

Hampshire &  
Isle of Wight  
Wildlife Trust



# Wildlife Watch

During these confined times we wanted to share with you some ideas of activities and games to keep connected with nature.





# Wild about nature!

**Here at Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust we know that many of you are wild about nature! So, we thought we would put together a booklet, packed with ideas and activities to help you keep occupied over the coming months. We hope you enjoy!**

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**Wildlife is amazing  
and there's so many  
incredible sights and  
sounds to be found in  
the outdoors.**

# Urban wildlife detective



				
Grey squirrel <input type="checkbox"/>	Feral pigeon <input type="checkbox"/>	Fox <input type="checkbox"/>	Ring-necked parakeet <input type="checkbox"/>	Harlequin ladybird <input type="checkbox"/>
				
House sparrow <input type="checkbox"/>	Peregrine falcon <input type="checkbox"/>	Hedgehog <input type="checkbox"/>	Starling <input type="checkbox"/>	Brown rat <input type="checkbox"/>

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

Credits: Grey squirrel and hedgehog (c) Gillian Day / Feral pigeon, harlequin ladybird and house sparrow (c) Amy Lewis / Fox and brown rat (c) Margaret Holland / Ring-necked parakeet (c) Neil Aldridge / Peregrine falcon (c) Neil Aldridge / Starling (c) Richard Burkmar

# Garden bird detective

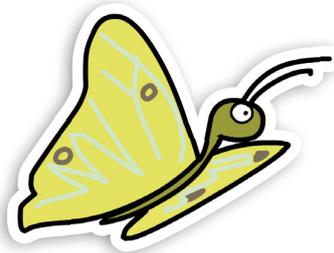
				
Chaffinch <input type="checkbox"/>	Greenfinch <input type="checkbox"/>	House sparrow <input type="checkbox"/>	Blackbird <input type="checkbox"/>	Blue tit <input type="checkbox"/>
				
Goldfinch <input type="checkbox"/>	Great tit <input type="checkbox"/>	Collared dove <input type="checkbox"/>	Starling <input type="checkbox"/>	Wood pigeon <input type="checkbox"/>

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Pictures: Chaffinch and Greenfinch (c) Gillian Day / House sparrow (c) Stewart McDonald / Blackbird (c) Neil Aldridge / Blue tit, Goldfinch and Great tit (c) Amy Lewis / Collared dove (c) Ian Rose / Starling (c) Joan Burkmar / Wood pigeon (c) Steve Waterhouse

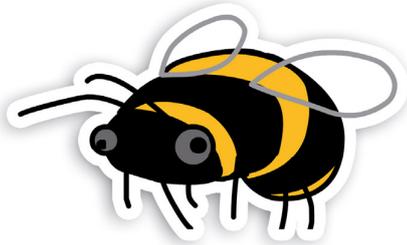
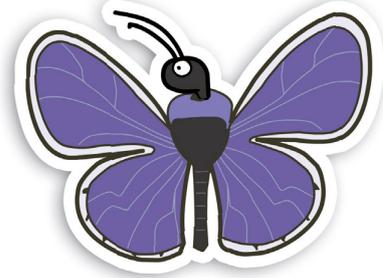
# Wildlife Watch

