

# Spring

## A Spring Walk

- Discuss the signs of spring - buds/blossom on trees, longer days and playing out after school, changes in the weather, busy birds and lambs in the fields, bright flowers such as daffodils, tulips etc.
- Go for a Spring walk in the school grounds or local park. Look for all the signs of spring. Children colour in all the things on the chart that they saw on their walk, and add one more in the empty box.
- If possible, collect a few buds on the walk (only one twig from each tree). Put them in water in a warm place and watch the leaves slowly unfold.

## Busy birds

- Go outside, ask the children to close their eyes and listen to the birds singing. Put some straw, small feathers, etc. on or near a bird table. Watch to see if any birds take them. Discuss why the birds are so busy - building nests, laying/hatching eggs, feeding babies, teaching them to fly. Draw pictures/write sentences and make into a story sequence.
- Use as a tracking exercise. Colour and give the babies a worm each.
- Make a collage of a bird's nest. Sponge paint the sky and paint some branches. Build the nest out of art straws and paint brown. Sponge print green leaves. Cut out two large bird shapes and cover in brown fringed tissue, and put one on the nest, the other by it. Add three painted chicks in the nest with wide open beaks. Add a small piece of string to each beak to look like worms.

## Parts of a flower

- Read 'Little Brown Seed'. A poem by R. Bennett. Book of a thousand poems. Grow broad beans in a jar. Put some blotting paper snugly around the inside of a jar. Place the beans between the side of the jar and the blotting paper. Pour a little water into the bottom of the jar so that the blotting paper soaks it up. Keep the paper moist and watch the bean sprout shoot, roots, and leaves.
- Cut out the jigsaw pieces, assemble correctly and stick on to a piece of paper. Label and colour.
- Let each child plant a sunflower seed in a pot/school garden. Who can grow the tallest flower?
- Read 'Hyacinth' - J. Coldrey & G. Bernard. A & C Black.

## Make A Daffodil

- Take a bunch of daffodils into the class. Look at them carefully. Examine the flowers/leaves/stem. Do they have a nice smell? Arrange them in a vase and let the children draw a picture of them.
- Cut out the daffodil parts and colour both sides yellow. Fold the 'trumpet' inwards along the dotted line and cut where indicated. (The children may need help with this). Stick the sides together to make a tube and glue on to the petals where indicated. Paint an art straw/stick green and attach to the head of the daffodil. Arrange in a vase and take home for Mother's day.
- Use gardening catalogues to make sets of spring flowers - daffodils, tulips, hyacinths etc.

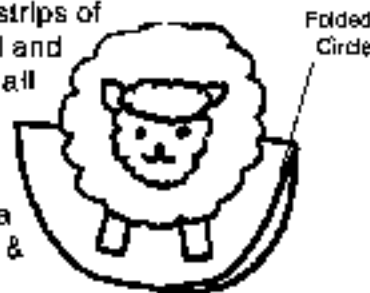
- Sing 'The flowers that grow in the garden' - Someone's Singing Lord. 53. A & C Black songbook.

## On The Farm

- Arrange a visit to a farm to see lambs, calves, chicks, piglets etc. or visit a local park and watch ducklings. Look at pictures of baby animals and learn their names. Talk about the miracle of new life.
- Cut out the mother of each set of animals and match the babies. Count and number the babies and colour.
- Read 'Are you my mother?' P.D. Eastman Collins.

## Make A Spring Lamb

- Read 'Lambs at Play'. Christine Rosselli. Book of a Thousand Poems, and 'Spring Song' Animal Poems. Simon & Schuster. Talk about the arrival of lambs on farms, a very busy time for farmers and shepherds, but a sure sign that spring is here.
- Cut out the circle and fold along the dotted line. Cut out the body parts, glue the head into the middle of the body and attach the legs. Curl some strips of white paper around a pencil and stick a row of paper curls all around the lamb's body. Attach to the folded circle so that it stands (or rocks).
- Read 'The Lamb Without a Mother'. Enid Blyton. Hodder & Stoughton.



