PLANTS

The rose is one of England's favourite flowers and a national symbol too. You'll see them flowering in people's gardens all over the country in summer.

There are types of every colour and shade imaginable. In fact, there are over 6,000 varieties of roses in all!



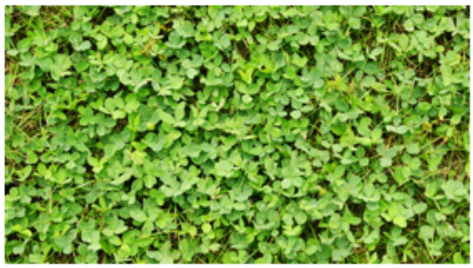
Rose

Unlike England's choice of the soft and lovely smelling rose as its national flower, Scotland prefers a far pricklier plant to call its own. The thistle is a very spiky purple flower that pricks anything that that tries to eat it. It makes quite a good symbol of defence, and the Scots have a long history of defending themselves!



Thistle

Clover is a cute little three-leaved plant that grows in the grass all over the UK. There's one special type of clover called a shamrock, which is a national symbol in Northern Ireland. Look out for any clover plant with four leaves though because they are supposed to be very good luck!



Clover

These bright yellow and orange flowers look like little trumpets. They're really common in the spring all over the UK, but they are extra special in Wales. The Welsh national plant used to be only the leek, but somebody decided that it wasn't pretty enough to wear; so then the daffodil became a symbol too.



The most typical native tree is the English oak, with its distinctive acorns and deeply grooved bark. They can live up to 1,000 years. Did you know there's an Oak tree in Sherwood Forest, that locals believe is the tree that the famous outlaw Robin Hood sheltered inside, with his band of merry men?

The tree, called Major Oak (because of its huge size) is so old and so special that some of its branches have been propped up using scaffolding.



Major Oak, Sherwood Forest

Beech, ash and silver birch are other common UK tree species, as well as the horse chestnut – better known as the conker tree. Its big shiny brown seeds, aka conkers, are used in a traditional children's' game. Each player threads a conker onto string, and takes turns to hit the other player's conker until one breaks.

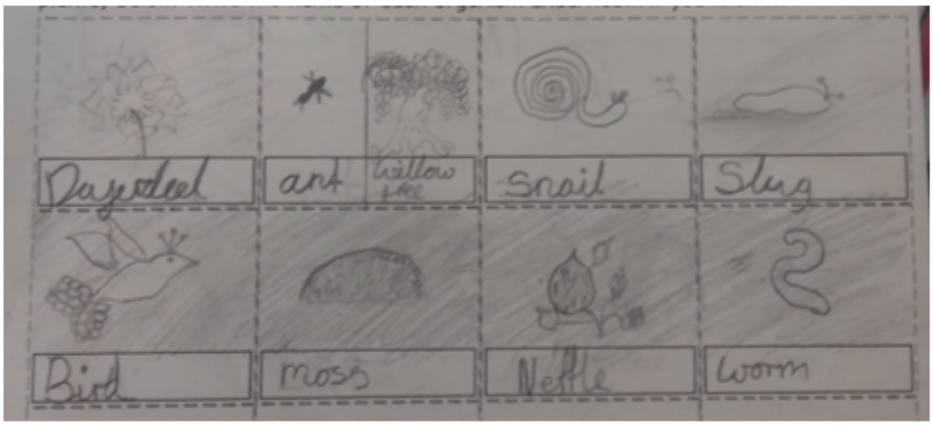


Conkers

We are going to go out and investigate a habitat in our school environment.



Fold your A4 paper into eighths so you can record the animals/ plants that you observe.



Share your findings.