Garden Tiger Moth

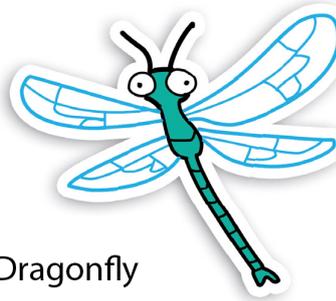


Brimstone Butterfly

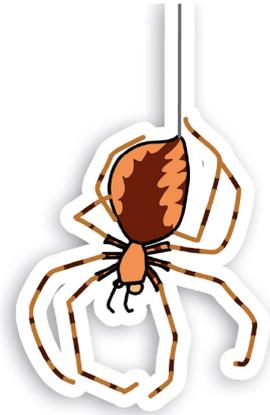
Common Blue Butterfly



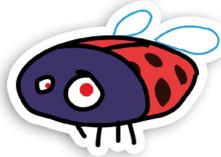
Bumblebee



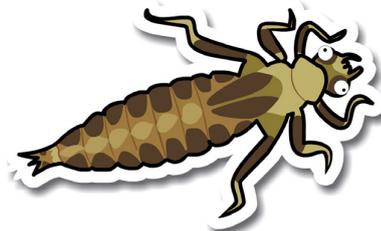
Dragonfly



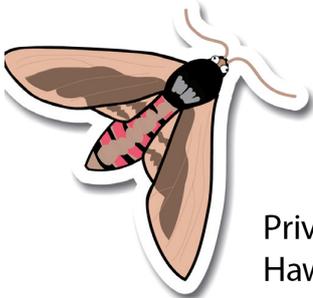
Garden Spider



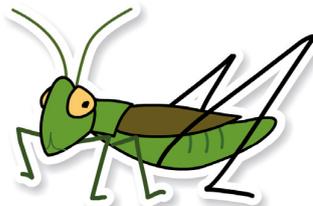
Ladybird



Dragonfly Nymph



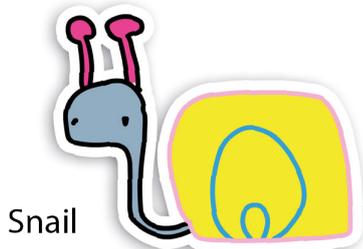
Privet Hawkmoth



Grasshopper

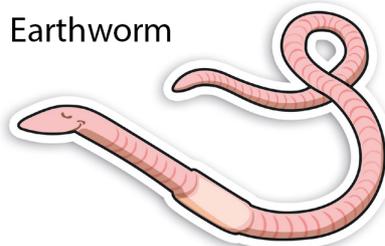


Red Admiral Butterfly

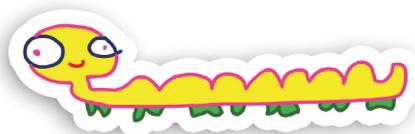


Snail

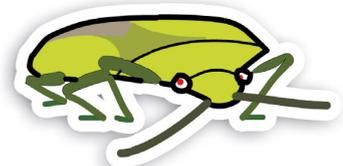
Earthworm



Shieldbug



Caterpillar



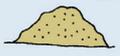
# Minibeast recording sheet

Find the beast, record where you found it

	On bark	On plants	In the sky	In the soil	Under rocks
Garden tiger moth					
Brimstone butterfly					
Common blue butterfly					
Bumblebee					
Dragonfly					
Ladybird					
Dragonfly nymph					
Garden spider					
Snail					
Privet hawkmoth					
Red admiral butterfly					
Earthworm					
Caterpillar					
Grasshopper					

# Make a wildlife pond

## You will need

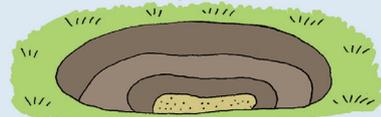
- A big patch of garden
- Spade 
- A plank of wood 
- Spirit level 
- Butyl pond liner 
- Sand 
- Water (use rainwater for best results) 
- A variety of pond plants 
- Large rocks 

Remember: don't add fish or a pump. The fish will eat smaller life forms (including frog and newt larvae) while the pump may suck them up!

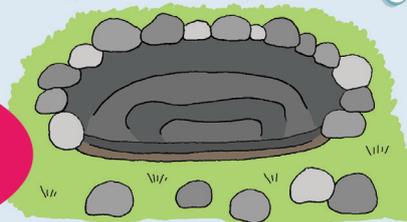
1 Choose your spot. \* Draw your pond outline and dig out, including some shallow areas.



2 Put a layer of sand at the bottom (don't use it all, you'll need some later).



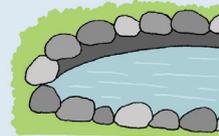
3 Make a trench all around the edge of your pond, and lay the edge of the liner into this. Weigh it down with large rocks.



4 Fill the bottom with the remaining sand.



5 Fill the pond up with water.



If you fill it from a tap or hose your water might turn green - don't worry, this is just the minerals.

