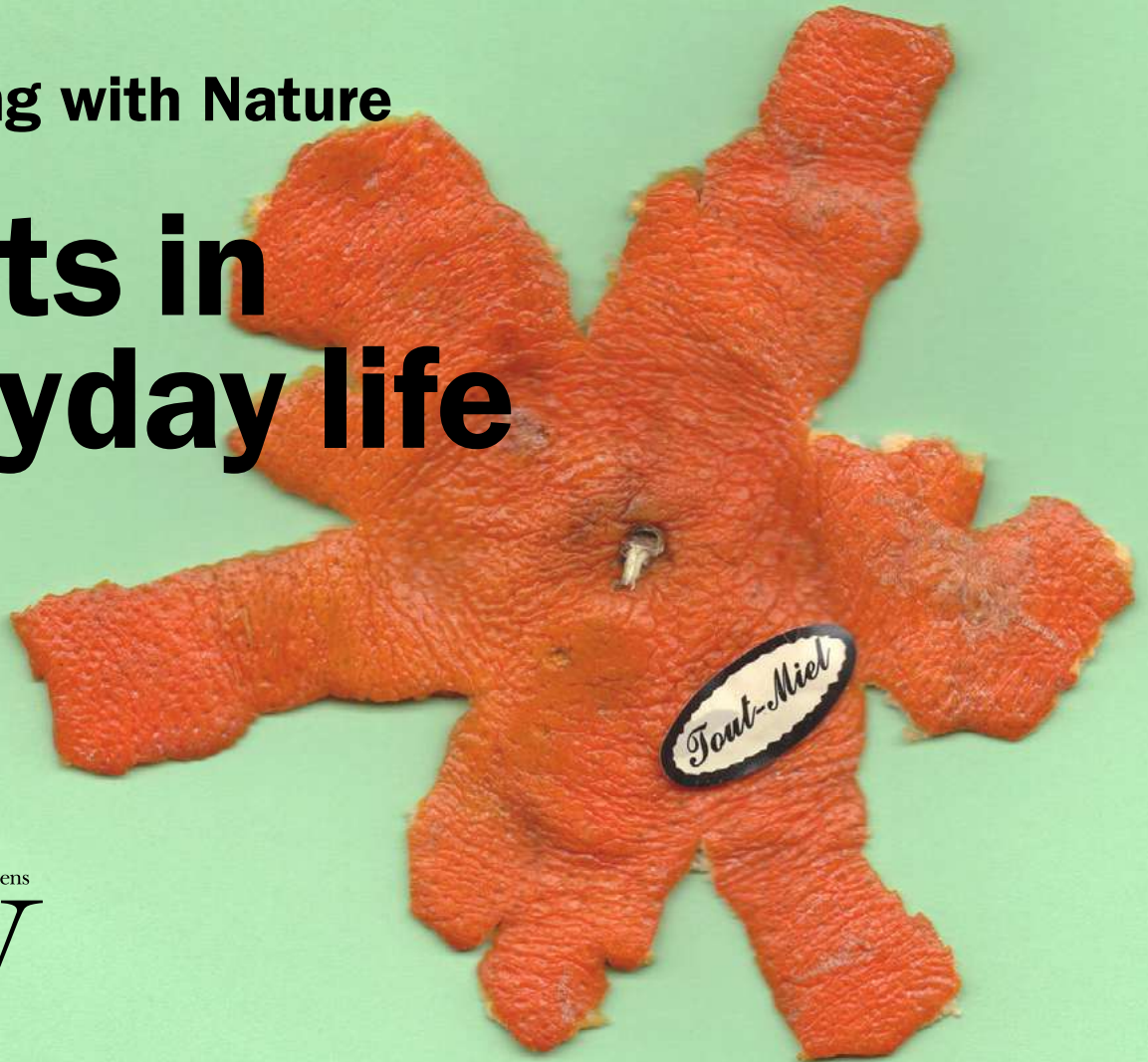


Connecting with Nature

Plants in everyday life



Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew



Plants in everyday life

Discover how plants and fungi impact our everyday lives. From our local park to food, clothes and medicine, plants and fungi can be found in the most unsuspecting places!

In this learning resource you will:

- Learn how to keep a visual diary to record the world around you.
- Experiment with creative ways to add to your diary.
- Uncover how everyday items and experiences are connected to plants and fungi.

Use this learning resource alongside our other resources **‘Why are plants important to you?’** and **‘How to make a zine’** to create your own plants- and fungi-themed zine.



Visual diary

You will be creating a visual diary about how we all encounter or use plants in everyday life.

There's no right or wrong way to do this – the way you respond is up to you, but it must be about plant life.

Plants you encounter daily may not initially seem like the most interesting subject, but it's amazing how fascinating they become when we look at them more closely...

What do we need plants for?

We need plants for basic human functions throughout our daily life. We eat them in many forms; we make medicines, soaps, furniture, textiles, tyres and much more from them. Although we now live in a highly industrialised society, we have not lost this dependence on plants.





