**Connect with nature!**

**Ideas to help you explore the great outdoors**

[**Make a Nature Journal**](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-and-use-a-nature-journal-to-record-your-wildlife-obs.html) - If you can get outside safely, you may like to record which animals and plants you find with [this activity](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-and-use-a-nature-journal-to-record-your-wildlife-obs.html) from the NHM, which shows you how to make a nature journal. Has lockdown meant more wildlife is out in London than before? Use a journal to find out!

[**Make a Sailboat**](https://mailchi.mp/554777f653c9/hcga-holiday-play-activities-9287306?e=a9cb63e224) - In this activity from our friends at Hammersmith Community Gardens Association you can make a sailboat. If you can’t get out to a pond or lake, you can also try out your boat in a bath, the sink or even a puddle.  The instructions use a small plastic tub, but you can see from the pictures you could also use plastic bottles, corks, or anything else that floats.

[**Wildlife spotting sheet**](https://www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/documents/2020-04-22/wwt-spotter-sheet-bug-hunt-1.pdf) - With this nice weather why not head outside and explore some wildlife? You don’t have to go far to see amazing animals when they are all around us. If you go to the park there are all sorts of animals to see, why not explore some of them with this spotting sheet made by the Wildlife Wetland Trust.

[**Draw the outdoors**](https://www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/documents/2020-04-22/wwt-origami-swan-sheet-1.pdf) - The Wildlife Wetland Trust has some great resources to make some animals that you might see at the park at home, including this [origami swan](https://www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/documents/2020-04-22/wwt-origami-swan-sheet-1.pdf) and fantastically easy way to draw an [amazing duck.](https://imphttps/www.wwt.org.uk/uploads/documents/2020-04-22/wwt-make-a-duck-1.pdferiallondon.sharepoint.com/sites/365-publicengagementteam/Shared%20Documents/04.%20Projects%20and%20Work%20Strands/03.%20White%20City/Simple%20Science/Simple%20Science%2013.07.2020.docx)

[**Origami Butterflies**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=82&v=qmPTMNBIz0o&feature=emb_logo) - Here is an activity to make some amazing Origami butterflies. If you want you could display them at home by hanging them on string to make a fantastic butterfly mobile! Or hang them off a balcony on in a green space.

[**Make a Bee Hotel**](https://hcga.org.uk/portfolio-item/make-a-solitary-bee-hotel/) - You can make your own bee hotel for solitary bees with these instructions from our friends at the Hammersmith Community Gardens Association. They have lots of other activities you can check out [here](https://hcga.org.uk/). Do make sure any children are supervised as you make the bee hotel, in particular when cutting cane or bamboo.

[**Dinosaur Dig and weathering**](https://funlearningforkids.com/make-your-own-dinosaur-dig-excavation-activity/) - Fun Learning for Kids have lots of activities for families and children to do in lockdown that require very little equipment. We really like this dinosaur dig experiment, where children get to dig a dinosaur out of rock. Although the instruction asks that you crack open the rock using tools, you could leave it outside to explore how rocks weather and break down naturally.

[**Make your own binoculars**](https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-06/BINOCULARS.jpg) - Wildlife Watch have [a huge range of activities](https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities) to do at home and outside! If you are finding ways to use up the toilet roll tubes we all bulk bought in April then you can make your own pair of binoculars. Although they won’t really work children will still enjoy using them, and it’s a great way to get kids to focus on animals that they see outside or in a park.