

# Wild Teaching

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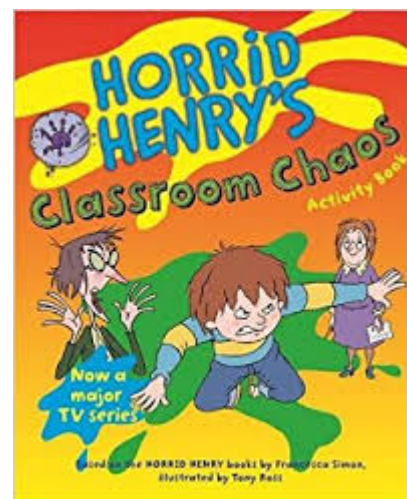
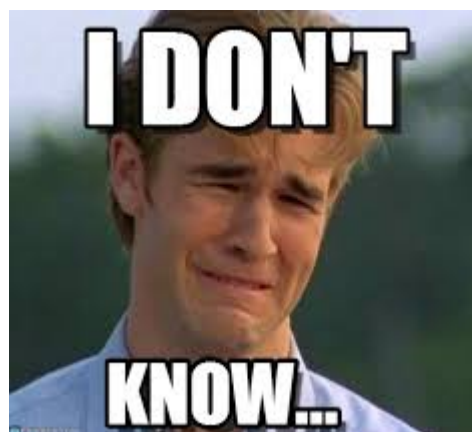


## Cross-curricular Lessons Outdoors for Agoraphobic Teachers





**Why don't we teach  
outside anymore?**





# May

## Seed Bombs

Background  
formation

Lesson  
Content  
Step by Step

Resources  
Needed

May

### MAKE SEED BOMBS

#### Background Info and Fun Facts

- Seed bombing was made famous by the Japanese farmer Masanobu Fukuoka. He believed that by throwing seed bombs around his farm, Mother Nature would decide which seeds grew best in different areas.
- Seed bombs can be made and thrown in gardens, window boxes and vegetable patches. They are also sometimes thrown in alleyways and other poorly maintained areas.
- There are now guerrilla gardening groups in countries all over the world, throwing seed bombs into derelict areas to improve them.

#### Curriculum Links

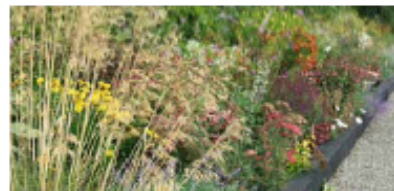
Subject	Strand	Strand Unit
Science	Living things, materials	Plant life, materials and change
Geography	Environmental awareness and care	Caring for the environment

#### Lesson Content

1. Half fill the basin or plastic box with a mixture of soil and compost and sprinkle some seeds in. Add a cup of water.
2. Mix together to form a sticky paste. If it is too dry, keep adding water. If it is too wet, add more soil.
3. Roll the mixture into balls the size of golf balls and place them in egg cartons.
4. Let the pupils throw the seed bombs on to a raised bed, bank, base of a tree or derelict area and see what happens.

#### Resources

Soil, compost, water, cup, empty egg cartons, basin or plastic box, and flower seeds such as wildflower mix/nasturtiums or vegetable seeds such as radish/lettuce.



- May is a great month to make seed bombs, because warm temperatures mean good germination rates. Pupils absolutely love this lesson.



#### Teacher Hints and Tips

- This is an outside lesson and is best done at a picnic table or bench.
- Set up five or six of these stations to keep everybody busy, or use it as one station in a station teaching lesson.
- Make sure the pupils roll up their sleeves.
- Don't forget to ask for permission to throw seed bombs on someone else's property.

#### Web Links

- Senior pupils will love this video of very fancy seed bombs being made <https://littleveggieland.co.uk/blog/news/diy-seed-bombs>.

Images

Curricular  
Links

Teacher  
Hints &  
Tips

Online  
Video  
& Web  
Links

A LESSON TO USE AT THE START OF ALL OTHERS:

## Go on a Nature Walk

Make leaf rubbings	Make a skeleton with sticks	Find 5 mini-beasts	Leave bread crumbs for birds	Play tag or tip the can	Sketch a tree and its roots
Have a silent sound walk	Build tall stone stacks	Sketch wildflowers	Make a fairy fort	Have a woollies & wellies walk	Make bark rubbings
Take photos	Dig holes	Sketch clouds	Make mud pies	Walk barefoot	Hug a tree
Make pictures with leaves, twigs and stones	Collect items listed in a scavenger hunt	Collect sets of items or go on a maths trail	Find 5 different types of birds	Put a sheet under a tree and shake the tree	Collect and press wildflowers

Adopt a tree outside for the year and watch it grow and change.

Observe leaves, flowers, fruit, seeds and bark.

Record observations in a notebook and sketch the tree over the course of the year.

# September

## Common Irish Butterfly Matching Sets



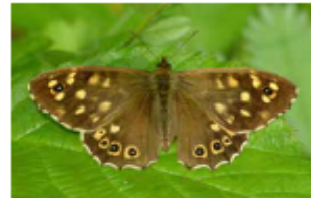
Small Tortoiseshell



Small White



Red Admiral



Speckled Wood



Common Blue



Orange Tip



Painted Lady



Peacock

### Small Tortoiseshell

Rúan Beag *Aglais urticae*

**Fact File** – This native orange, black and cream butterfly is found on the buddleia plant and lays its eggs on nettles.