6 Leave your pond to settle for about a week before adding your plants.



7 Watch and see what wildlife visits.

Make sure you add a plank of wood, or something similar, as a ramp to help any wildlife that may have fallen in.



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

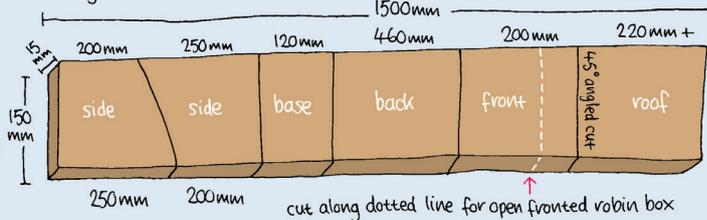
\* Look for a spot with plenty of sun, ideally with some shade in the afternoon. Try to avoid trees nearby, as fallen leaves can pollute the pond.

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

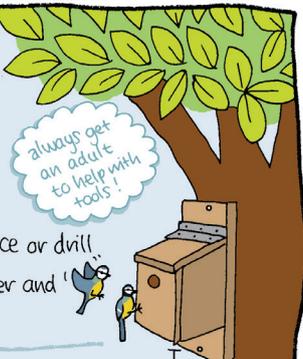
# How to make a nest box

## What you need:

- rough cut timber
- some old rubber or a hinge
- 20mm nails
- tools:



- ▶ saw
- ▶ hammer
- ▶ hand brace or drill
- ▶ pencil, ruler and scissors



1 Mark out and saw panels

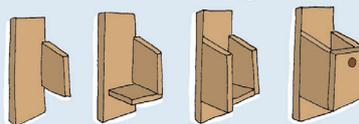
Use diagram above, and write the name of each panel onto the marked out wood.

2 Choose your box type

- hole fronted box: blue tits (25mm), great tits (28mm), sparrows (38mm), starlings (45mm)
- open fronted box for robins

3 Assemble the box

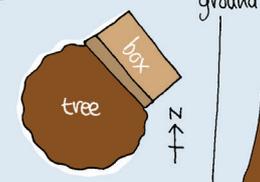
Nail the panels together:



Fix on the roof panel with a hinge or strip of old rubber.

Where to put it:

2-5 metres above the ground, somewhere sheltered.



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# How to build hidey holes

**For amphibians**

In a damp, cool area of the garden, dig a shallow bowl in the ground and line with sand. Cover with a slab, leaving enough room for an upward sloping tunnel.

sand

gently lift in mild weather to check for occupants

paving slab

trowel

**For hedgehogs**

Rake a pile of dry leaves in a quiet, unused corner of the garden (under a bush is best). Build a mesh of twigs and branches around the pile, and leave an entrance space at the bottom.

dry leaves

twigs and branches

rake

**For minibeasts**

Stack up a log pile as the bottom layer and cover with rubble or bricks (air bricks have ready made hidey holes!) Cover the pile with branches and garden cuttings.

branches and garden trimmings

logs

air bricks or rubble

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

# How to make a mini nature reserve

- 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
  - yoghurt pot
  - a small log
  - 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.

put compost right up to top of box

log

rock

yoghurt pot buried up to the rim and filled with rainwater

look under rock for small creatures

**Before**

**After**

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

with thanks to patrick roper for original idea ([windowboxwildlife.blogspot.com](http://windowboxwildlife.blogspot.com))





# Creative activities for children

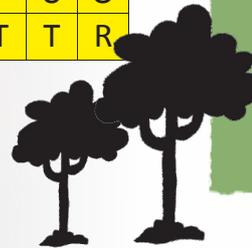
**Make your life a little more wild with  
our fun family nature activities**



