

Window on the World

Objective:

To create a frame to direct childrens' attention to one spot as they examine the garden micro-environment.

You will need:

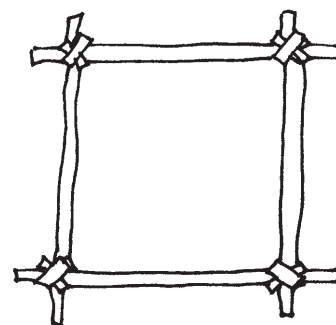
- Materials for the 'arms' of your frame. These should be approximately 30 cm long, and can be twigs snapped to roughly the same length, pieces of scrap paper or newspaper rolled into tubes, or scrap cardboard. (Drinking straws are too short.)
- Four approximately 30 cm lengths per frame
- Four rubber bands per frame, if using twigs, or masking tape, if using paper or cardboard.

What to do

- Assemble your four lengths on a flat surface to form a rough square. Your aim is to make this square strong enough for you to pick it up and walk around the garden with it.
- Taking the corners one at a time, bind the twigs together with rubber bands. Your shape will look floppy until you do the last of the corners.
- If using paper or cardboard, instead of binding the corners with rubber bands, tape the corners with masking tape.
- Take your window into the garden and choose an area to place the frame. Look through the window at all the things you can see.

→ Bugs and insects (evidence and sightings)

- What insects can you see?
- Look for the smallest bugs as well as the big ones.
- You might need to wait a moment or look really, really hard.
- What sort of evidence can you see that bugs and insects have been here in the garden? Look at leaves and under them, examine the soil, stems and anything else in your frame.



→ Plants (dead and alive)

- Look for evidence of past seasons.
- Can you see leaves, petals, seeds, twigs, dead leaves? What else?
- How many answers can you get? There may be many different kinds of traces of past seasons.

→ Soil, sand and gravel (describe it)

- What about inanimate (non-living) elements of the garden? They are important, too.
- What elements can you see in your window and how will you describe them? (Be specific! Sandy soil, little pebbles – not just 'dirt').

Write or draw your observations.