

BLATCH PATCH!



West Blatchington Primary and
Nursery School – OUTDOOR TEACHING
AND LEARNING MAGAZINE

ISSUE 5

LIGHT AND DARK!

Snowflakes are
like pretty
diamonds falling
from the sky.

Farhana-H

A Galaxy of Starfish

Starfish, also known as sea stars, are usually seen in large numbers only when they are washed up on beaches after a storm.



A GALAXY OF STARFISH



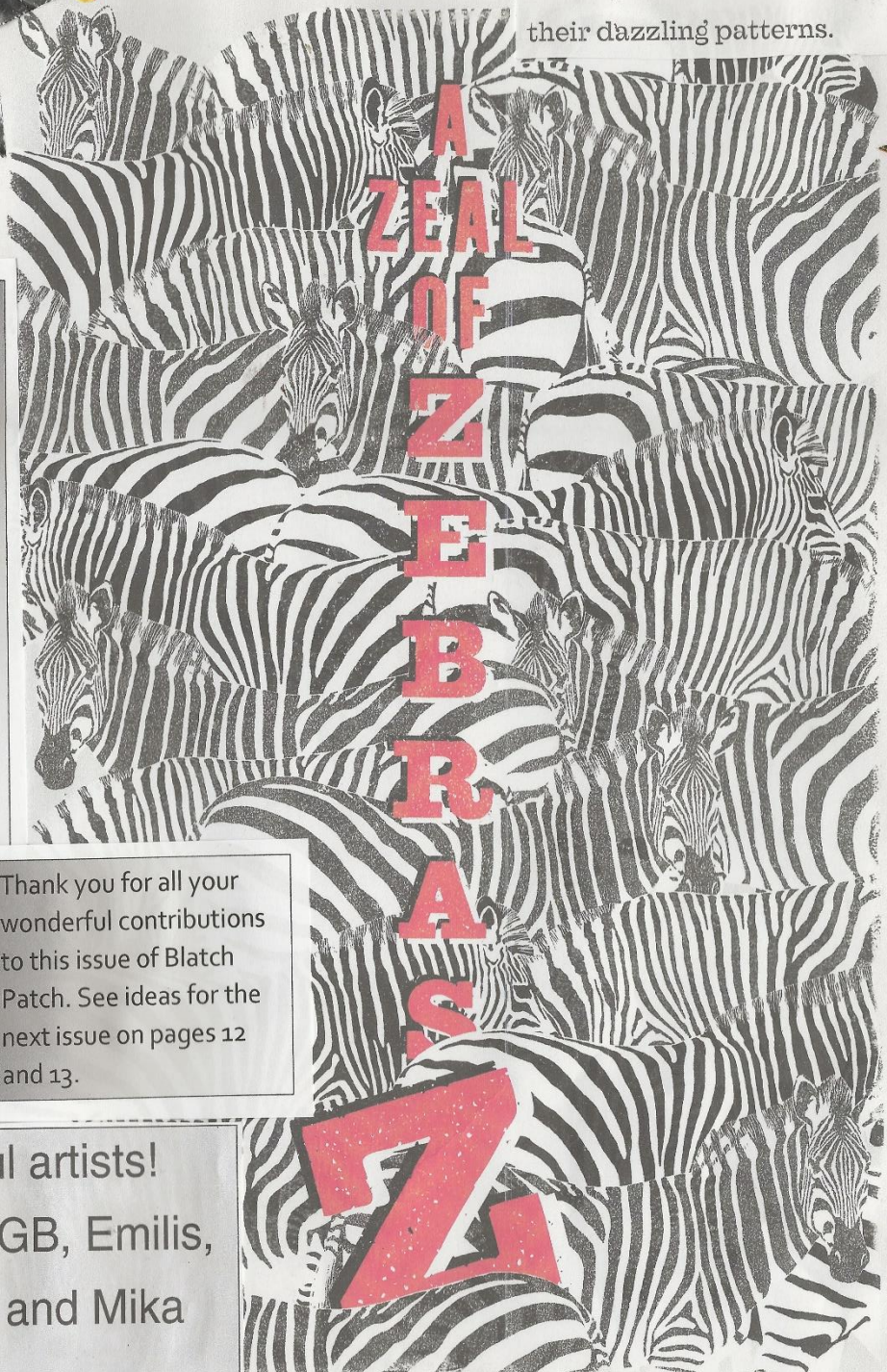
Why not make your own Galaxy of Starfish? You could try lots of different techniques from painting to drawing patterns. You could use all sorts of things around the house as well, such as foil, old material, wool, food packaging, plastic bags, old gift-wrapping paper or magazines. Keep your picture safe to bring into school when we're reopen for a giant Galaxy of Starfish display!