**Life Cycle** – Adults usually come out of hibernation in March or April. They usually have two broods of young black and yellow caterpillars. The young drink nectar from plants in summer to help survive hibernation.

### Small White

Bánóg Bheag *Pieris rapae*

**Fact File** – The small and large white is also known as the "cabbage white" and is the enemy of gardeners.

**Life Cycle** – Females lay single eggs on the bottom side of cabbage and nasturtium leaves. Green caterpillars hatch and eat holes in the leaves. Pupae can be found on walls or in sheds. Hatched adults or pupae hibernate.

### Red Admiral

Aimiréal Dearg *Vanessa atalanta*

**Fact File** – This is a visitor to Ireland from May to September. It is dark brown and white with a red stripe on each wing.

**Life Cycle** – Females lay single eggs, which look like tiny gooseberries on nettle leaves, which the black caterpillars then eat. Its life cycle takes 8 weeks from beginning to end. Most do not survive our winter.

### Speckled Wood

Breacfhéileacán Coille *Pararge aegeria*

**Fact File** – This native brown, black and white butterfly hides in woods and hedges. Adults fight for their own feeding areas.

**Life Cycle** – The female lays one or two eggs, which are tiny clear spheres, on grasses. Tiny green caterpillars then feed on the grass. After pupating, adults hibernate for winter. Up to three broods can be hatched in a season.

### Common Blue

Gormán Coiteann *Polyommatus icarus*

**Fact File** – This native blue butterfly is found all over Ireland. Adults can be found in groups of up to 100.

**Life Cycle** – Adults are seen between May and September. White eggs are laid one at a time on the bird's-foot trefoil, white clover and thistle plant, which the green caterpillars then eat. They then pupate and hibernate.

### Orange Tip

Barr Buí *Anthocharis cardamines*

**Fact File** – Males have orange tips on wings, but females' tips are black. Found in lanes, river banks and meadows.

**Life Cycle** – Orange eggs are laid on leaves of the cuckoo flower or garlic mustard. They hatch into green caterpillars that then turn into green pupae and hibernate. Adults come out the following spring.

### Painted Lady

Áilleán *Vanessa cardui*

**Fact File** – The black, orange and white painted lady butterfly is a visitor to Ireland in summer. It begins in North Africa in spring and travels through Europe. Thistles and nettles are its main food.

**Life Cycle** – The life cycle from egg to adult is 3 weeks. The caterpillars are spiky, black and yellow and eat nettles. Hatch out in class with packs from [www.insectlore.co.uk](http://www.insectlore.co.uk). Adults travel back to Africa in autumn, travelling 2,000km per month.

### Peacock

Péacóg *Inachis io*

**Fact File** – This is the most beautiful Irish butterfly with four false eyes on its wings to scare away predators. It can also make a hissing sound by rubbing its wings. It is found in gardens, woodlands and hedges.

**Life Cycle** – Females lay up to 400 green eggs together in spring or summer on nettle leaves. Black caterpillars hatch and eat the leaves. Adults come out of pupae and feed on nectar before hibernating for winter.



# Planning Notes

Science February		CM
Strands: <i>Living things, environmental awareness and care, materials</i>		
<b>Learning Objectives:</b> The children will be enabled to... <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Wk 1:</b> Learn about the life of St. Brigid and construct a St. Brigid's cross</li><li>• <b>Wk 2:</b> Understand how buds are formed, identify the buds from different trees and predict bud growth.</li><li>• <b>Wk 3:</b> Consolidate Mathematics skills and content in a collaborative and practical manner in the school car park.</li><li>• <b>Wk 4:</b> Learn about the life cycle of the slug and observe slugs in their natural habitat</li><li>• <b>All weeks:</b> Recognize signs of winter/spring in the local natural environment.</li></ul>	<b>Activities:</b> <b>Wk 1:</b> Nature sight and sound walk for signs of winter/spring (+ options from menu at bottom of lesson page), discuss the story of St. Brigid and pair up the pupils to construct St. Brigid's crosses. <b>Wk 2:</b> Nature sight and sound walk for signs of winter/spring (+ options from menu at bottom of lesson page), identify the different types of buds on native trees and conduct a bud race to see which bud will come out in leaf first <b>Wk 3:</b> Nature sight and sound walk for signs of winter/spring (+ options from menu at bottom of lesson page) and set pupils up in groups of three to undertake Mathematics activities in the school car park. <b>Wk 4:</b> Nature sight and sound walk for signs of winter/spring (+ options from menu at bottom of lesson page), discuss slugs, their life cycle, habitat and physical features and construct a slug snug for pupils to observe them in the classroom  Pupils record a procedural writing entry of activities and learning outcomes	
	<b>Resources:</b> <b>Wk 1:</b> Rushes, string, scissors <b>Wk 2:</b> Set of horse chestnut, oak, ash, sycamore, beech and rowan buds for each group of 5 pupils, 6 jars, jug and water <b>Wk 3:</b> Each group of 3 – sheet, measuring tape, watch, clipboard and pencil <b>Wk 4:</b> 5 litre container, elastic band, j-cloth, 3 or 4 slugs, grit, soil, mulch and banana skins	



# Wild Teaching

- ▶ Free copy for every primary teacher in Co. Meath
- ▶ €10 for all outside the Royal County
- ▶ For further information, contact:



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