



Cambridge University

**Botanic Garden**

# FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT HOME

## Make a mini flower press

Ages  
3+

You will need:

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Scissors
- Elastic band

To help conserve plants it's important we learn about them – especially those that grow in our gardens and near to where we live. In this activity you can make a mini flower press which you can use to start your own pressed plant collection.



To make your flower press first cut up cardboard and paper into lots of squares about 6cm across. You'll need about 15 squares of cardboard and 28 squares of paper.

Create a stack of cardboard and paper with 2 pieces of paper between each 2 pieces of card.

Wrap an elastic band around your stack. You need it to be fairly tight otherwise your flowers will be in danger of slipping out. If it feels a bit loose add a few extra squares to your stack.



When collecting, take just a small amount and only collect when there are plenty of other flowers of the same type. Never uproot any plants.

Once you've made your press you're ready to start collecting! Head out to your garden or on a walk and look for some flowers. You don't need to go anywhere special – it's really important to know about the flowers that grow near where we live anyway. Once you start looking you'll begin to notice little flowers everywhere you go.



To use your mini flower press simply take a little bit off the plant and slip it in between 2 squares of white paper in your stack. Team work can help with this, with one person holding open the stack while another person slips the flower inside. Fill up your stack and then wait a couple of days before opening it up to admire your pressed flowers.



Look online if you want to find out more about the flowers you discover. You can search for 'BSBI Herbology Hunt', 'Plantlife Spotter Sheets' or 'Wildlife Watch' to find downloadable spotter sheets.

The book 'A Little Guide to Wild Flowers' by Charlotte Voake is a lovely children's book that is full of beautiful illustrations and interesting facts.