A zebra's stripes are as unique as human fingerprints.

When zebras gather together on the African savanna, their stripes help protect them by confusing predators with their dazzling patterns.

Collective nouns



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Thank you for all your wonderful contributions to this issue of Blatch Patch. See ideas for the next issue on pages 12 and 13.

Our wonderful artists!
Olivia W, Olivia GB, Emilis,
Poppy, Willow and Mika

Epic hearing Owls

Horseshoe bats use echolocation to navigate



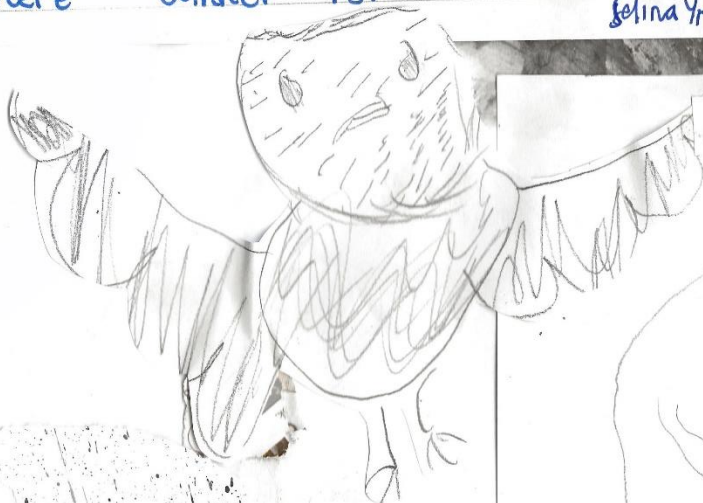
Echolocation



Tawny Owls have round faces that amplify the sound of prey on the ground. This shape acts like huge ears. They also have one ear lower than the other, which means they can hear exactly where dinner is.

SUPERPOWERS IN THE DARK...

Selina Yr4



Super-powered snout.



Polar bears spend months in the dark, so they have developed powerful noses to sniff out their food. They can smell tasty seals from ~~metre~~ miles away, or through ice a metre thick.

Libby Yr4

Millie's fabulous report on badgers. Thanks Millie!

Can you write your own non-chronological report on a nocturnal animal?

Or invent your own nocturnal creature (with superpowers) like Geoffy and Elsie!

February 2016

By Millie what you need to know about Badgers.

How old can they get?

Badgers can live up to 15 years but 2 dies before turning one.

What do they eat?

The diet of badgers is usually earthworms which generally make up around 80% of their diet.

Where do they live?

They live in America, Europe and Asia also found near the woods. They live in setts and they are like a small underground cave that they dig out.

Exciting Electric Elsie

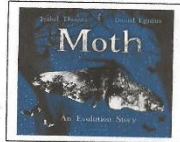
#Elsie



1700 peppered moth are a pale brown colour. They like to rest on the trunks of trees where they are well camouflaged.

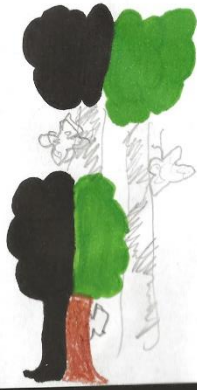
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dMUUZn89QQ>

An introduction to a fabulous book about the Peppered Moth- lots more on this amazing story of adaptation on the web.



There's lots of tricky vocabulary in this explanation - can you design a glossary or visual dictionary to explain what some of these words mean?

Try: adapt, camouflage, decline, evolve, genes, mutation. What was The Industrial Revolution?



