

Discover:

Plants and Gardening

Key Facts

- Plants grow in all sorts of shapes and sizes, but have many things in common. Almost all plants need sunlight, water and air to grow.
- Grass is found in every continent except Antarctica. It's not just lawns: foods including rice, corn and oats all come from grass plants.
- Lots of plants are used for dyes. Woad has been used to make blue dye for over 6000 years.
- Britain is home to many ancient trees. The oldest tree is thought to be the Fortingall Yew in Scotland. It is believed to be between 2,000 to 3,000 years old.
- Plants release oxygen that humans and other animals breathe so are vital to life on Earth.
- The earliest known decorative gardens were in ancient Egypt, around 3,500 years ago.
- The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the ancient wonders of the world, but no one knows where they were.

Where to find more:

- If you enjoy visiting Jephson Gardens in Leamington, have a look at the plans from when the gardens were first created on [Our Warwickshire](#).
- Visit [Wild About Gardens](#) to find out how to make your garden butterfly and moth friendly.
- See how many urban trees you can identify in your local area with this guide from the [Natural History Museum](#).
- Sign up to [Borrow Box](#) through Warwickshire Libraries to find books such as 'The Secret Garden' to borrow online.
- Find ancient trees near where you live with the [Ancient Tree Inventory](#).



How to make:

A Brilliant Bird Feeder

You will need:

Card

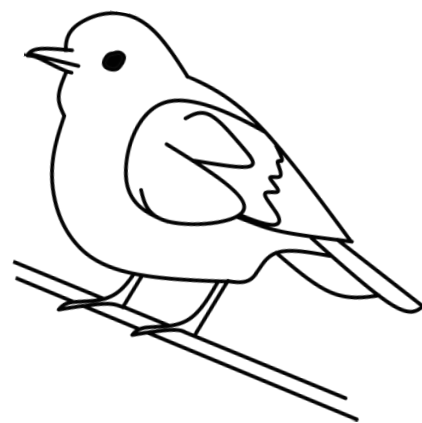
Scissors

String

Polystyrene cup and lid

Tape

Sharp Pencil



1. Take a length of string about 30cm (12 inches) long and tie a knot about two thirds the way down it.
2. Use a sharp pencil to pierce a small hole in the top of the polystyrene cup. Thread the string through until it stops at the knot.
3. Tie another knot on the top outside of the cup where the string comes out.
4. Take a rectangle of card and roll it up into a tube. Secure the tube with tape.
5. Cut two squares out of the tube at the bottom edge, at opposite sides.
6. Push the tube inside the cup and make sure you thread the string down the middle.
7. Make a hole in the lid of the cup and thread the string through there too. Then tie a knot to secure it.
8. Now you can decorate your bird feeder. The [Wildlife Trusts](#) have helpful advice on what to put on your bird feeder.

Name That Tree

Here are some of the more common trees in Britain. How many can you find in your local area?

Oak

Look out for:

- Round-lobed leaves
- Acorns that turn from green to brown



Horse Chestnut

Look out for:

- Conkers in spiky green cases
- 5 large leaves on one stem



Silver Birch

Look out for:

- White coloured bark
- Small, triangle shaped leaves



Lime

Look out for:

- Heart shaped leaves with tiny hairs on the underside
- White-yellow flowers



Sycamore

Look out for:

- Five lobed leaves with red spines
- 'Winged' fruit



Ash

Look out for:

- Leaves arranged in pairs
- Black flower buds with clusters of seeds



How to make:

A Plant Pot

You will need:

Two sheets of newspaper

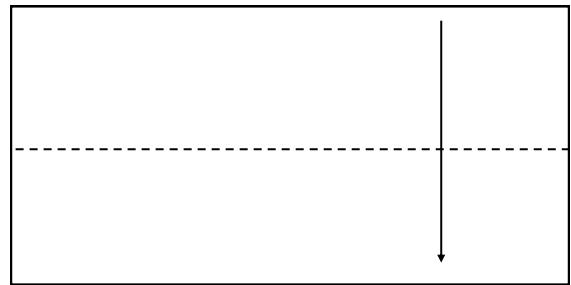
Glue

Scissors

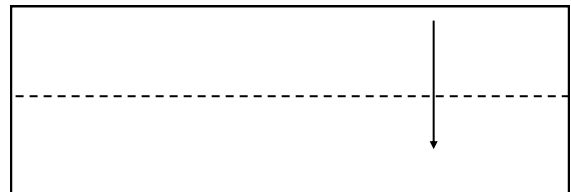
Materials to decorate



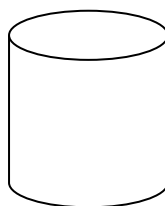
1) Take one piece of newspaper. Fold it in half horizontally.



