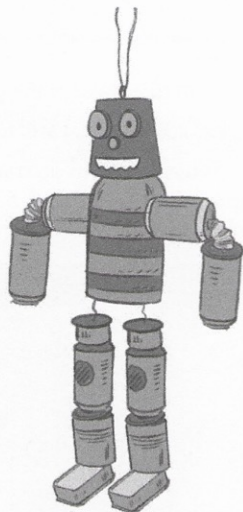


Garden Buddy


Plunder your recycling bin to create a wacky figure that will keep you company and help keep birds away from your plants. Form his body from tin cans and lids, then add detail using plastic, card or foil. When he's done, hang him from a tree or tie him to a stake in the ground. Start by laying out all your junk and planning where each bit will go.



This takes
1 day

You will need:

- Collection of junk
- Wire from a coat hanger
- Garden wire
- Scissors

- 1. Gather all your cans** and ask an adult to make a hole in the base of each one by twisting in the point of one scissor blade until it punches through. 
- 2. For the arms and legs**, make a loop in one end of a length of garden wire and twist to secure. Thread the wire through one can, and leave the other end loose to connect to the body.
- 3. To attach the next can**, loop a new piece of wire through the first loop before twisting to secure. Then thread this through the next can and make a loop at the other end.
- 4. For the body**, make holes in opposite sides of a plastic bottle near the bottom. Insert a length of coat hanger wire through them, looping to secure at each end. The legs will hang from this.
- 5. For the figure's head**, use a plastic flowerpot, then glue on bottle caps for the eyes and nose. A strip of foil will make nice shiny teeth.

TOP TIP: CDs make shimmering reflections that will discourage hungry birds, so tuck a few of them inside your figure's body.

Name: Class: Date:

1 How long will it take to make a garden buddy?

.....

2 Read the “**You will need**” section. Which of these things do you need to make the garden buddy? Tick **two**.

recycling bin

garden wire

wire coat hanger

tin cans

plastic flowerpot

3 Where do you put the garden buddy when he is ready?

.....

4 Read the paragraph that starts “*Plunder your recycling bin ...*”
Write down **three** things that you need to make the garden buddy.

.....

5 Why do you think these instructions are numbered?

.....

6 What can be used in the garden buddy’s body to scare hungry birds away?

.....

7 In Step 1, what do you think this symbol means?



8 “*Start by laying out all your junk and planning where each bit will go.*”
How do you think this will help you to make the garden buddy?

.....

9 What does Step 5 tell you to make?

.....

10 What would you use a garden buddy for?

.....



Answers

Links to content domain requirements are in brackets after the answer.

1. one day [2b]
2. garden wire; wire coat hanger [2b]
3. Hang him from a tree or tie him to a stake in the ground. [2b]
4. Any of the following: tin cans, lids, plastic, card, foil [2b]
5. They help the reader know which order to do things in./They make it easier to see what has to be done in order [2f]
6. CDs [2b]
7. warning/danger [2d]
8. It helps because you can see what you've got and you can decide what bits will go where so that you don't make a mistake. [2d]
9. the figure's head [2b]
10. To keep birds off plants. [2d]



Assessment

The children are secure in their ability to retrieve information if they think about clues in the question to help them look for appropriate words or phrases in the passage. For example, question 1 asks "How long?", so they are looking for a number or quantity.

They are able to make inferences effectively if they make connections between two or more pieces of information and if they are able to link graphics and text.

The children are able to understand how content is related if they can identify how a non-fiction text is organised, and understand why this is.

Next steps

Encourage the children to think about, and be aware of, the purpose of texts when they read. Discuss how they read non-fiction texts, e.g. is it always linear (top to bottom, left to right)? If not, why not? Discuss how 'signposts' such as headings and sub-headings help the reader to know how to read most effectively.

Explore the use of images and visuals in non-fiction. Explore how they add to understanding of the main text.

Check that the children are aware of, and can use, a number of strategies and techniques to skim and scan non-fiction texts effectively, e.g. skimming by reading the first and last lines of paragraphs; scanning by visualising key words and phrases, and reading down the centre of the page to pick up those key words.