# Trees Wordsearch

F	I	P	S	T	W	E	M	I	L	A	X	T	S	V
H	I	B	A	L	D	E	R	R	S	H	W	E	H	L
E	D	E	H	Q	G	Y	I	P	W	I	L	D	O	J
U	T	W	L	U	O	A	H	D	U	P	N	E	R	E
T	A	S	C	D	P	P	L	M	P	L	A	E	S	F
S	R	W	P	A	M	O	B	A	F	G	W	C	E	A
W	I	L	L	O	W	A	B	L	I	M	O	G	C	P
H	O	L	G	C	D	A	P	O	A	K	R	Q	H	P
Z	U	H	V	E	R	R	G	L	H	K	C	P	E	L
F	S	O	H	C	R	I	B	R	E	V	L	I	S	O
O	F	L	B	E	E	D	Y	K	E	A	V	J	T	I
U	C	L	S	A	S	H	T	N	U	T	W	E	N	Z
B	V	Y	C	L	K	G	F	D	S	E	A	P	U	O
O	I	Y	R	E	H	C	E	E	B	A	C	T	T	R

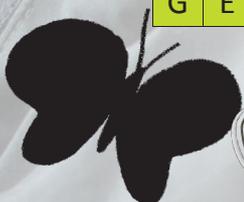
- Alder**
- Ash**
- Beech**
- Crab Apple**
- Field Maple**
- Holly**
- Horse Chestnut**
- Lime**
- Oak**
- Rowan**
- Silver Birch**
- Willow**



# Butterflies Wordsearch

A	P	T	G	X	L	I	R	R	I	N	G	L	E	T
L	G	E	W	E	U	L	B	N	O	M	M	O	C	K
N	A	P	E	A	C	O	C	K	R	J	W	B	U	C
R	T	R	Y	A	E	V	N	L	A	I	A	Y	G	X
Q	E	R	G	T	F	D	S	U	N	J	L	D	E	O
O	K	E	D	E	O	R	E	N	G	T	L	A	T	I
W	E	D	Z	U	W	B	R	C	E	Y	B	L	P	O
A	E	A	F	P	E	H	R	E	T	O	R	D	Y	F
L	P	D	O	S	Y	C	I	W	I	Q	O	E	Z	C
S	E	M	T	H	V	N	K	T	P	W	W	T	G	O
B	R	I	M	S	T	O	N	E	E	F	N	N	Z	M
T	Y	R	A	D	H	R	P	O	M	B	V	I	S	M
L	I	A	T	W	O	L	L	A	W	S	M	A	X	A
G	E	L	R	I	N	Q	L	T	C	V	U	P	O	K

- Brimstone**
- Comma**
- Common Blue**
- Gatekeeper**
- Large White**
- Orange Tip**
- Painted Lady**
- Peacock**
- Red Admiral**
- Ringlet**
- Swallowtail**
- Wall Brown**



# Make a butterfly painting

## You will need

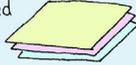
- Water-based paints



- Brushes



- Pastel coloured sugar paper



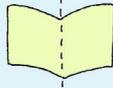
- Marker pen



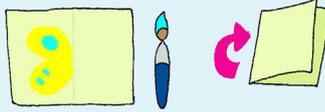
- Plenty of newspaper (to cover tables!)



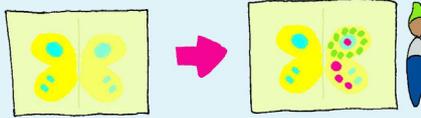
- 1 Fold a piece of sugar paper in half, side to side, and open it out.



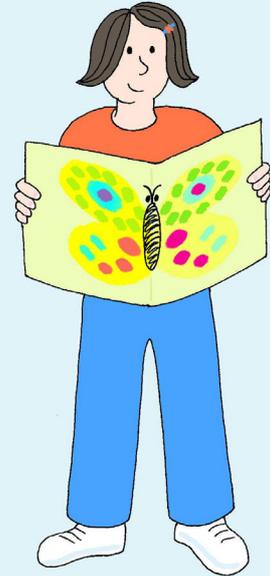
- 2 Paint the shape of butterfly wings on one half. Fold the paper over again and press it down.



- 3 Open out the paper and add more colours to one side. Refold and press.



- 4 When the butterfly wings are dry, add a body and antennae with a marker pen.