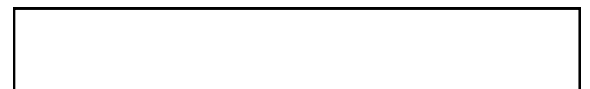
2) Leaving it folded fold it in half horizontally again.



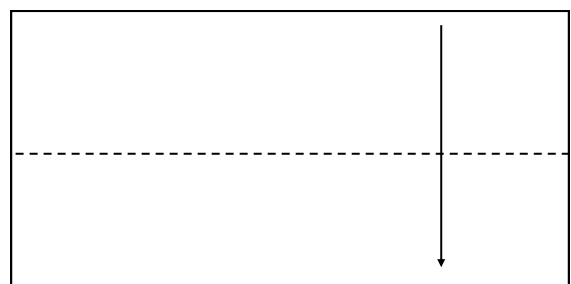
3) Now roll the folded piece of newspaper into a tube. Use a bit of glue to hold it in place.



Roll into a tube

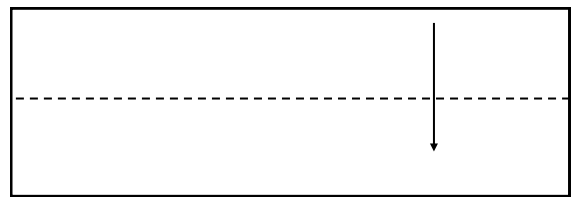


4) Place the tube to one side and take the second piece of newspaper. Fold it in half horizontally.

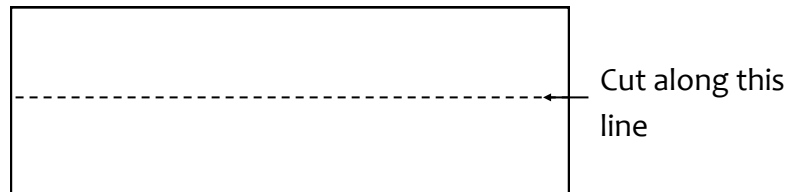




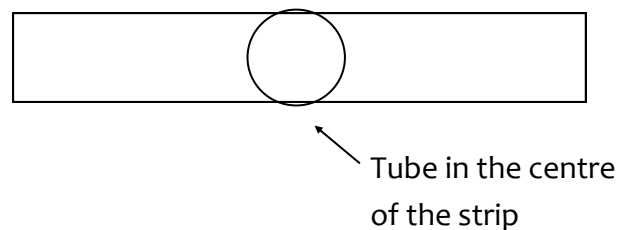
5) Leaving it folded fold it in half again horizontally.



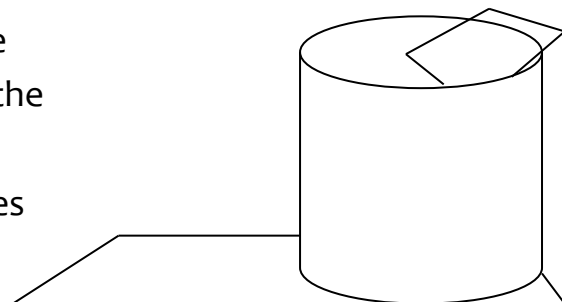
6) Unfold the last fold and cut along the line you have just made.



7) Take one of the strips of paper you've just made and lay it on a flat surface. Place the tube you made earlier in the centre of the strip.



8) Fold the ends of the strip over the top of the tube to create a base for the herb pot. Repeat this with the other strip of newspaper for the other sides of the pot.



9) Your herb pot is finished now, all it needs is some compost and a few seeds to grow! Because your pot is made from newspaper it is biodegradable. If you wanted to plant it into the ground it will degrade but if you want to you can decorate your pot as you like.



Colouring In