Evolution of the peppered Moth.

Occasionally there is a mutation in the colour of the peppered moth and it is born a darker colour.

When this darker moth rests on a tree trunk it is spotted by a bird and eaten.



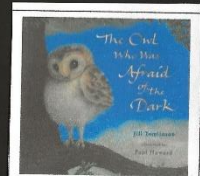
1850 The industrial revolution has started. Factories are producing huge amounts of pollution and the trees are going black.

The pale brown peppered moths are no longer safe resting on tree's trunks. Their number decline.

The species of peppered moth has evolved.



However, the black moths are now better adapted and are camouflaged on the tree trunks. They now survive to breed and pass on their genes.



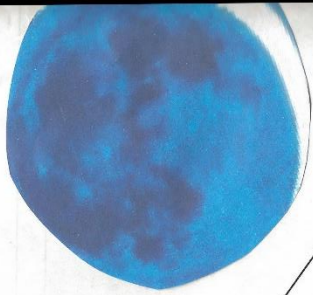
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y1iST5Bdir8>

The amazing story of Plop the Barn Owl, who was scared of the dark. Can he conquer his fears?

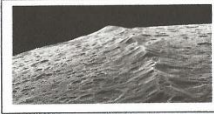
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0086aJXQN4w>

Orion and the dark - a wonderful story about the dark.





Its surface is home to **mountains, huge craters** and flat planes called 'seas' made of hardened lava.



LIBRA

SAGITTARIUS

SCORPIO

It takes $29 \frac{1}{2}$ days for the moon to complete its orbit of the Earth.
How long would it take to orbit the Earth twice?



VIRGO

LEO

TAURUS

The diameter of the moon is 3,476km- what other number facts can you find out about the moon?

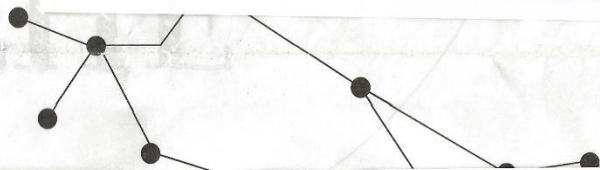
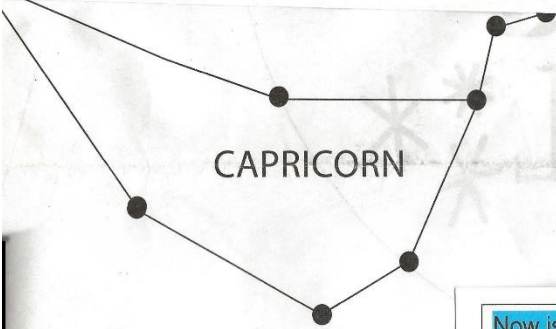
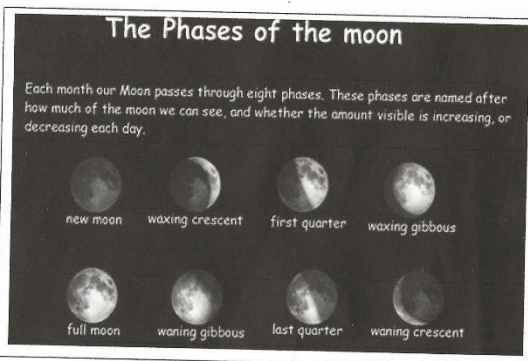
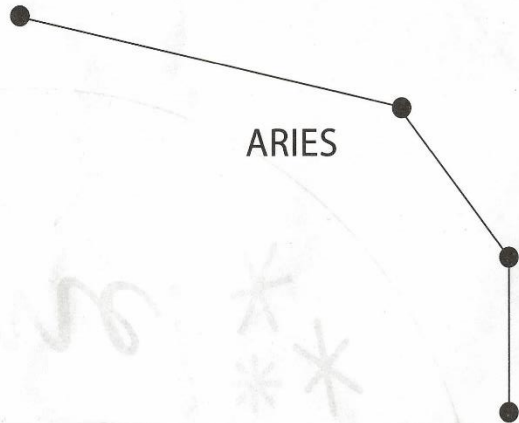
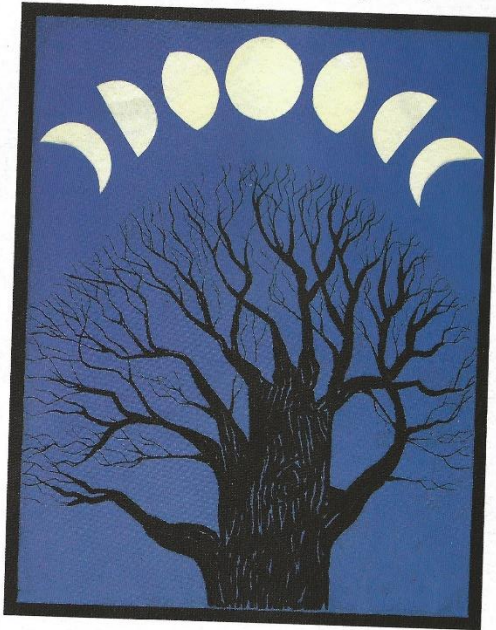
What does diameter mean?

