

## Plastic Bottle Flowers

**Activities include** measuring, cutting, cutting wire and canes.

Understanding colours, drawing shapes

Learning to identify parts of a flower

Assistance from adults may be required for this project.



### Materials

Recycled bottles, they can be clear, white or colourful. Keep the lids.

Short canes, approximately 50 cm.

Fine wire, recycled wire is often available from discarded electronic goods.



### Tools

Sharpie pens

Scissors

Sharp knife or small drill

Skewer

A thick mat or piece of wood to protect the table top.





**Select the size and colour** of the bottles you want to use.  
2 is usually enough.

Draw a line across the bottle about halfway up. Cut along this line.



### **Draw petal shapes**

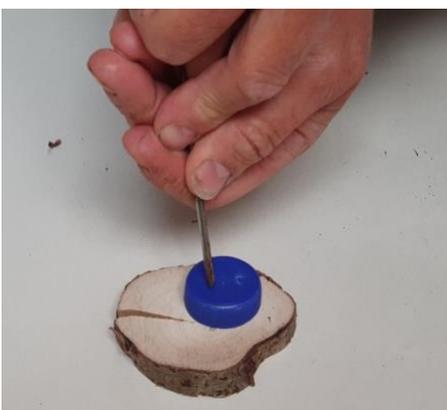
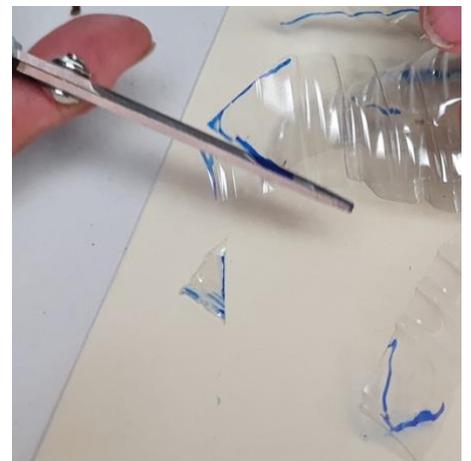
Draw lines up the sides to start the petal shapes, the base of bottles often have moulding to indicate where it will be easiest to cut.

You can start with the top or the bottom of the bottle.



Plastic bottles are made from different thicknesses, colours and patterns.

Many have 6, 8 or 10 sections, some have odd numbers, 5, 7 or 9.



Make 2 holes in the lid with a skewer.

Carefully make 2 holes in the bottom of the bottle with a sharp knife or small drill.

Press down against a piece of wood or mat to protect the table.





Use Sharpie pens to colour the petals of your flower, if you have coloured bottles choose the colour for the petals first.

Push a piece of wire about 250mm long through one hole of a bottle top and back through the other, so both ends are on the same side.



You can have bottle lids on inside and outside of the flower. Make sure they fit before you decide which colour to use.

Thread the wire through each of the layers of flower.

Wrap the wire round a bamboo cane or stick. Twist until the flower is securely fixed.



**Your flower is finished and weather proof!**



Use the flowers as decorative labels to show where you have planted some seeds, or as a bunch of them to brighten up your room or give as a gift.

Take them outside and let the sun shine through them, see what happens when the shadows fall on a wall or piece of paper or card.

Does it look different on a coloured background?

What happens when you have two colours overlapping?

## **Useful reference material**

**A drawing of flower parts**, see below to look at the shapes and how they fit together. Or you could make one up.

Daisies in short grass are good to look at, because there are often lots you can pick them.

A book with more information about identifying flowers would be useful to see different colours and shapes of petals.

Why do flowers come in different shapes and sizes?

See

<https://www.foxleas.com/flower-shapes.asp>

<http://mywildflowers.com/identify.asp>

## **A Colour Circle**

See below for an example

You can find more information about the colour circle in books or on the internet.

When you start choosing colours for flowers select a colour on the circle and choose 2 adjacent, or harmonies. For example, Yellow, yellow orange and orange. If you have coloured bottles that might help.

Then choose one colour from the opposite side of the circle, a complementary colour, for the small centre parts of your flower, for example blue/purple/.

## Colour Circle



**The 3 primary colours** are in the middle triangle. Red, Yellow and Blue

**The 3 secondary colours** are in the hexagon. Green, Orange and Purple

**12 colours form the circle**

Red, red purple, Purple, blue purple, Blue, blue green, Green, yellow green, Yellow, yellow orange, Orange, red orange,

## Parts of a flower