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

# Make your own salt dough

## 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

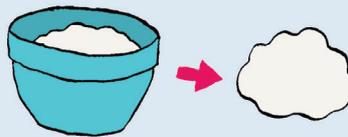


- oven or airing cupboard

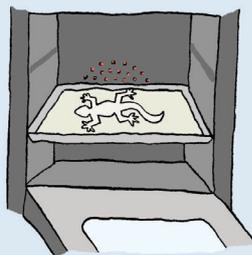
- acrylic paint, varnish and brushes (optional)



- 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.

[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

# Make a musical rain stick

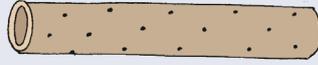
## You will need

- Old cardboard tube (the thicker the better)



- Marker pen
- Nails or similar
- Masking tape
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Dried beans or rice
- Hammer
- Crayons, markers or paint

- 1 Draw dots 2cm apart along the length of the cardboard tube. They don't have to be in a straight line - a spiral pattern works well.

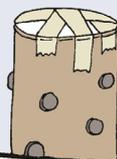
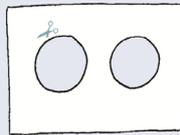


- 2 Hammer a nail into the tube at each mark (don't let the nails poke out through the other side).



Wrap a long piece of masking tape over the nail heads so they don't injure little hands or get pulled out!

- 3 If your tube doesn't have any plastic lids, make your own by drawing round the end of the tube (twice) onto card and cutting out. Seal a lid at one end of the tube with some masking tape.



- 4 Pour a handful of dried beans or rice into the tube, then secure the open end with a lid and tape.



- 5 Decorate the outside of the tube - you may want to draw on your favourite wildlife and flowers or you may have a theme - it is completely up to you!



- 6 When you have finished decorating it, gently tip the tube upside down and listen to the rain!



[www.wildlifewatch.org.uk](http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk)

Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2018

# Make an egg carton crab

## You will need

- One section of egg box (already cut out)
- Four pipe cleaners (orange is a great crab colour!)
- Two googly eyes
- Paints and brushes
- Double sided sticky tape
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Felt pen

- 1 Paint the egg box section inside and out to make the crab's body. Leave to dry for a few minutes.



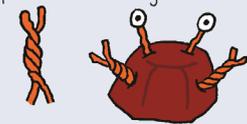
- 2 Cut eight pipe cleaner legs (all the same length) plus three longer pieces.



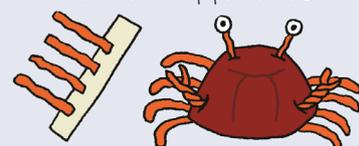
- 3 Make two holes for eye stalks with a pencil, and poke one long pipe cleaner through to make two eye stalks. Stick the googly eyes onto the tips of the eye stalks.



- 4 Twist the other two long pipe cleaners together, make two holes in the front of the body and poke the twisted pipe cleaner through to make claws.



- 5 Stick four leg pipe cleaners onto double sided tape and then stick them under the body to poke out. Repeat on the other side with the other four pipe cleaners.



- 6 Draw on a smiley mouth!



You can make other creatures too... think about centipedes and ladybirds.