Can you make up some number problems using facts about the moon?

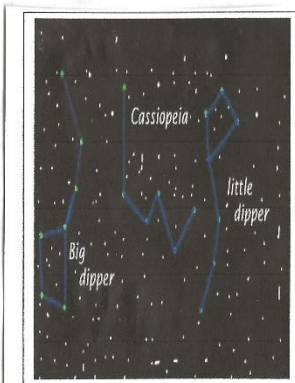
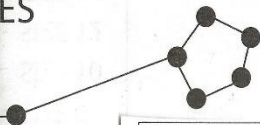
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6

waning crescent
 first quarter
 waxing gibbous
 full moon
 waning gibbous
 last quarter
 waxing crescent



CES



Now is a great time to look at the night sky, as there is less pollution.

Can you see any of the constellations?

What is a constellation?

A constellation is a group of visible stars that form a pattern when viewed from Earth. The pattern they form may take the shape of a mythical creature, a man, a woman, or an inanimate object such as a microscope, a compass, or a crown.

How many constellations are there?

The sky was divided up into 88 different constellations in 1922. This included 48 ancient constellations listed by the Greek astronomer Ptolemy as well as 40 new constellations.

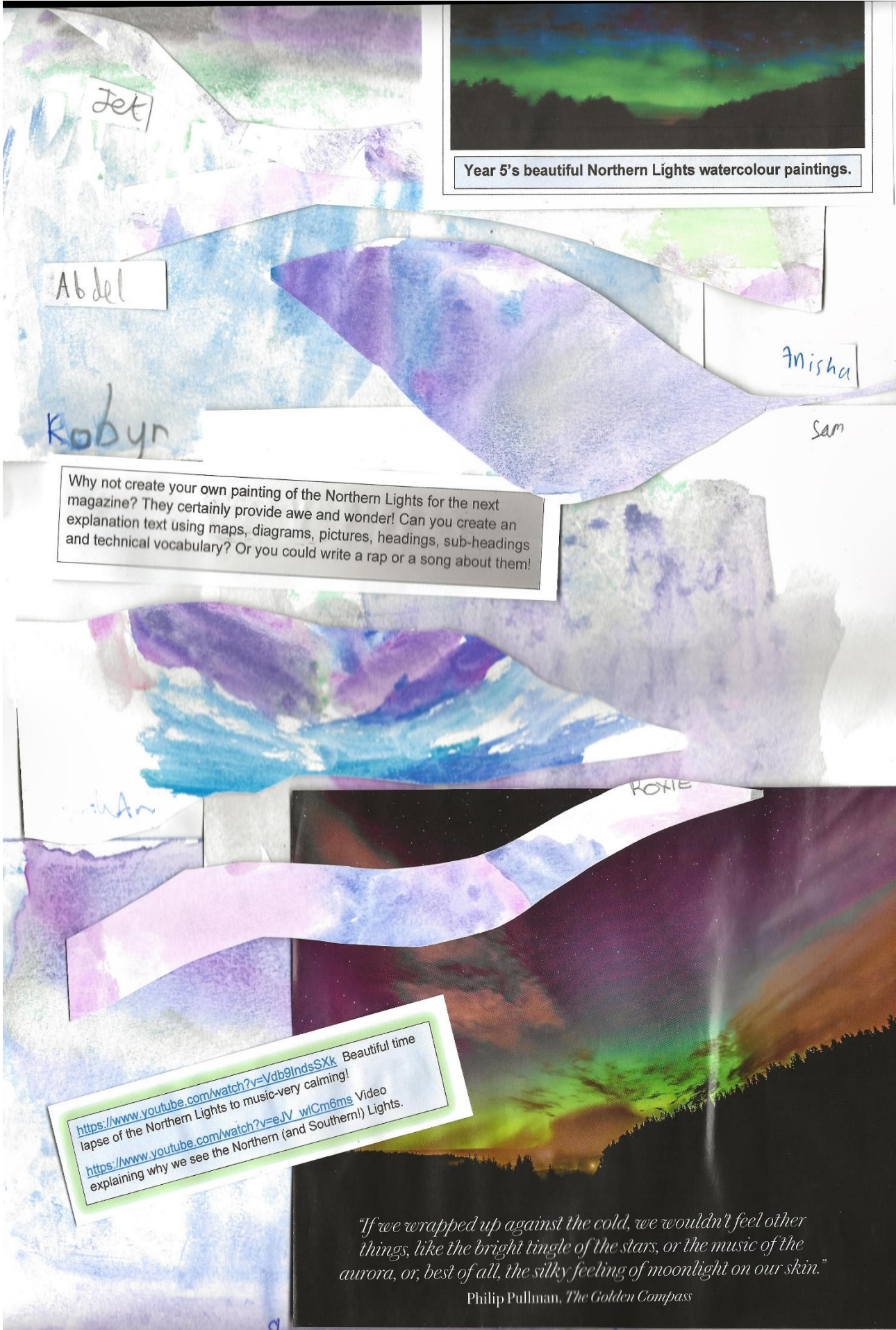
Star Maps

The 88 different constellations divide up the entire night sky as seen from all around the Earth. Star maps are made of the brightest stars and the patterns that they make which give rise to the names of the constellations

The maps of the stars represent the position of the stars as we see them from Earth. The stars in each constellation may not be close to each other at all. Some of them are bright because they are close to Earth while others are bright because they are very large stars.

