



Plant Champions Thinking Walk

This activity can be spread over three lessons. It is possible to do it at any time of the year, however there is likely to be less choice of things to look for and collect in winter. You can do this in the school grounds or in a local park or take a walk along a local street, it is amazing where you will find plants growing. Don't forget to look in the most unlikely spots. Heroic, gutsy and determined plants will even grow in gutters and drainpipes and you may even spot plants sprouting from the walls of tall buildings. If you repeat the Thinking Walk at different times you can explore different combinations or seasonal variations.

1. Plant Champions

To help you look at plant champions with your class, there is a Power Point on our website with lots of lovely pictures and facts you may find useful.

www.greatplanthunt.org

2. Prepare for your Thinking Walk

Ask the children to:

 Think about how they should behave on a Thinking Walk. Talk about respecting the plants, all other living things, the importance of collecting only things which have fallen from plants and not picking anything which is still growing.

 Make your Plant Champion Detector Dice by downloading them from the website. These will form a selecting device to get your class looking out for champions of the plant world in their local environment. You could make just one set of dice for the whole class to share, or children could work in groups or individually.

 Make the die illustrated with the plant pictures on it. You will need to discuss what to draw on the three empty faces of this die. This will depend on

Once you start looking for plant champions it is hard to stop!



the time of the year and what is growing in the area in which the walk will take place. You might want to draw parts of the plant e.g. a seed, fruit or bark, or different coloured flowers/leaves, or different types of plants e.g. a coniferous tree or clump of grass.



Make the second die. You will need to discuss what descriptive words to add to the three empty faces e.g. softest, most spiky, rarest, commonest, brightest, dullest, most showy, most beautiful/attractive, most colourful, growing in the strangest place, most useful. Your choice will depend on what is growing in the area in which the walk will take place.

Instead of making the dice you could cut out the two sets of faces and stick them onto two wooden cubes.



Think about what the class might need to take on the Thinking Walk in addition to their plant champion detector dice e.g. a magnifying glass and possibly a notebook (see website for ideas).

3. Go on the thinking walk



Spend 45 minutes walking in the playground, local park, churchyard or neighbourhood. The class should stop at intervals on the walk; throw each die to select the category of champion they have to look for. This could be repeated as often as time permits.

