to document your bean.

You can do this by drawing it with a pencil, pen, crayon or felt tip in your nature diary.

You can also try monoprinting to document your seed's growth. Watch the demo video for steps.

Using your brush, paint the clear plastic sheet with some dark coloured ready mixed paint.

Place the sheet with the paint side up on top of a plain piece of paper.

Using the cotton bud, draw the growing seed/sprout in as much detail as you can.

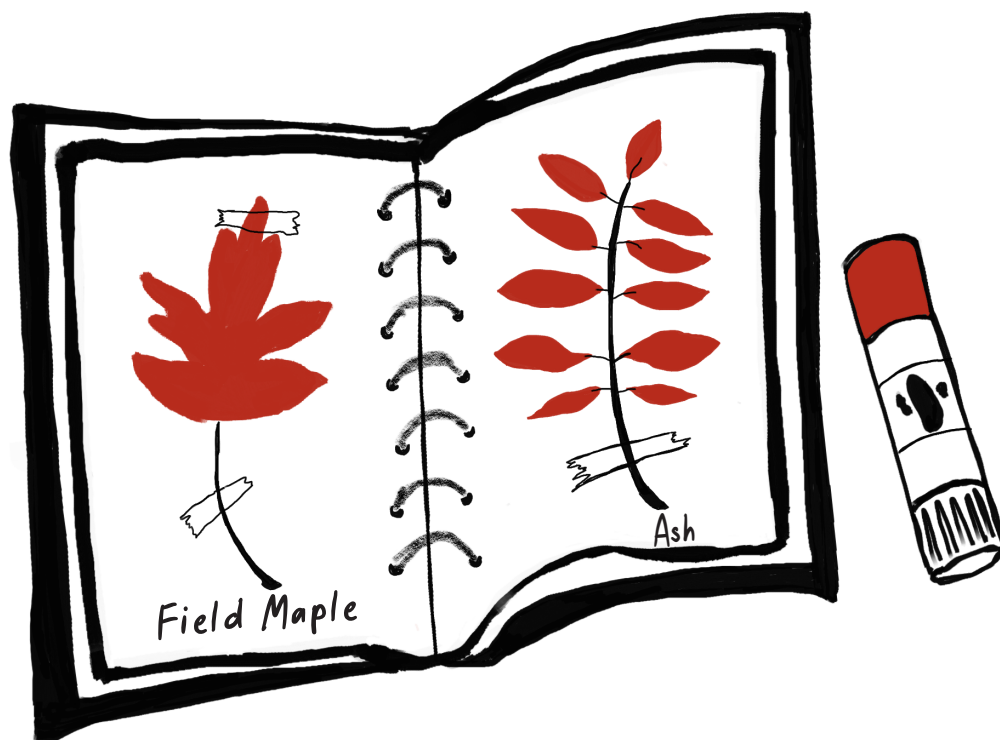
Pick up the plastic carefully at the corners, turn it over carefully onto a blank piece of paper.

Rub gently on the back to transfer the paint to the paper. Peel the plastic off the paper and let dry. When it is dry you can add details with a pen, pencil or crayon.

Document your seeds **every day** with a new monoprint. When they're done you can glue them into your nature diary by brushing a small amount of glue on the back of each print.



Adding to your nature diary



You can save some of your specimens (the smaller, flatter ones) in your nature diary by placing them under a heavy book for several days. Lay them between a few paper towels first and wait about a week. Take them out and paint a little glue on the back, then press into your book.



QR code for
video footage
and more

We'd love to hear your young ones' observations.

Call our windphone on 0800 141 2464* and leave a voice recording to share with the community, or send your drawings, prints and collages to programmes@peckhamplatform.com

"I saw _____"

"I found _____"

"I heard _____"

"I was surprised
by _____"

"I discovered _____"

* Calls to our windphone are free, although charges from your carrier or line provider may apply. On the windphone you can respond to our projects by sharing your thoughts and letting us know what you have been up to. For more information on our privacy policy, please visit www.peckhamplatform.com

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