



### *Butterflies*

Plant different nectar plants that flower throughout spring, summer and autumn in a sheltered, sunny spot. Flowers such as marigolds, wallflowers and sweet william are ideal.

### *Insect hotel*

Use recycled materials to build an insect hotel. Gather dead wood, straw and hay, dry leaves, loose bark, even bricks and old crates. Secure with natural string or sticks and twigs.

# Create a wildlife haven

Our partner Pets at Home suggests ways to attract wildlife to your HQ

### *Hedgehogs*

Prepare a 'hedgehog house', such as a log pile, compost heap or sheltered nook under a shed or hedge, in the autumn. As hedgehogs like quiet, use locations where they won't be disturbed.

### *Dragonflies*

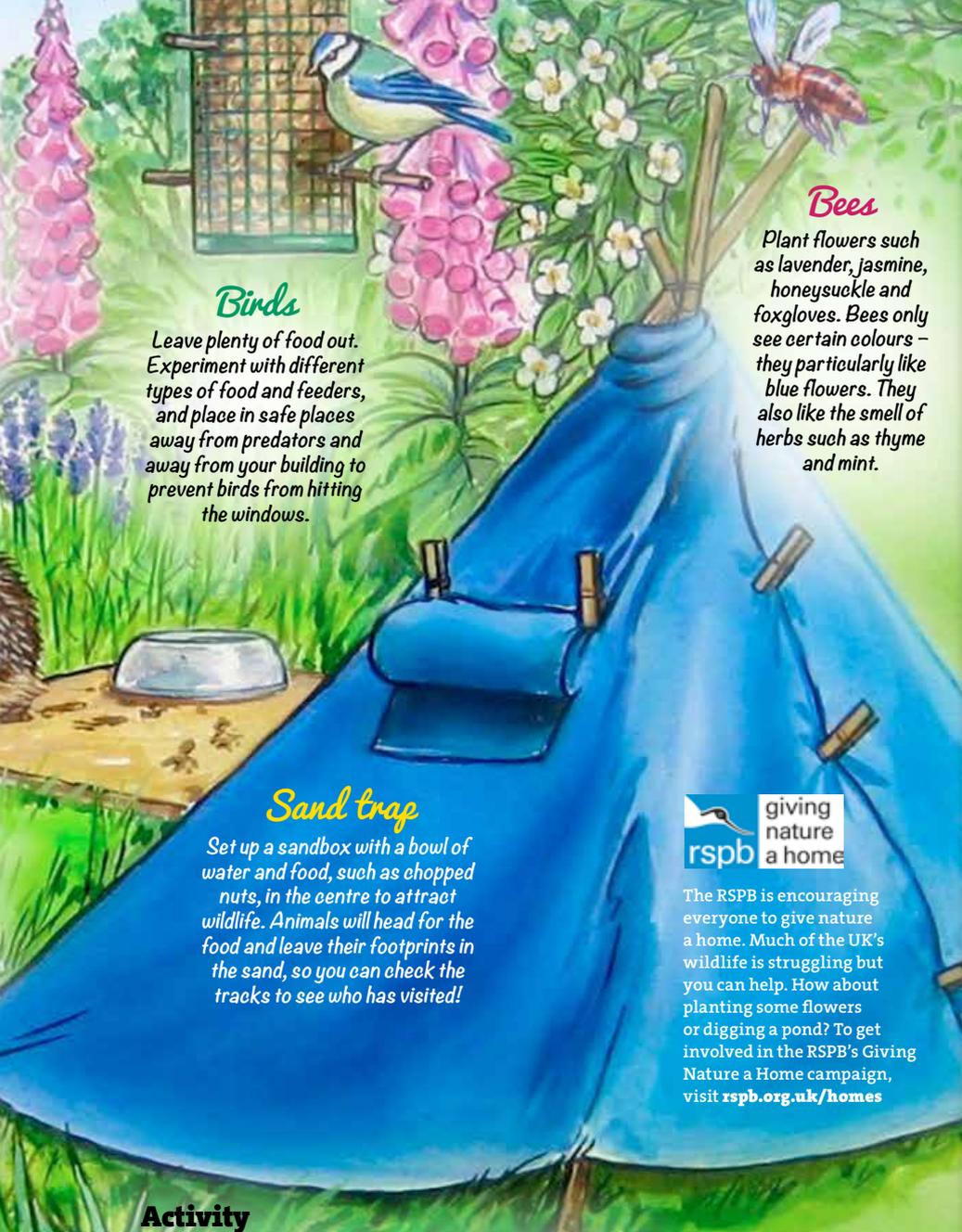
These are attracted to boggy, wet areas and like hanging around ponds and fountains. Even a bucket with water plants and rocks in and around it – protected from the wind and in plenty of sunshine – will do.

### *Frogs and newts*

Allow grass to grow over the pond edge into the water and add submerged water plants. Amphibians hibernate in sheltered spots or the bottom of ponds, so don't clean out a pond unless really necessary.

### *Worms*

Let leaf litter accumulate on the ground surface over the autumn and winter. Add mulch to the surface and water plants regularly to make the soil more desirable.



### Birds

Leave plenty of food out. Experiment with different types of food and feeders, and place in safe places away from predators and away from your building to prevent birds from hitting the windows.

### Bees

Plant flowers such as lavender, jasmine, honeysuckle and foxgloves. Bees only see certain colours – they particularly like blue flowers. They also like the smell of herbs such as thyme and mint.

### Sand trap

Set up a sandbox with a bowl of water and food, such as chopped nuts, in the centre to attract wildlife. Animals will head for the food and leave their footprints in the sand, so you can check the tracks to see who has visited!



The RSPB is encouraging everyone to give nature a home. Much of the UK's wildlife is struggling but you can help. How about planting some flowers or digging a pond? To get involved in the RSPB's Giving Nature a Home campaign, visit [rspb.org.uk/homes](http://rspb.org.uk/homes)

### TIME NEEDED

60 minutes

### BADGE



Pets at Home partners the Beaver Scouts Animal Friends and Cub Scouts Animal Carer Activity Badges.

### PARTNER



where pets come first

### OUTCOMES

The young people will learn how birds behave in the wild, and how to take notes about wildlife activity, as well as how to be very quiet and still.

### TAKING IT FURTHER

Watch out for other wildlife, for example deer or badgers. You will have to set a hide up in special locations with different foodstuffs.

### MORE INFORMATION

For more activity ideas and to download Activity Badge resources, visit [scouts.org.uk/petsathome](http://scouts.org.uk/petsathome)

### Activity

# Make a bird hide

Get a bird's-eye view of your wild visitors by watching them from a home-made hide (see above)

### Suitable for Beavers and Cubs

#### You will need:

- Old sheet or blanket (dark colour best)
- One long and two short poles
- Strong string ● Clothes pegs
- Bird feeders and bird food
- Cushions ● Warm clothes
- Snacks ● Binoculars (optional)

### Instructions

- 1 Ask the young people to lash the pole ends together as a loose pyramid shape, or low frame, tall enough for you to sit inside.
- 2 Get the group to lay the blanket or sheet over the frame, securing it at the top with pegs or string, and also to the poles with pegs. This doesn't have to fit to the frame too

tightly – you should be able to pull up the front and crawl inside.

- 3 Cut a small viewing flap at the front and peg this up.

- 4 Ask the young people to set up some bird feeders in front of the hide. Make it comfy with blankets, cushions, drinks and snacks. Wear warm clothes, and get ready to wait.