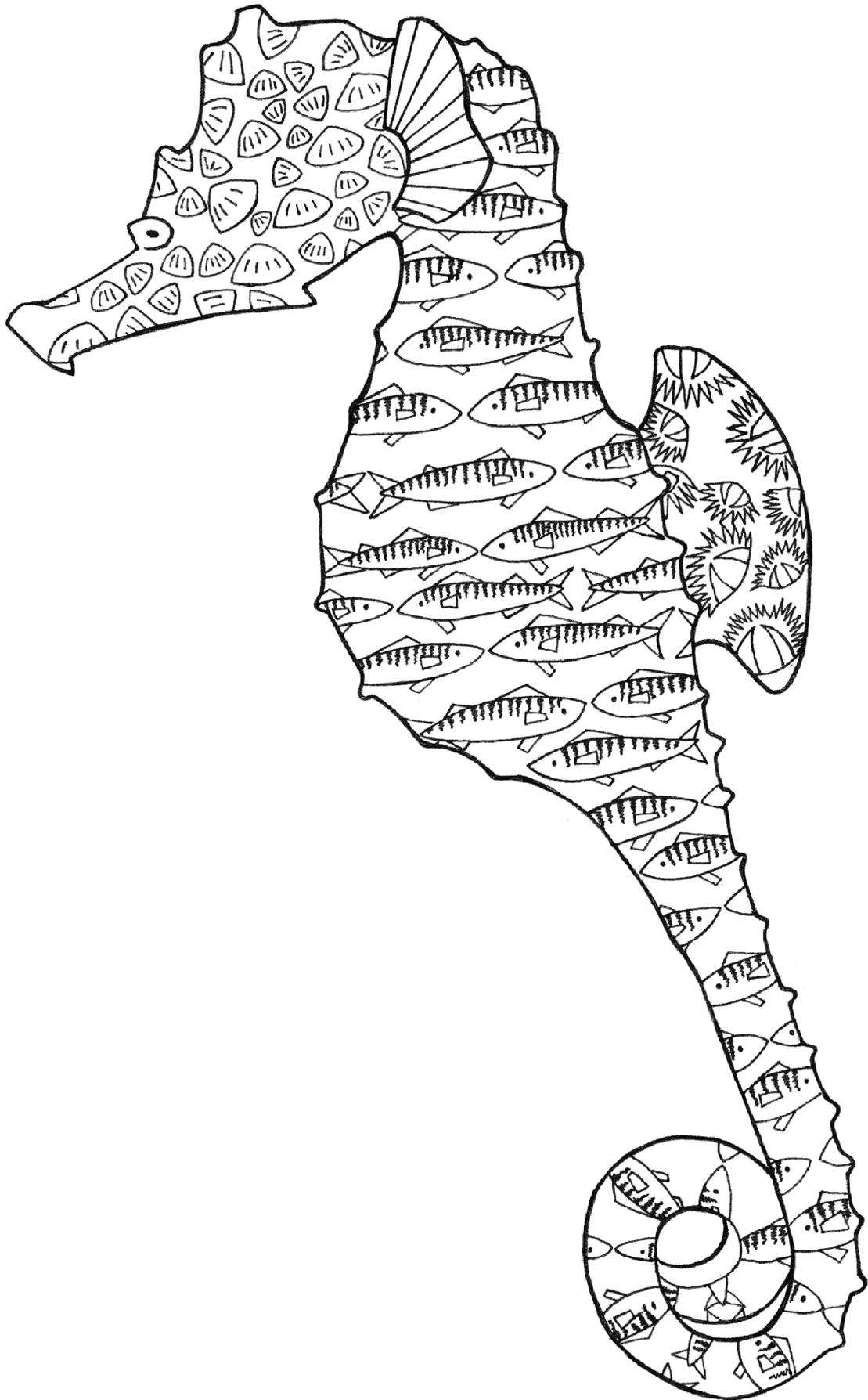


Use pom poms for heads!