Taken from Astronomy for Kids

<https://www.ducksters.com/science/physics/constellations.php>



Jet



Year 5's beautiful Northern Lights watercolour paintings.

Abdel

Anisha

Robyn

Sam

Why not create your own painting of the Northern Lights for the next magazine? They certainly provide awe and wonder! Can you create an explanation text using maps, diagrams, pictures, headings, sub-headings and technical vocabulary? Or you could write a rap or a song about them!

Amelia

Roxie

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vdb9IndsSXk> Beautiful time lapse of the Northern Lights to music-very calming!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eJV_wlCm6ms Video explaining why we see the Northern (and Southern!) Lights.

"If we wrapped up against the cold, we wouldn't feel other things, like the bright tingle of the stars, or the music of the aurora, or, best of all, the silky feeling of moonlight on our skin."

Philip Pullman, *The Golden Compass*

Snow is an owl swooping in the inky
night sky.

Snow is a dove bringing peace to
the world.

The snow danced through
the gloomy trees. Ansha

Snow is a ballerina, pirouetting
through the setene sky.

Year 5's wonderful snow poems.

What poetic techniques have they used?

Can you use similes, personification and metaphor to write your own poem about natural light for example, the sun, moon and stars?

Alternatively, can you write an acrostic poem about light or dark?



