

WORKSHEET 3

Clever Orchids

CURRICULUM LINKS

KS1 – Discovering plants

KS2 – Learning about plant biology

Art – working with repeat and symmetrical shapes / design

ACTIVITY

Takes place on the Rings, art activity in the classroom (suitable for art club/keen artists).

GOOD TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ➔ Orchids will appear on the Rings between May and August
- ➔ Follow the National Trust Code of Conduct for the Rings
- ➔ Be prepared for ticks
- ➔ The Red Devon cows grazing on the Rings are said to be very docile

KIT TO TAKE WITH YOU

- ✓ Binoculars
- ✓ Anti-tick repellent
- ✓ Note/sketch books, pencils

Badbury Rings is one of the best 10 sites in the UK for orchids, according to Countryfile. Why? It has an amazing variation of locations where orchids grow, including banks that are north, south, east and west facing, lower, wetter areas, and higher, drier areas on top of the banks. Visit between May and August to see the orchids.

The grazing at Badbury is timed to support orchid growth. In late autumn to early winter the sheep make the grass low, while the cattle help prevent scrub and brambles from growing the rest of the year. They tend not to go on the banks where orchids grow.

Did you know that orchids are the biggest family of flowers with 28,000 species world-wide. They are also some of the oldest flowering plants, having been around for 84 million years!



Photograph of National Trust Ranger by Sarah Butterworth



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In the UK we have 57 species growing wild. On Badbury Rings 12 of these have been spotted. A National Trust ranger on the previous page is showing a group this Pyramid Orchid.

More Orchid Facts:

- They are symmetrical
- The vanilla bean comes from an orchid
- They take 5-7 years to bloom
- The ones you find in the supermarket will be at least 3 years old

Many orchids are rare, including some on the Rings that may become extinct in the next few years.

Orchids are clever plants. They trick pollinators towards them. The Bee Orchid, which you can find on the Rings in the summer, has grown a petal that resembles the female bee. It tricks male bees to it, and once there, pollen attaches to the male bee, he flies off looking for another female, and transfers the pollen onto another flower. This fertilizes the orchid, and produces seeds which are windblown to new locations.

Here are some orchids you can find on Badbury Rings:



Bee Orchid



Pyramid Orchid



Frog Orchid

Fragrant & Greater Butterfly Orchids



Common Spotted Orchid



Birds Nest Orchid



Autumn Ladies Tresses Orchid

Early Purple Orchid



ART ACTIVITY:

Make an Orchid!

Materials:

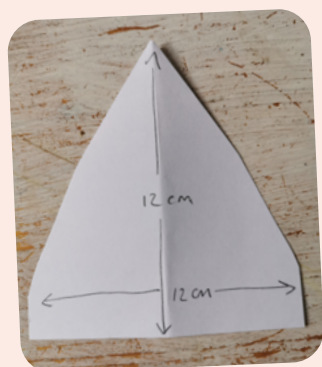
- Tissue paper (white, pink, purple, green)
- Small scissors
- White card
- Watercolour paints
- Small paint brush
- Pritt stick

Create a big plant stalk (A3 length) with between 10-25 flowers on it. These are much easier to do large, and they look better!

1. First make the stalk and some leaves, cut them out of a length of A3 white card, paint it, and put to one side.



2. Create a petal template, by folding a piece of card down the middle and drawing one half of the flower. Then keeping it folded, cut out both layers at the same time, to create a symmetrical shape. Unfold.



3. Make a card triangle for the flowerhead.

4. Choose your colour and fold the tissue paper into around 8 layers, ensuring your template will fit on.



5. Place the template over the top and draw around gently.

6. Cut the layers out. Take care to hold the layers together as you cut. Make sure the petals are separated, and repeat until you have the desired number of flowers for the stalk.

7. Arrange on the triangle, and stick down with the glue, flat, or like this. Don't use pritt onto tissue paper, it will rip, only apply it to the card. This style is more fiddly.

Then stick the triangle onto the stalk, using a bit of tape at the back.



Put all the orchids together to form an Orchid Meadow!

Photo credits for page 2

BEE ORCHID

Bernard DUPONT from FRANCE. This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license. This image was originally posted to Flickr by berniedup at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/65695019@N07/14374841786>. It was reviewed on 5 June 2015 by FlickreviewR and was confirmed to be licensed under the terms of the cc-by-sa-2.0.

FROG ORCHID

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AUTUMN LADIES TRESSES ORCHID

This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported license. Picture taken by BerndH, August 2004

COMMON SPOTTED ORCHID

By Uoaei1 - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=34352665>

PYRAMID ORCHID

Philippe Moret, CC BY-SA 4.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>>, via Wikimedia Commons

EARLY PURPLE ORCHID

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