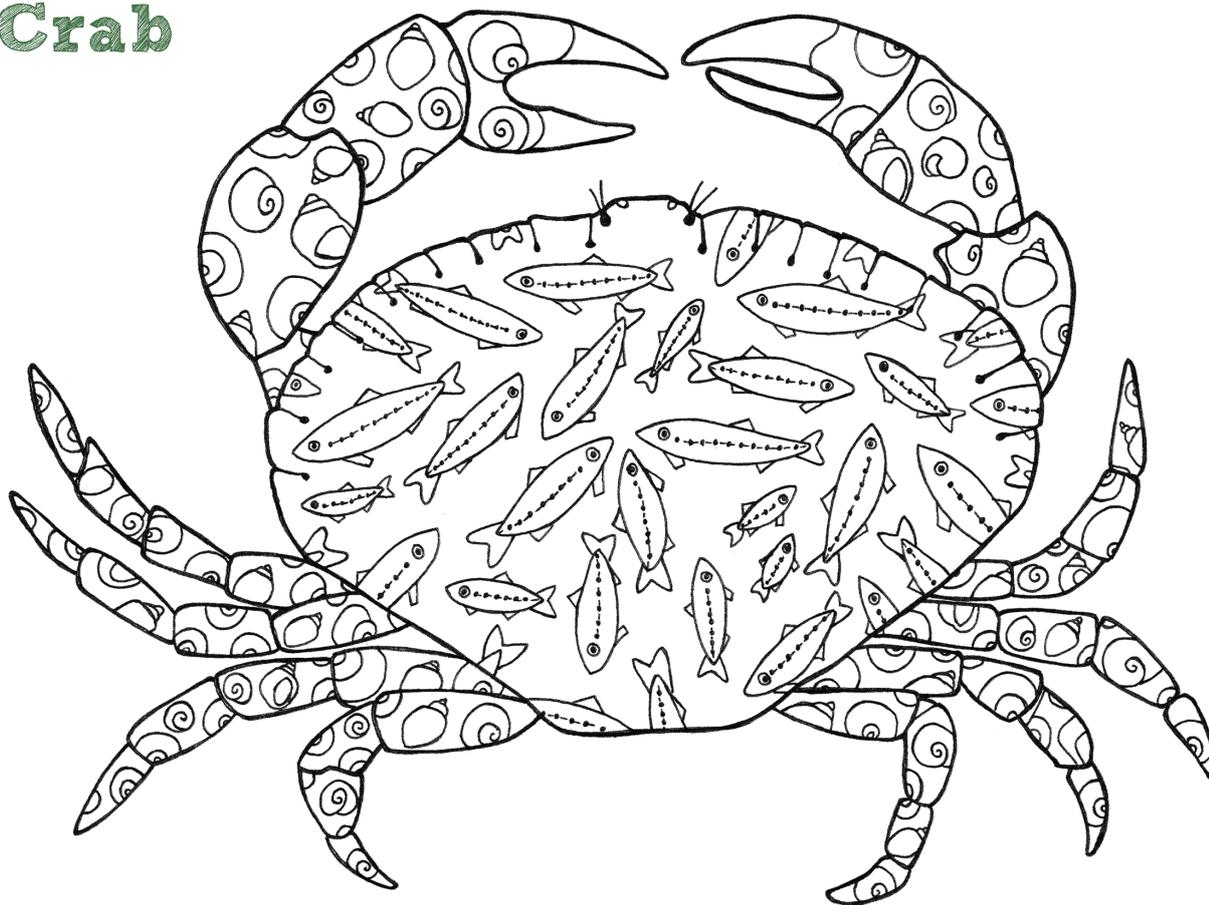
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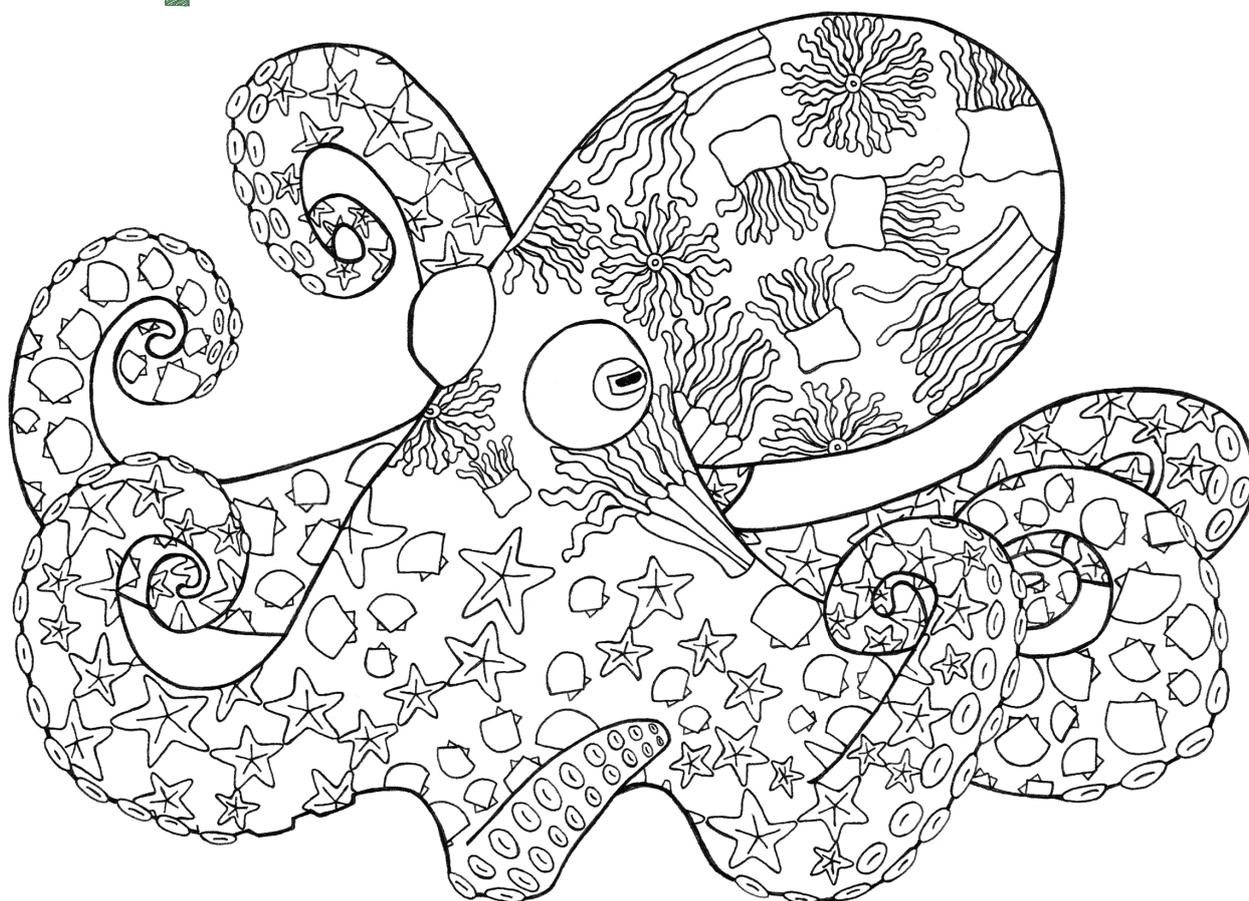
# Seahorse