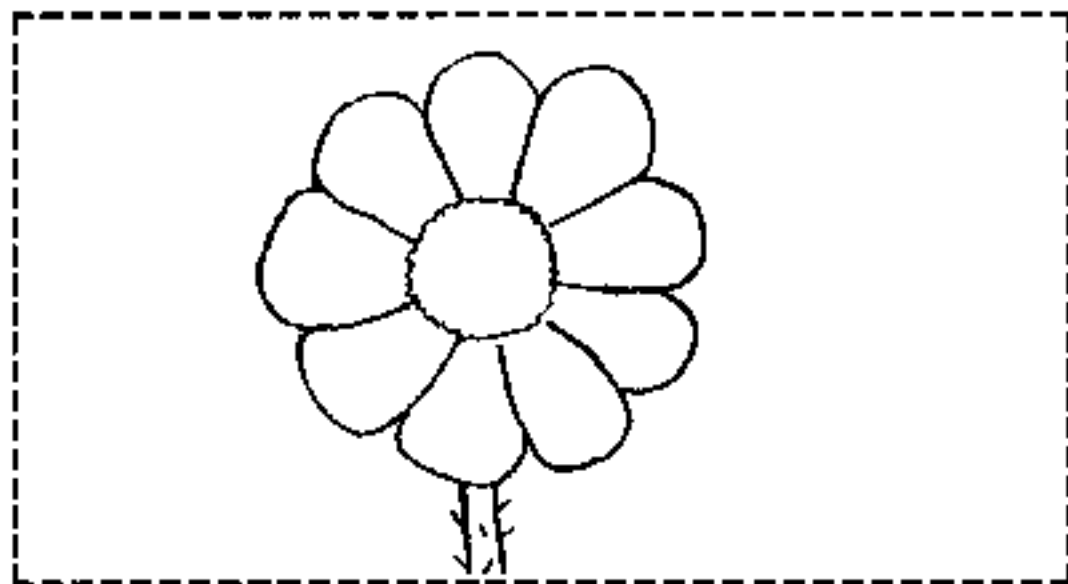
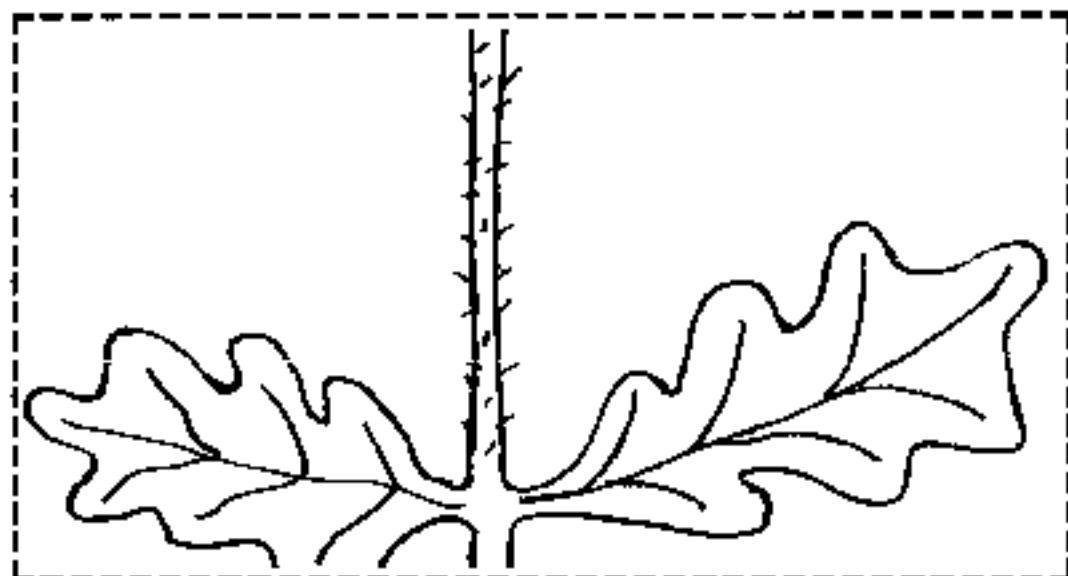
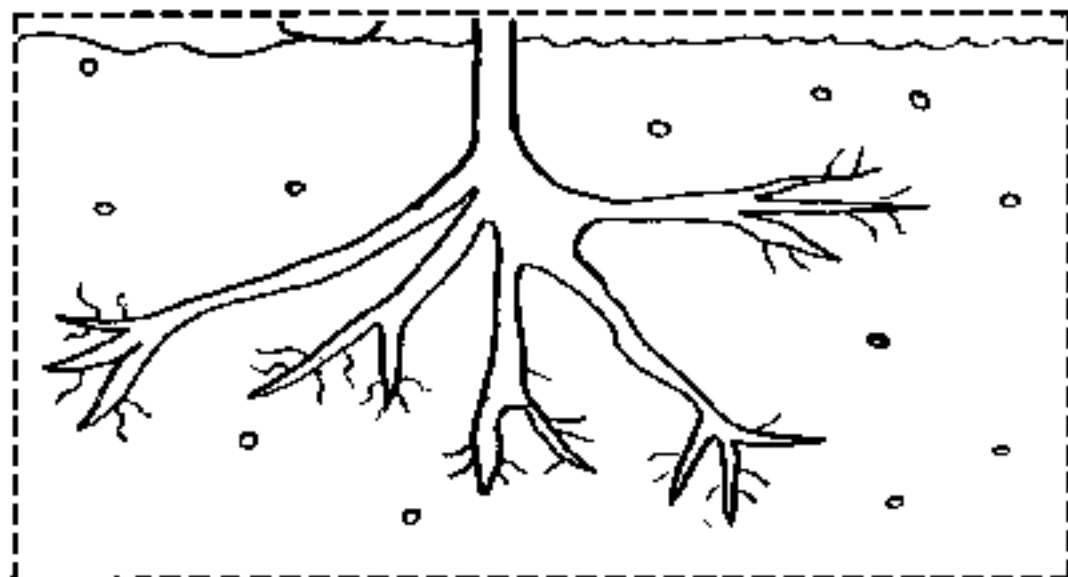
## The Life Cycle Of The Butterfly