Moon

Moon shines from the reflection of
the sun

On the moon there is ice and
craters

Oceans of sand

No oxygen

9



Firework Showdown

By Sophie & Likana

DARK

IS

EXCITING



Luminous in the night sky
Igniting the bright flames of the bonfire
Glistening in sparkling fireworks
Heating up my face, don't stand too close
Toffee apples, sticky and delicious

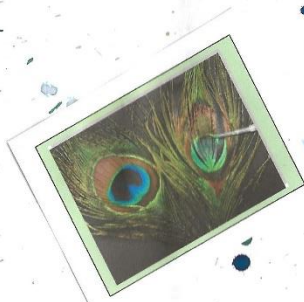
Make a bubbly bottle toy. Half fill a plastic bottle with water. Add some food colouring and a good slug of liquid detergent. Paint some glue around the top of the bottle before screwing on the cap and leaving to dry (alternatively, tape the bottle shut). Now shake!

Put some music on and pretend to be bubbles, blowing about in the wind.

Try catching a bubble on a wet finger, and then on a dry finger. What do you notice? It should be much easier if your finger is wet. Why?



Iridescence on a shell



Junior's amazing iridescent beetle!

Iridescent is an adjective and means a display of rainbow like, bright colours. What things in the natural world are iridescent? Use word hippo to find synonyms (similar words e.g. dazzling) and antonyms (opposites e.g. dull).

As we walked on, beautiful Indian sunbirds, their iridescent green wings flashing brightly in the sunlight, flew past in a cloud of colours.

Can you use iridescent in some sentences?

Science/ DT challenge!

Make your own bubble mixture with washing up liquid and water. What 'ratio' of liquid to water works best? If you don't have a bubble wand, what could you use instead?

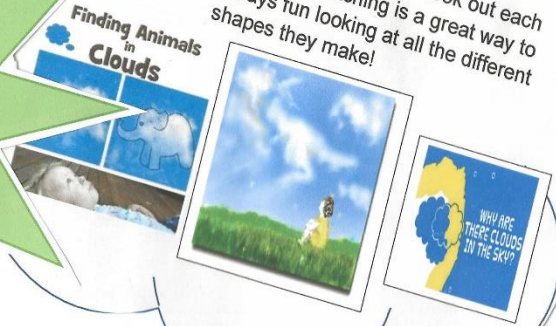


If you don't mind getting a bit soapy, you can blow surprisingly large bubbles by looping your thumb and first finger into a bubble blowing wand!

Raid your kitchen drawers - look carefully and there are bound to be a few kitchen implements that have holes in them! A whisk works quite well.

Do some research on something in nature that fills you with awe and wonder. Present it in any way you choose: a diagram, explanation text, collage or painting. PowerPoint or leaflet. Write a story or make up a cartoon about your creature.

Don't forget to look up! Lie down in your garden or look out your window each day – how do the clouds change? Why? What can you find out about the different types of clouds? Or simply just look out each day and enjoy them. Cloud watching is a great way to feel calm and it's always fun looking at all the different shapes they make!



Go on a nature themed scavenger hunt. (Look out for things related to nature in your home, looking out your window, in your garden or on a walk.) Keep a list of what you've found and then use great adjectives to describe. For example, if you've seen moss, a seagull and some daffodils, how could you describe them? (Springy moss, screeching seagull and golden daffodils?) Don't forget to use all your senses. You might not see a bird, but you might hear it singing in the trees! (See Mrs Heym's 'nature scavenger hunt' below!)

The focus for summer and autumn term will be the celebration of everything in nature that's weird and wonderful! A 'Guinness Book of Records' of nature: the largest, smallest, oldest, best jumper, best at camouflage, fastest growing, most beautiful, unusual...the possibilities are endless! REMEMBER TO KEEP ANYTHING YOU MAKE FOR THE NEXT BLATCH PATCH, OUR SCHOOL NATURE TOP TRUMPS CARDS AND ECO DISPLAY, SO THAT WE CAN CELEBRATE ALL YOUR WONDERFUL WORK.

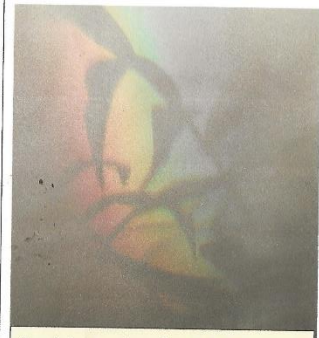


AWE and WONDER



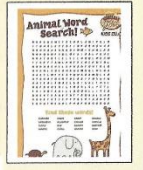
Sunset over Brighton.

