

2021 Pocket Garden Design Competition – Activities at Home

These activities take inspiration from the four Pocket Garden themes and can be done by children at home during this January 2021 lockdown. Children of different ages can do them together. You can mix and match the activities e.g. read a story and create your own models or pictures to illustrate it. They are designed to support inspiration and ideas to enter the [Pocket Garden Design Competition](#).

The four themes are:

- **2021 Year of Coasts and Waters**
- **Celebrating Nature on Your Doorstep**
- **One Planet Picnic**
- **Wildlife Gardening**

You can read more about these 4 themes on page 5 of the Pocket Garden Design [Competition Brochure](#).

READING A STORY TOGETHER

Here are some stories about mythical creatures of the coast and water:

[Scottish Folktales and Legends](#)

[The Sea in Orkney Folklore](#)

[Supernatural Creatures in Scottish Folklore](#)

[Scottish myths, folklore and legends](#)

FREE WRITING

Write a short piece inspired by one of the competition themes. It can be in any form that you like, and you can use one of these titles if you want:

The Deep Puddle

A Toe in the Water

The Raindrop's Journey

The most 'Bee'autiful Flower

The Tree at the end of my Street

Supper for a Worm.

Munch, Crunch, Making Lunch

PRACTICAL MATHS

Follow a recipe, measuring out ingredients, and timing the cooking so that it is ready to serve when you need. It could be a vegetable bake, a pot of soup or a batch of buns perhaps.

Plan the food for the family for a week. How many meals will there be? What will you eat and how much of the different foods will you need? How much will it all cost?

PHYSICAL EXERCISE

Walk to a place near your home where you can see plants and / or a body of water, a local park or gardens, a wide river, or a local stream.

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Make a model of a minibeast or a plant. Use any material you prefer, playdough, small play bricks or waste packaging materials.

Make a bird feeder stick. Find a large stick that you can push into the ground so that it stays upright. Squish lots of seeds into some fat such as lard. Keep squishing until you can stick the fat into rings around the stick. It might be good to do this activity outdoors so that any fat or seeds that fall to the ground can be left for birds to eat.

CREATIVE ARTS

Draw a tree and what lives in it.

Draw the journey of water to the taps in your home.

Make a bark rubbing from a tree. Develop a pattern or design from it.

Create a collage of 'winter'. Then paint it to change it to another season.

Listen attentively for 5 sounds outside. Use them to make up a song or a piece of music.

Listen to a bird singing. Can you sing its song back to it?

Set up your own restaurant and design a menu for winter, spring or summer. It could be a menu for wildlife, or for people. What could they eat? What foods would be ready at that time of year?

STRETCH GOAL

Measure out a plan for a Pocket Garden. You could scale it down from the Pocket Garden dimensions of 120cm x 100cm. for example, 60cm x 50 cm would be half size. Fill it with plants that are food for people or good for wildlife. How big are the plants? How many of each type will you need?

ENTER THE COMPETITION

Your ideas from these activities could be incorporated into a competition entry from your school e.g., a model that you create could feature in your garden. Full details of the competition are in the [brochure](#) including the design brief, curricular links, and timescales. Browse images of winning [designs from previous years](#) to inspire you.