- Read 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. Eric Carle. Puffin. Discuss the life cycle of the butterfly - egg, caterpillar, cocoon (chrysalis), butterfly.
- Use the activity sheet as a sequencing activity. Colour the four picture segments, cut out and stick in sequence on to the 'wheel'. Cut out both 'wheels' and pin together. Turn the 'picture wheel' to show the life cycle of the butterfly.
- Make 'fold over' butterflies. Cut out large paper butterfly shapes and fold. Dab blobs of different colour paints on to one half, fold again and press firmly. Open out to show a beautiful butterfly. Decorate further with sequins, lace, glitter, beads etc.
- Sing 'I went to the cabbages'. Tinderbox 46. A & C Black songbook.

## Dot-To-Dot Caterpillar

- Read 'The Creepy Crawly Caterpillar'. H. E. Todd & Val Biro. Carousel. Obtain a vivarium and collect and observe some of the more common types of caterpillar e.g. cabbage white. Look at the way they move, how they feed.
- Join the dots to complete the caterpillar, colour/decorate and cut out. Make a collage of large green painted cabbage leaves and tall nettles and arrange the caterpillars on the leaves. Use as a number exercise - e.g. there are 4 caterpillars on this nettle, there is a set of green caterpillars etc.
- In movement/PE use 'Caterpillar Creep' a tape from 'Watch' - BBC schools programme.

# The parts of a flower.



petals

leaf

stem

roots