# Crab



# Octopus



# Be creative with recycled and natural materials

**Get creative without buying anything new! Upcycling unwanted materials and natural items is an easy and environmentally friendly way to have fun.**

Make a recycled rainbow:

This activity is great for enhancing colour matching and sorting skills. Cut up old magazines, leaflets and clothing of different colours to make a rainbow collage. All you'll need is scissors, glue, unwanted materials and an adult to help.

Colours of nature activity:

This activity focuses on engaging with the natural items we see to create an art palette. Download our template or draw out a paint palette. Look out of your window or go into your garden. For each different natural item you spot, either stick it to your paint palette or use a colour to represent that piece of nature. For our template and other fun activities visit: [hiwwt.org.uk/education/resources](http://hiwwt.org.uk/education/resources)

Make a stick rainbow:

This super simple craft will brighten up the garden and help you connect with nature. Simply collect and paint any sticks you find in the colours of the rainbow. Once dry tie them together using a piece of string, ribbon or wool. You could even go a step further by adding shells, feathers and other natural items underneath to mimic raindrops. You can find more nature activities like this at [childsplayabc.wordpress.com](http://childsplayabc.wordpress.com)



Rainbow craft - © Lucy at Southsea Wildlife Watch



Stick rainbow - © Gemma Paul

# Join today

If you're not a member please consider joining or recommend us to your family and friends. From just £4.50 a month you can enjoy a family membership, which includes a Wildlife Watch membership.

[hiwwt.org.uk/join-today](http://hiwwt.org.uk/join-today)





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**Beechcroft House, Vicarage Lane,**  
**Curdrige, Hampshire SO32 2DP**  
**Telephone - 01489 774400**  
**Email - [feedback@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:feedback@hiwwt.org.uk)**

Meadow Pipit © Dave Kilbey  
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