

WEEK 4: SHELTER

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Water footprint activity sheet
- Recycled materials, such as sweet wrappers, plastic bottles, spoons, old straws, or cardboard
- Craft materials, such as pipe cleaners, paper, pens, beads or anything you have handy for decorations
- Glue or sticky tape



ACTIVITY 1: WATER FOOTPRINT

Your water footprint looks at how much water you use and the things that use the most water. By working out your water footprint, you will be able to identify your biggest uses of water and the swaps which you can make to reduce your usage.

To map your water footprint, use the information sheet to look at the top uses of water in the home. Pick your top 5 biggest uses and write or draw them on to your footprint, along with the water usage.

Once you have picked the top 5, take a look at our hints and tips for how to reduce your water consumption, and add them on to your water footprint. You could then place your footprint somewhere you can see it and keep track of how many days you reduce your water consumption. Or, share your pledge on social media and give others ideas on what they can do to help!

ACTIVITY 2: CREATE A DRAGONFLY!

Dragonflies are one of the most recognisable insects – they have colourful bodies, long wings, big eyes and six legs. There are a few fun ways to create dragonflies out of materials you can find or reuse – be as creative as you like, and think of lots of cool ways to decorate them! Don't forget to share pictures of your creations on social media using #WildDays.

Option 1:

Take a pipe cleaner and fold it in half. Add two beads of the same colour to the middle of the pipe cleaner (these will be your eyes!). Then, twist both halves of the pipe cleaner around each other about five times, securing the beads in place. Add an old sweet wrapper between the two halves (these will be your wings) and then continue to twist all the way until the end.

Option 2:

Use a clean plastic bottle as the body of your dragonfly. You could decorate the bottle with paints, tissue paper or anything else you have. Cut some wings out of paper and decorate. Use glue or some sticky tape to attach your wings on to the dragonfly. Make legs out of sticks, old straws or pipe cleaners and add those on too!

Option 3:

Use an old or plastic spoon as the body of your dragonfly – the spoon could be its head and the handle can be its body. Paint or decorate the dragonfly however you like, then add wings using two lollipop sticks or some you've cut out from paper.



DID YOU KNOW...

...that many things we put down our sinks can pollute water? Water treatment plants aim to remove harmful things from water before releasing into the environment, but some materials are small enough to sneak through.

Microbeads – microbeads are tiny pieces of plastic that were found in lots of toothpaste and body washes. Because they were so small, they weren't being removed during treatment and were polluting rivers and oceans around the world. Lots of freshwater and ocean species were ingesting the plastic pieces and dying and so because of their environmental impact, microbeads were banned in the UK in 2018.

Medicines - while medicines are fine for humans, putting leftover medicines down the sink can be harmful for fish and insects. The chemicals found in some medicines can affect the life cycles of different species; some fish, for example, have been observed as having different appearances or behaviour when affected by medicines. Make sure medicines go straight in to the bin!

Wet wipes – wet wipes don't break down in the same way that toilet paper does, because they are made of plastic materials. When wet wipes escape into the environment, they can take up to 100 years to break up into smaller plastic pieces, making them really harmful to animals and habitats. Reusable wipes are a great swap and only toilet paper should get flushed!

Cleaning products – some cleaning products contain harmful chemicals that can pollute water. A type of chemical called phosphate is found in lots of cleaning products, and can cause increased pollution in rivers and streams. There are tonnes of eco-friendly alternatives out there, but you can also DIY your own cleaners that are super safe and won't harm our oceans and rivers!

STAY IN TOUCH:



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We would love to see what you've got up to on your Wild Days adventures. Send us pictures, stories and videos on social media using the #WildDays