



ERROL'S GARDEN: EDUCATION PACK

Errol's GARDEN

An interactive musical for audiences aged 3-11 and their grownups, filled with catchy songs, imagination and a passion for plants

**Based on the book & illustrations by Gillians Hibbs
Education pack written by Madeleine Tee**



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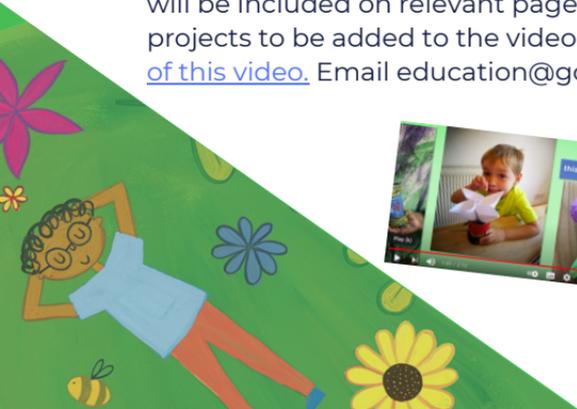


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OPTIONAL EXTRA

Errol has created a special music video with his favourite song: THIS IS HOW WE GROW. For a small additional fee, pictures of your pupil's work can be added to the video to be shared throughout the school and with parents. A reminder will be included on relevant pages to take a picture of their projects to be added to the video. [Click here to see a sample of this video.](#) Email education@goldentoattheatre.com





1. CURRICULUM LINKS

EYFS - Understanding the World

- Make observations about plants and explain why some things occur
- Understand about similarities and differences in relation to plants
- Talk about features of the environment

KS1- SCIENCE

- Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees
- Observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants
- Find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy

KS2- SCIENCE

- Identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants
- Explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant

In this booklet you will find different activities that you can complete with your class. We have included questions that you can use during these activities to deepen children's understanding about plants and growing across the Key Stages.





2. READ THE BOOK

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE STORY?

Errol loves plants so much that he has them growing out of every pot, pan and teacup he can find in his small flat. He knows that plants need water, sunlight and space. He needs a garden. Errol discovers a neglected rooftop that is full of rubbish that would make a great garden. Errol is determined to make his dream a reality. He cleans up the rooftop and brings his neighbours together to create a community garden, full of all sorts of amazing plants.

READ THE BOOK AND DISCUSS

Errol wants to turn his dream of having a garden into a reality. Have you ever had something that you really wanted to make or create? What happened? Can you name some things that grow in a garden? If you could grow anything you liked, what would you grow in your garden?

Why are gardens good? What would the world be like if there were no gardens?



3. COLOURING ACTIVITY

About the author: Gillian Hibbs

Gillian Hibbs is an author and illustrator from Hove. She studied Illustration at University College Falmouth. She enjoys working on a wide range of different projects, and has a particular interest in children's illustration and hand lettering.



COLOURING ACTIVITY

On the following page, you will find an Errol's Garden colouring sheet that has been created by Gillian Hibbs.





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GET

GROWING!



GILLIAN HIBBS



4. DECORATE A PLANT POT & SEED PLANTING



YOU WILL NEED

- large bag of compost
- seeds (e.g. sunflower, cress, bean), enough for all pupils to have two seeds
- food pots, brought into class by pupils (eg butter or yoghurt pot)
- pot decorations (optional) paintings supplies, ribbons, sequins, tissue paper
- glue (if needed)
- water
- a container for watering, eg watering can, cup



Ask the class to decorate their pots in any way that they like. Allow drying time for the pots. Once the pots are dry, add soil to each pot. Add just enough water to the soil to make it damp.

Ask the children to poke their finger or a pencil into the soil in their pots to make room for a seed. Make two holes about 2 cm deep. Push the seeds gently into the holes and cover lightly with soil.

Explain to the children that once they take their pot home, the plant will need to sit in a sunny location, such as a window sill, and to be watered just enough to keep the soil damp.

DISCUSSION

What do you think will happen to our plants?

What will we observe? How will the seed change?

What will happen if we don't water it?

What would happen if we kept it in a dark room? (You could plant extra seeds and experiment with them in different conditions)

5. MAKE A RECYCLED WATERING CAN



YOU WILL NEED:

- old, clean milk bottle
- permanent marking pens
- pen (to use for poking through lid)



Using a pen or another object with a point, poke holes through the lid of the bottle as shown in the video. Ask the children to decorate their bottles using permanent marking pens with any designs they like. After the ink is dry, fill the jug with water, screw on the lid. It's time to do some watering!



DISCUSSION

What are the five things plants need to grow?

How have plants adapted to different environments? e.g. desert or rainforest

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6. MAKE AN ORIGAMI FLOWER



YOU WILL NEED:

- old newspapers
- glue
- scissors
- pencil



Follow the instructions on the video (the class might benefit from the video being paused while they master each step). Allow the glue to dry completely.



DISCUSSION

Why do plants have flowers?

Can you name the different parts of the flower?

How do flowers help plants to reproduce?

Can you draw and label a flowering plant?

