

# Duns Flowerbed Trail

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## Research Challenges



Welcome to our Duns Flowerbed Trail Research Challenges. We have developed these challenges to help you to learn about and enjoy our Duns Flowerbed Trail. There is something for everyone. If you are not too keen on research challenges then take a look at our 'Imaginative' and 'Creative' challenge ideas. If you have any other fun challenges to suggest please do contact us on [www.kdbm.org/contact-us](http://www.kdbm.org/contact-us)

**Some things to think about before you begin.**

*Some plants can be an irritant or toxic when smelt, touched or ingested. Parent/Guardian consent should be given before children participate in activities involving interaction with plants. Children should be supervised and wear protective gloves. The level of interaction with the plants is at the discretion of their supervising adult/s.*

- If you are touching any natural materials it is important to avoid touching your face, eyes and mouth and to wash your hands afterwards. Please check with an adult before touching and smelling the plants, especially if you have allergies.
- Don't go too close to pollinators. Some of them may bite, nip or sting.
- Dress for the weather. Remember to take a jacket or a sunhat and sunscreen in case the weather changes.
- Make sure you don't harm, disturb or damage any plants, insects, wildlife or habitats.
- If you are collecting natural materials please don't take too much. Check first with your accompanying adult. Replace any materials that you don't use.

## Research it!

Find out what a plant needs to successfully grow and stay healthy. Make a chart to teach someone how to look after their plants. Your chart could be for



Thank you to Girlguiding Duns and to Laira Akinrowo Wilding from 2<sup>nd</sup> Shadwell Guiding for their challenge ideas.

friends, family, or younger Brownies or Rainbows. Design an experiment to test out what plants need to survive.

Find out about the life cycle of a flowering plant. How does it start? How does it end? Make a colourful diagram to teach someone about a plant life cycle. Your diagram could be for younger friends, family, Brownies or Rainbows.



Find out some fascinating facts about plants. You can find out some interesting facts on the Duns Flowerbed Trail website [www.kdbm.org](http://www.kdbm.org) Design a quiz based on your facts. Test out the quiz on your friends.

Research the names of some of the flowers in Duns Flowerbed Trail. Make a word search using all of the names you have found. You can find out some plant names on [www.kdbm.org](http://www.kdbm.org)

Find out about how plants reproduce. Make a collage to explain plant reproduction to other young people. Your collage could be shown to younger friends, family, Brownies or Rainbows. Be sure to include all the labels for the different reproductive parts.

Learn about the different parts of a flower and what they are for. Draw a line diagram of a flower of your choice. Label the root, stem, leaves and flowers. Present your diagram to a group and explain the different parts.

Go on a seed hunt. How many different shaped and sized seeds can you find? Find out about the four main ways that seeds can find their way back to the soil.

Find out about pollination. Choose a flowerbed and count how many pollinators you can see (take care not to go too close). Make a chart to illustrate the numbers of different pollinators you see.



Choose one flowerbed and count how many different flower colours there are. Which colours attract the most pollinators? Why do you think pollinators prefer some plants more than others? Present your findings to a group in an interesting way.

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How many different leaf shapes and colours can you find in a flowerbed? Why do you think leaves grow in different shapes and different colours? Make a presentation to explain what you have found out about leaves.

How many different types of thorns and jaggy bits can you see on the plants in the flowerbeds? Why do you think that some plants have these features? Make a chart or diagram to show the different shapes and types of thorns and jaggy bits.