Look for the wonders of nature everywhere: the more you look, the more you notice!



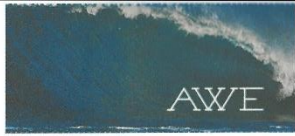
Sunlight coming through my window, creating a wonderful rainbow shadow of an indoor plant.

Make puzzles about amazing creatures or plants.
 Crosswords
 Wordsearches
 Anagrams
 Spot the difference



Golden beetle on my wall.





AWE - A feeling of amazement, respect and a bit of fear...like you might feel if you saw a giant wave or spider!

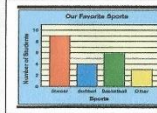


WONDER - Finding something wonderful, beautiful and incredible.



Give yourself a time limit, for example 20 minutes, to record nature you see out your window, in your garden or on a walk. Record your findings using a graph or table.

For example, if you saw 6 seagulls, 2 bees, 1 butterfly and 10 daffodils, how could you show that using a bar graph?



Spring is here!



SCHOOL TOP TRUMP NATURE CARDS

You've all played Top Trumps! Top Trumps is a **card game** that was invented in 1978. Each card contains a list of numbers about the subject, and the aim of the game is to compare these numbers to try to trump and win an opponent's card.

Title- what's your animal/plant's name?

Picture- use any art technique you like!

Write a few amazing facts about your animal or plant.



For example, on this Top Trumps card, based on Harry Potter characters, Harry is given 70 for MAGIC, 24 for CUNNING, 45 for COURAGE, 50 for WISDOM and 9 for TEMPER.

YOU DO NOT NEED TO MAKE UP THE NUMBERS FOR YOUR CHOSEN ANIMAL OR PLANT, JUST MAKE A PICTURE AND WRITE A SMALL AMOUNT OF FACTS ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE CHOSEN. (See my example about woodlice, which I've always loved!)

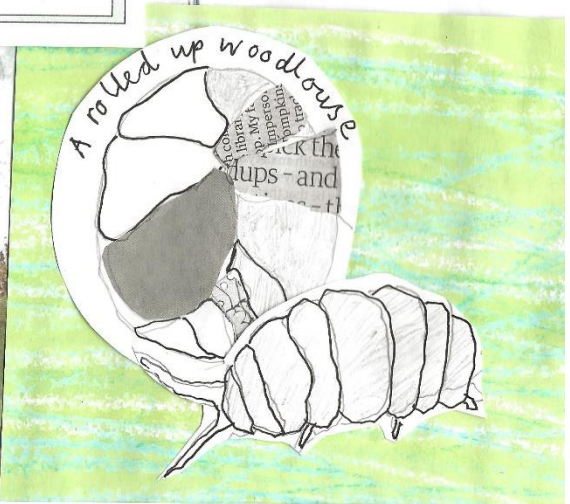
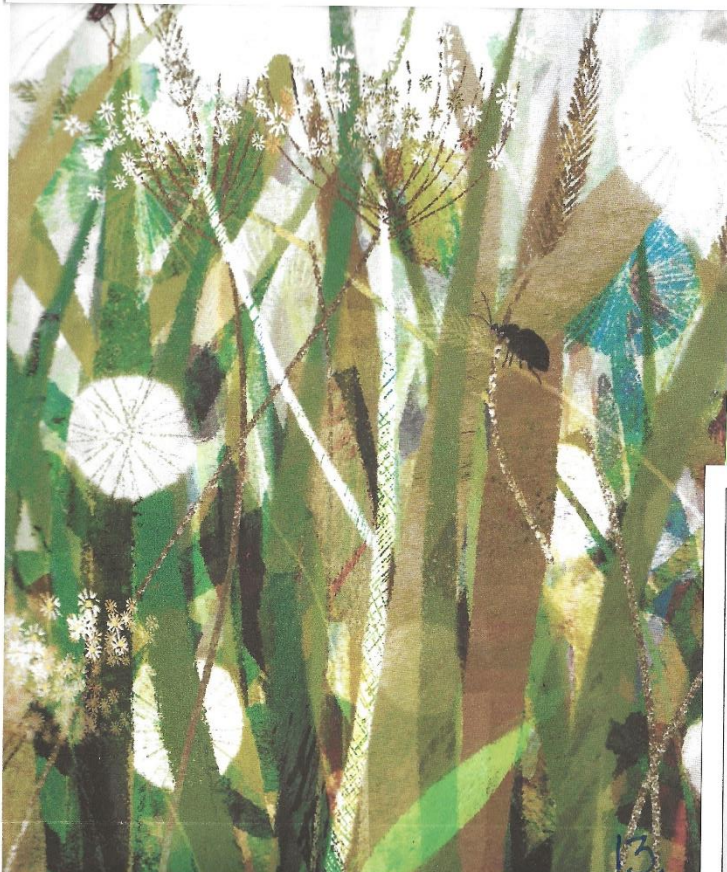
We will award the numbers and make the cards when back at school! You can make it any size and use any art technique for the picture.