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Let's Dissect a Flower



1. Using any flower, carefully pull or cut apart your flower and place the pieces gently on the table. Remove the outer peices first and work your way to the centre of the flower until you have the flower parts seen here. If you use a different kind of flower, the parts might look slightly different.

2. Place the pieces of the flower into the correct boxes below.



PETALS	Ovary AND SEPAL
STAMEN	STYLE

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9. GET UP, STAND UP VOCAB GAME



Let's play the
GET UP, STAND UP
VOCAB GAME!



EYFS and YEARS 1/2

HOW TO PLAY

Introduce each word and give a quick definition (shown below for different age groups). Show the children an action for each word, for example, the action for 'grow' could be to let low to ground and slowly reach up to the ceiling. Perform the action and ask the children to tell you which word it is. Then say the word and ask the children to tell you the action. Quickly go through all the words - asking for definitions too.

EYFS VOCAB WORDS

Grow - getting bigger over time

Shoot - the start of a plant above the ground

Flower - the part of a plant that attracts wildlife

Seed - part of a plant that makes another plant

YEAR EYFS DISCUSSION

What conditions does a plant need to survive? What does a healthy plant look like? What will you do to look after your plant?

YEARS 1/2 VOCAB WORDS

Germination - when the conditions are right, the seed soaks up the water and swells, and the tiny new plant bursts out the shell. This is germination.

Sprout - when a plant sprouts, it grows new shoots

Shoot - a shoot grows upwards towards the sunlight

Seed Dispersal - seed dispersal is when the seeds move away from the parent plant. This can happen by wind or animals.

YEARS 1/2 DISCUSSION

What do plants need to grow? We are going to act out the life cycle of a plant! Let's make sure we have the right conditions to grow.



GET UP, STAND UP VOCAB GAME (cont.)

YEARS 3/4 VOCAB WORDS

Flower Pollination - During plant reproduction, pollen needs to move from the anther of one flower to the stigma of another flower.

Seed Formation - Once a plant is pollinated, it will make a seed.

Seed Dispersal - Seed dispersal is the movement, spread or transport of seeds away from the parent plant.

YEAR 3/4 DISCUSSION

Where do seeds come from? Plants make them! Let's talk about pollination!

Plants produce seeds in order to reproduce and make more plants. To make a seed, a flower must be pollinated. Pollen is made by the male part of the plant, which is called the stamen. The pollen needs to get to the female part of the plant, which is called the stigma. Most plants cannot pollinate themselves, but some plants can - like orchids. What might be an advantage of self-pollination?

The pollen must then travel from one plant to another plant of the same species (e.g. from a rose to a rose or from a daffodil to a daffodil). This is called cross-pollination. Each part of the plant plays a different important job.

YEARS 5/6 VOCAB WORDS

Adaptation - Adaptation is the adjustment of animals and plants to their environment.

Environment - All the physical surroundings on Earth are called the environment.

Ecosystem - all of the living and nonliving things in an area.

Species - A species is a kind of organism. All animals or plants that are the same kind belong to the same species

YEAR 5/6 DISCUSSION

Plants have to adapt to their environment. If they didn't they would not survive. How would plants adapt to life in a desert, rainforest or Mediterranean? Give children some time to think and talk to a partner.

Show a range of adaptations on the board - Extremely deep root systems to tap into underground water. Thick waxy cuticle (a protective layer on the surface of stem and leaves) to prevent dehydration. Flowering infrequently and produce large amounts of seeds. Hairy leaves to deflect the sun. Change the position of leaves to avoid exposing whole surfaces to the sun. Have drip tips to enable rain to run off quickly.





10. ADDITIONAL CROSS-CURRICULA LESSON IDEAS

IMPROVE IT

Errol worked with his local community to make his home even nicer. He created a garden on the rooftop! Think about your own local area... What would you like to improve?

Draw a map of your improvement OR write a letter to your local MP.

DESIGN IT

Gardens have been built in many creative places! Can you research some innovative places where gardens have been built? e.g. walls, rooftops, balconies... Design your own innovative garden like Errol's!

SKETCH IT

Look at the illustrations within the book. What do you notice about the different flowers that have been drawn? What shapes and colours can you see? Try to draw your own flowers!

WRITE IT

Errol says "I'm really good at growing things". What does this mean? What are you really good at? How did you get good at it? Can you create a story about something that you are good at? How could you use your skill to improve your local community?

PLANT IT

What is the difference between wildflowers and garden flowers? Where do we find each of these? Go for a walk around your local area and search for different flowers. Sketch the different flowers that you see. Can you create a tally chart for the different flowers you spot?

DREAM IT

Errol ends the story lying in his dream garden. What does this look like for him? What would your dream garden look like? Create a miniature version of it using different resources! Can you write a creative description of your garden? Perhaps you could write a poem!





11. LINKS AND RESOURCES

About Golden Toad theatre

<http://www.goldentoadtheatre.com>

BBC Bitesize – Science Key Stage 1

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zpxnyrd>

BBC Bitesize – Science Key stage 2

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zy66fg8>

Parts of plants facts

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/plants/>

More info on Gillian Hibbs

<https://www.gillianhibbs.co.uk>