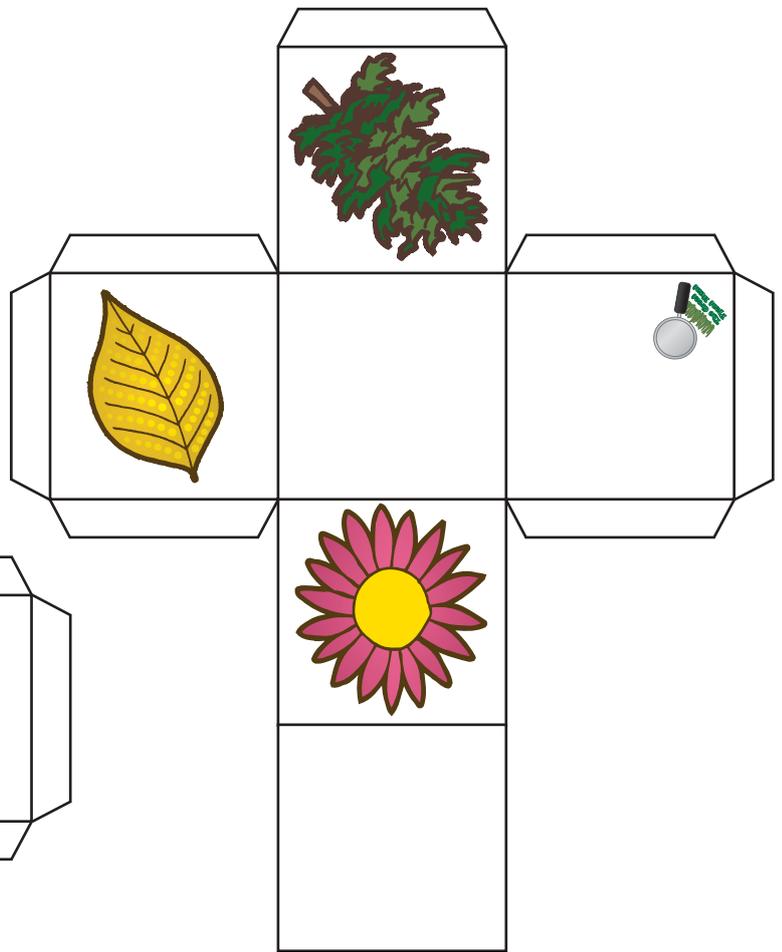
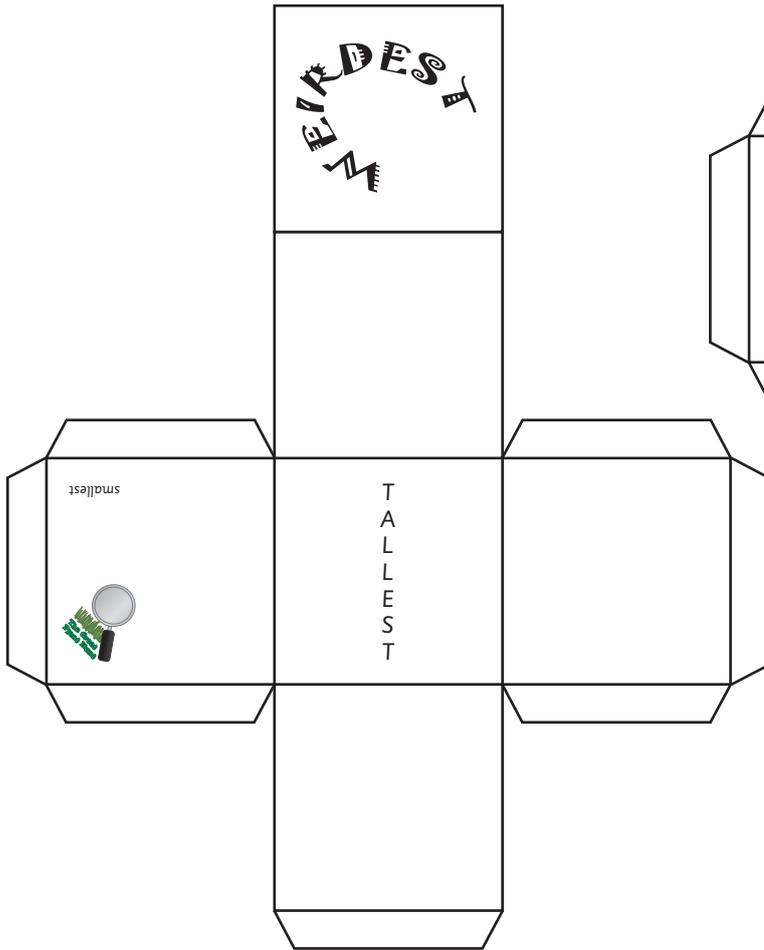
Discover many different kinds of plant champions.

Observe many different types of plants and plant structures on your walk and be amazed by the most extraordinary places they are found.

Record the champions by taking photographs or doing a quick sketch, always remembering to note what they have won!

Collect things that represent some of your champions.





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www.kew.org/schoolsadoptaseed

4. Back in class create a leafy leaderboard



This can be done as a class activity, in groups and or individually using photographs or sketches of the champions.

Depending on age and ability, the findings could be used to:

discuss problems the children may have had in making their selection e.g. if the dice produced a combination of tallest and leaf how did they go about making a choice

talk about any combinations which were impossible to find and **think** about why this was the case

compare all the leaf champions, tree champions or flower champions etc.

stimulate discussion about the wonder of plants especially those that grow in challenging places

think about new combinations to make a new set of dice

consider different places where the Thinking Walk could be done perhaps on a small scale e.g. a vegetable garden, an area of grassland or a school garden

grow their own champions

explore cross curricular links e.g.

maths - investigating how many different combinations two die will give, looking at nets and making other 3D shapes, Venn and Carroll diagrams

literacy - exploring the use of descriptive words, using comparative and superlative adjectives, labelling and non-fiction writing.



Suggestions of how this work could be displayed:

Make a leafy leader board wall of fame. The Champions could be contrasted with photographs of the world champions from the PowerPoint. The dice could be displayed attached to the wall or built to form a structure. Class or group books of their champions could be made, illustrated with drawings, photographs, bark rubbings and leaf prints or pressings.