Make an A-Z of amazing nature.

A = ants They can hold up to 100x their body weight when upside down. **The strongest?**

B = bees When bees change jobs, they change their brain chemistry. **The cleverest?**

C = crabs Horseshoe crabs were alive 200 million years ago; they are almost a living fossil. **The oldest?**



WOODLICE

They can roll into a ball when they're scared, so some people call them roll up bugs!

They breathe through 'lungs' (like fish gills) in their back legs.

They are crustaceans, the same family as crabs and lobsters. They need moisture to breathe properly and can survive underwater.

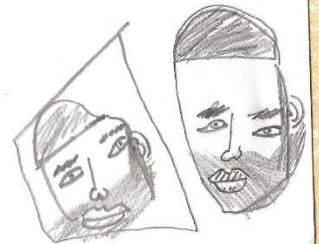
They are very clean-once they've shed their skin they eat it!

They have blue blood.

they've

Whoops!

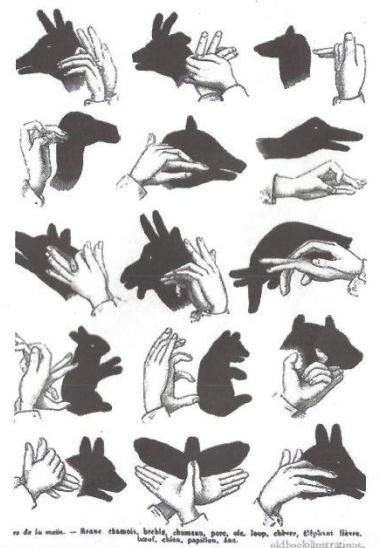
Blue moon



Can you make a visual dictionary of vocabulary for light and dark?

For example,
Shadow, opaque,
transparent, bright, dim,
bulb, torch, translucent,
shade.

dark



Why do shadows form?
Learn to make shadow puppets
with your hands or make a shadow
puppet theatre to re-tell a story to
your family.

natural

14.



ARE YOU AFRAID OF THE DARK?

The world can seem like a very different place at night, and maybe even a little scary, but using all your senses can make you feel as if you're in another world. Take this page outside at night, turn off your torch and get used to the darkness. Afterwards, write down what you find!

TOP TIP: Take a torch and a grown-up with you.

1. Name three things you can smell.

2. Reach out in front of you – what can you feel?

3. Can you hear any animals or insects?

4. What can you hear up close, what can you hear far away?

5. Crouch down low to the ground – what can you feel?

6. Which three words describe how you feel in the dark?

7. How many stars can you see?

8. Are there any other lights around?



NEWSPAPER CHALLENGES



Make outfits out of old newspaper and Sellotape. It's best to wear old clothes underneath, then you can just tape onto your clothes.

What's the tallest tower you can make out of newspaper, scissors and Sellotape?

https://www.teachengineering.org/activities/view/duk_to_wer_tech_act - a more challenging tower activity.



STEM CHALLENGE: BUILD THE TALLEST TOWER

vivify

Light and dark anagrams

- htilg
- oonm
- nsu
- hdwsao
- paoueq
- hdesa
- rkda
- rsat

Dark is wonderful