

FEEDING WILDLIFE



WILDLIFE ACTIVITY PACKS

*A fun guide full of activities you can do at home
to get creative and learn about wildlife.*



ACTIVITY 1

Make a window sill birdfeeder

Age
10 and
under

Here is a five minute DIY project to make a bird feeder that can be used on any window. It's really easy and perfect for your home if it has a garden or not! In fact, all you need is some tape, some chopsticks and some bird seed.

Please be careful if you are doing this on an upstairs window as it involves opening your windows wide and leaning out slightly to reach your window sill. If you want an upstairs bird feeder, always ask an adult to help, do not open a window on your own. Always keep your feet firmly on the ground and one hand holding onto the window frame to stop yourself from falling through the window.



Now all you need to do is tape some chopsticks on top of the edge of your windowsill to create a ridge.

Make sure that your tape is firmly down to make sure that no birds or insects get stuck to the tape. Now attach a couple more chopsticks, sticking outwards, we've used 3 here. These will act as perches for the birds to sit on.

Sprinkle some bird seed on the window and wait for the birds to come.



All of our parks and green spaces are connected in what we call the Ipswich Ecological Network. This is a map that identifies all the parks, green spaces and wildlife corridors across the town. By creating wildlife friendly gardens, or flats, you are contributing to our ecological network and significantly increasing the suitable areas for wildlife in Ipswich!



If you try this chopstick trick or any wildlife gardening in Ipswich, we'd love to know! Use the hashtag #ipswichparklife and tag us @ipswichgov on our social media platforms so we can see what Ipswich is doing for wildlife!

ACTIVITY 2

Make bottle bird feeder

For the
whole
family

This activity not only helps the planet by reusing plastic items, but also provides food for birds!



You will need:

- A pair of scissors
- A 1.5ltr or 2ltr plastic bottle
- Some string/wire/wool
- A hole punch
- Some duct tape
- Bird seed

INSTRUCTIONS:

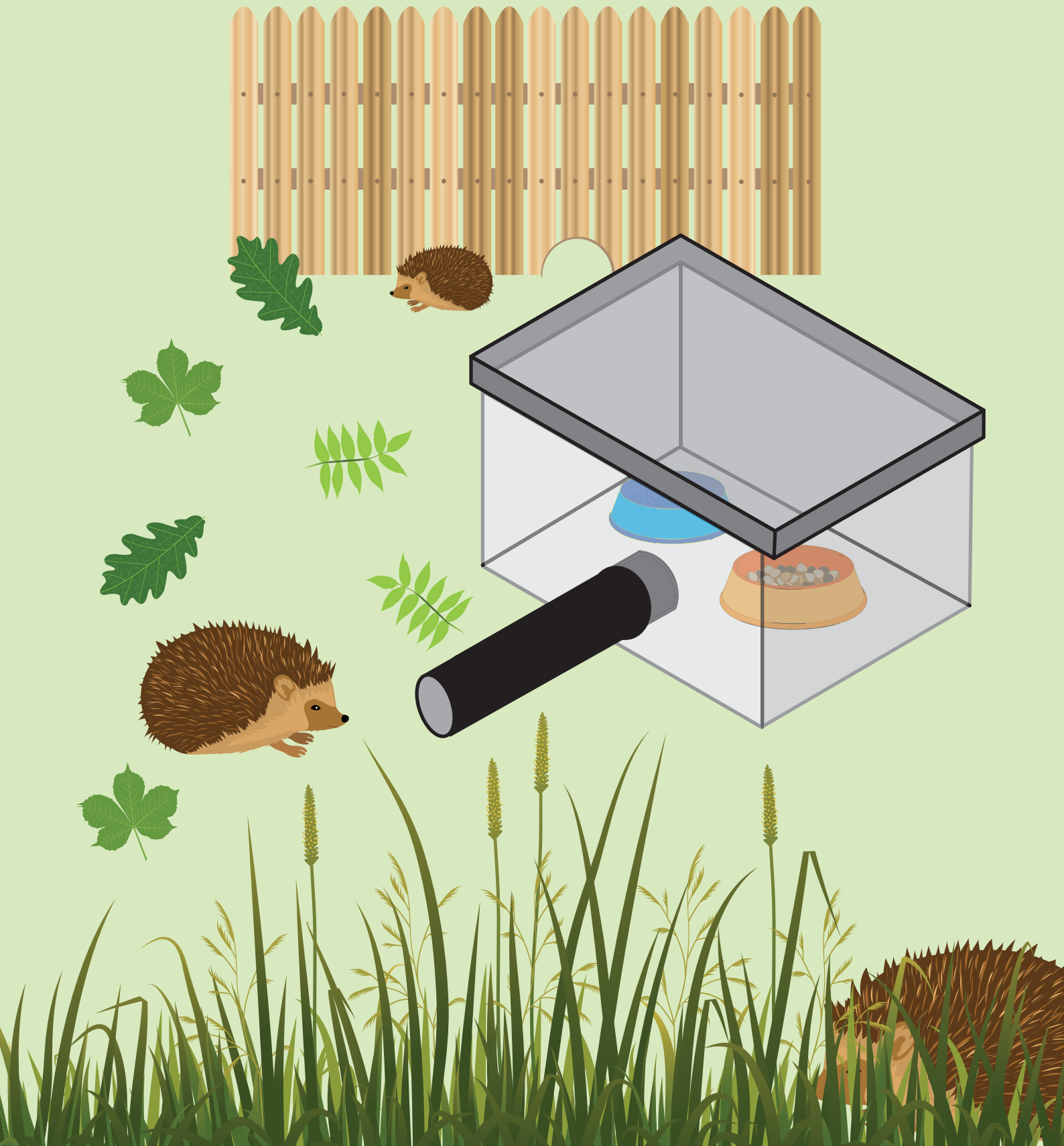
- 1 Wash out your plastic bottle.
- 2 Cut your plastic bottle about 1/3 of the way down, i.e. just after the curve of the neck on many bottles, so you have two pieces.
- 3 Using a hole punch, make two holes on either side of the two halves, where you cut the top off the bottle on both the bottle and the top section. Try to make these as level as possible.
- 4 Now cut a window out the front of your plastic bottle, making sure to leave enough of an area to fill with seed.
- 5 Using tape, cover any sharp edges on your window so the birds don't hurt their feet.
- 6 Using the string, thread through the holes attaching the top of your bottle back onto the bottom of the bottle. This should make a loop that you can hang in your garden.
- 7 Now fill with bird seed and hang it outside for the birds.