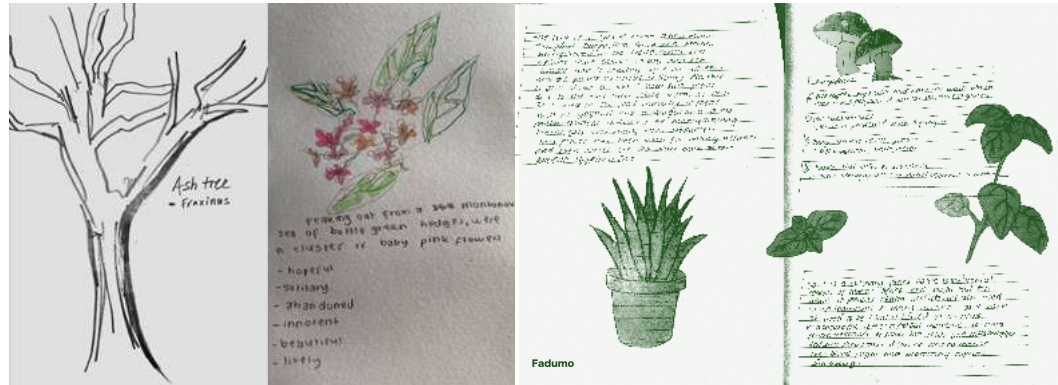
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There are a number of creative ways you can record plant life around you in your visual diary.

You could take a sketchbook or notebook along with you on a walk to the shops. Fill it with sketches or notes about any plants you see.

Artists often document their lives or the lives of those around them using photography, recorded notes, drawings and journals. Diaries and journals are equally important to scientists.

Charles Darwin made it a habit to keep notebooks to record his thoughts and observations. His journals spanned everything from early sketches of an evolutionary tree to notes on geology and new species and personal musings on family and friends.





Go for a walk and photograph any form of plants you see.

You could photograph specific groups of plant life – such as yellow flowers, blossom trees, parks, even weeds!



These photographs of dandelions were taken using a camera phone.

Create a photo diary of all your meals that include plants.



1. Made using flour from the seeds of wheat (a grass plant).
2. Chickpeas are pulses, which means they are edible seeds that grow in pods.
3. Aubergine is a plant species in the nightshade family. It is grown worldwide for its edible fruit.

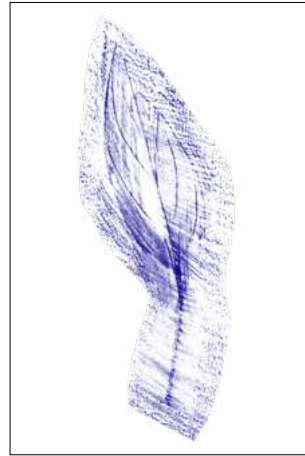


Find out what materials are used to make your favourite item of clothing – are any of them sourced from plants?



Check the label

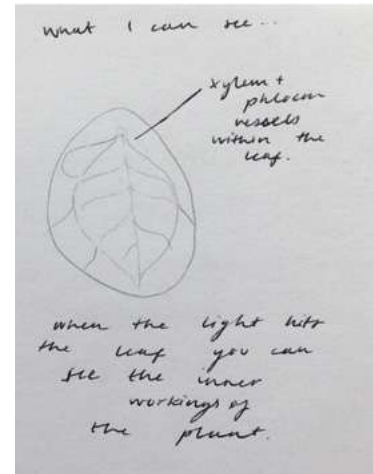
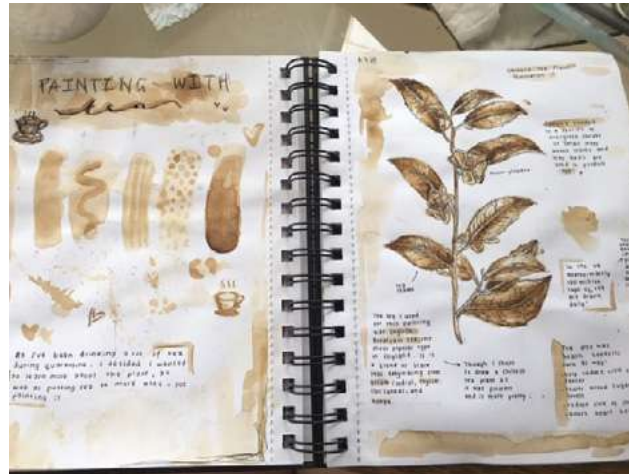
**Take rubbings of leaves you find on the floor
or from the bark of a tree.**



Create a video diary on your walk to the shops.



Choose an everyday item from your home and carry out some research into its composite materials – are any of them connected to plants?





Remember

There's no right or wrong way to do this task. Have fun!

You'll be surprised how something seemingly mundane can become fascinating when you delve deeper!

This resource was developed by Kate Ducker for Kew's Youth Programme as part of the Kew Youth Forum 'Connecting with Nature' zine project 2020.