ACTIVITY 3

A hedgehog feeding station

For the
whole
family



ACTIVITY 3

A hedgehog feeding station

For the
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Hedgehogs are the UK's favourite animal! Its unsurprising as they are cute, unusual and help in the garden. Yet they are in decline. Hedgehogs are really struggling with pesticide use in rural areas and in our urban areas, they are really struggling to get around the human landscape.

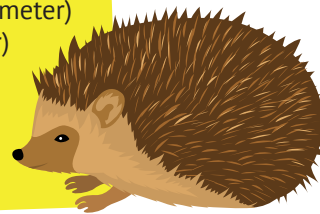
In towns like Ipswich we can do a huge amount of work for hedgehogs by making hedgehog holes, providing freshwater and feeding our hedgehogs. But it is important to feed them the right things. Hedgehogs are now known to have serious bone issues caused by foods like meal worms and peanuts and all hedgehogs struggle to digest lactose and so cannot have milk.

The best food you can feed hedgehogs is meaty wet or dry cat or dog food and clean water. Although some hedgehogs can be fussy eaters, if the food is there they will come and have a look, especially before winter when they need to gain weight to survive hibernation.

To help the hedgehogs out you can make a cat and fox proof feeding station in your garden.

You will need:

- A large plastic container with lid
- A short piece of drainpipe (at least 10cm in diameter)
- Two shallow dishes (one for food, one for water)
- Newspaper
- Wet or dry cat or dog food
- Some waterproof tape like duct tape
- A brick (optional)



INSTRUCTIONS

- 1** Cut a hole towards the bottom of your plastic container large enough to put your drainpipe into.
- 2** With your duct tape, attach your pipe to the box, making sure to cover any sharp edges with the tape so the hedgehog doesn't hurt itself. Make sure the pipe is only in an inch or so to make sure there is room in your box for the hedgehog to move around inside.
- 3** Put newspaper around the bottom of your box as hedgehogs are very messy eaters! This way, you won't need to clean the box so often – just remove the paper, give it a wipe down and then put fresh paper down.
- 4** Add two shallow dishes, one for water and one for food. These can be anything from a cat bowl to a saucer. Hedgehogs do often tip bowls over so heavier bowls are better. If you find you are getting several hedgehogs in your box at once, you could put down multiple bowls to stop any squabbling.
- 5** Then just fill your bowls with wet or dry cat and dog food and clean water and wait to see if you get any visitors. Using a clear box or a box with a lid allows you to look inside and see if there is anyone visiting your hedgehog restaurant. (Remember not to disturb them too much though)
- 6** You might want to put a brick or something heavy on the lid to stop larger animals like dogs or foxes trying to tip the box over or take the lid off.

ACTIVITY 4

Make fat balls

For the
whole
family

Fat balls are a favourite with garden birds all year round, but they especially love the high fat content in winter to help them through the colder months. Made from animal fat (lard or suet), bird seed and other bird foods, these will definitely bring birds into your garden, and they are fun to make!

If you don't like the idea of using animal fat, you can substitute the animal fat for vegan alternatives such as coconut oil, which are also high in protein and saturated fat just like animal fats.

There are many ways to make fat balls. You can simply roll the food into a ball and put on a bird table/in a fat ball feeder, you can make your own feeder by coating your fat ball around a pine cone on a string, or you can make it in a recycled yoghurt pot and hang that in a tree. It's completely up to you. Avoid putting your fat balls in mesh bags or netting as birds can get their feet caught in them.

You will need:

- Mixed Bird seed
- Mealworms, peanuts, sunflower hearts, raisins, dried fruits like apple
- Optional: Other foods i.e. bacon fat, cheese, bread or cake crumbs, oats etc.
- Animal fat (lard/suet) or vegan coconut oil
- A saucepan
- An old wooden spoon
- Somewhere to put your fat ball
- Optional: yoghurt pot, pinecones, string

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Heat up your fat/coconut oil so it melts.
- 2 Add your choice of seeds and foods in gradually. You want your mixture to be sticky enough that it stays together and not too dry that it falls apart, but not so fat dominant that it stays squidgy and the birds can't see the yummy treats inside.
- 3 Mix with your wooden spoon until well combined then put it aside to cool a little.
- 4 Once cooled enough to handle, roll your mixture into balls or push your mixture around your pinecone/in your yoghurt pot and remember to attach string so you can hang it up.
- 5 Put in the fridge to set overnight.
- 6 Once set, you can hang them in your tree or place them on your bird table.
- 7 Wait and watch to see which birds try them out!

