



12 Days Wild is a winter nature challenge created by The Wildlife Trusts, where everyone is encouraged to do one wild thing every day from 25<sup>th</sup> December to 5<sup>th</sup> January (inclusive). It is a great way to engage with nature over the holidays. Here are some activities you could do together over the 12 days:

- Go for a walk in the park and identify 3 different birds.
  - Make your own bird feeder.
  - Enjoy the puddles on a rainy day.
- Make a winter wreath and hang it on your door.
- Look under a log or in some leaves; find out about any minibeasts you see.
  - Decorate a tree with natural resources.
- Listen to the birds and learn to identify one bird song.
  - Make some ice decorations for outside.
  - Put some water outside for wildlife to drink.
- Watch a squirrel and find out what it is doing and where it is going.
  - Go star gazing on a clear night.
- Choose one way that you and your family will help nature this the new year.

Some of the idea sheets are attached. For more ideas, please visit:

<https://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activities>

It would be great to see what you do, so please send photos to the office or your child's key person. If you want to find out more about the challenge and would like to sign up, please click on the QR code below:



There are also ideas about how to have an eco-friendly festive season. Let us do all we can to reuse, reduce and recycle, and to look for sustainable alternatives both at this time and throughout the coming year.



Let's go

# 12 Days Wild

Use this wallchart to log  
your daily activities as you  
complete them or plan your  
12 days in advance.



You can even get creative with  
your entries – draw, paint and  
stick on your wild findings  
throughout the festive break.



25<sup>th</sup> December

26<sup>th</sup> December

27<sup>th</sup> December

28<sup>th</sup> December

29<sup>th</sup> December

30<sup>th</sup> December

31<sup>st</sup> December

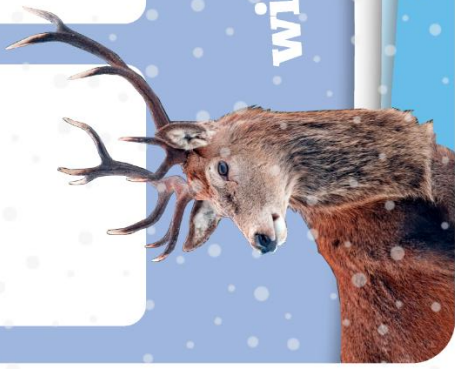
1<sup>st</sup> January

2<sup>nd</sup> January

3<sup>rd</sup> January

4<sup>th</sup> January

5<sup>th</sup> January



For more wild ideas head to  
[wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild](http://wildlifetrusts.org/12dayswild)

Make sure to share your  
photos on social media using  
**#12DaysWild**









# How to go stargazing

wildlife watch

Read up on all the super interesting mythology and folklore surrounding the stars in our sky!

You don't need a telescope to see the beauty of the night sky...

## How to prepare

- 1 The first step is making sure to dress appropriately. It can get really cold at night so go wild with the layers!
- 2 Don't forget the essentials. You'll need something to lie on, like a picnic blanket, and also a compass so you know which way you're looking.
- 3 The non-essentials will make it an extra special evening: take a flask of hot chocolate and some snacks too. You could even take out a sketchpad, so you can draw what you see.
- 4 If you have a smartphone, download a stargazing app to help you pinpoint constellations. Remember to turn it, and any other lights, off when you're ready to stargaze. It takes some time for your eyes to adjust to the darkness.

## What to look out for

- 1 Watching the sunset is a magical start to any stargazing adventure.
- 2 If you're really lucky you might see a shooting star - don't forget to make a wish!
- 3 Look for constellations. One of the classics is Orion's Belt. Look towards the southwest and try to spot three bright stars close together, and then two stars to the north and to the south.
- 4 Canis Major (it means greater dog in Latin) is another constellation to look out for and is found down and to the left of Orion's Belt. It should be easy to spot as it includes Sirius, the brightest star in the sky!
- 5 Keep an eye out for satellites. These will be slowly moving across the sky and not flashing.

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Illustration: Catherine Welch © Copyright: Royal Society of Wildlife Trainers 2022

# How to make ice decorations

wildlife watch

You will need:

- Saucers
- Kettle
- Boiled water that has been allowed to cool
- Natural items like leaves, feathers, berries and grass
- String or wool
- A freezer (if the weather isn't cold enough!)

- 1 Place your saucers on a flat surface and put the end of your string into the saucer, making sure a long piece is left dangling over the edge.
- 2 Lay natural items in the saucer over the string.
- 3 Gently pour in cooled water (boiling it first helps to remove any bubbles).

- 4 Put the saucers outside on a frosty night (or in the freezer).

- 5 In the morning put the saucers in a tub of cold water to separate the ice.

- 6 Hang them around your garden as decorations.

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Illustration: Catherine Welch © Copyright: Royal Society of Wildlife Trainers 2015



# How to make eco-crackers



## You will need

- Brown paper or recyclable wrapping paper (A4 size)
- Scissors
- Toilet roll tube
- Cracker snaps
- Double-sided tape
- Ruler
- String
- Plastic-free goodies to go inside

- Put your toilet roll tube in the middle of your paper, as shown:
- Put a cracker snap through the middle of the tube along with any eco-friendly presents you want in your cracker. Perhaps you could handwrite a joke or a wildlife fact!
- Roll the paper around the tube and secure using tape.
- Twist the paper at one end of your cracker carefully and then secure it with string. Repeat this for the other end of your cracker too.

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk ← For more activity ideas

# Make a glitter-free snow globe



## You will need

- A glass jar with a lid
- Unused small Christmas decorations
- Craft glue
- White tissue paper, cotton wool or moss
- White paint and long brush
- Decorations from nature
- Pine cones
- Holly leaves
- Acorns

- Traditionally, glitter is made up of shiny microplastics that are really damaging to the environment and animals, especially in our seas. Try this glitter-free snow globe for an eco-friendly alternative!
- Paint tiny white dots on the inside of your jar to imitate snow, then put aside to dry.
  - On the inside of your jar lid, glue down crumpled-up tissue paper or cotton wool to look like snow, or try dried moss for a natural look.
  - Glue your decorations on top of the 'snow' or moss. This is where you can get creative!
  - Screw your lid back onto the jar, and turn upside down to create a snow globe decoration!

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk ← For more activity ideas

# Have an eco-Christmas



Save any Christmas cards and cut them up to use as tags for next year.

## PRESENTS

- Try making gifts yourself! From knitting a scarf to baking a batch of cookies, there are lots of fantastic presents you can DIY.
- Buy presents from shops that make their products in an ethical and sustainable way – just like The Wildlife Trusts store.
- Think quality not quantity: having a family Secret Santa means you don't have to buy for everyone and helps to create less waste.
- Avoid non-recyclable wrapping paper by using brown paper and brown paper tape. Better yet, go for a reusable option like a bag or a box.

## FOOD

- Plan your meals so food doesn't go to waste. Leftovers can make some of the tastiest meals!
- Shop local. Are there ingredients for your Christmas dinner that you can source from local farms or shops?
- Compost your vegetable waste.
- Try out some veggie and vegan alternatives to cut down on meat and dairy.

## DECORATIONS

- If you already have a cupboard full of sparkly Christmas decorations, make sure to reuse them.
- Instead of plastic tinsel, try using bunting, pinecones, or popcorn tinsel instead.
- Avoid buying Christmas crackers that contain plastic toys. You might want to try making your own using toilet roll tubes instead. Writing your own jokes is the best bit!

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk

# How to make eco-decorations



## DRIED ORANGE GARLAND

### You will need

- Oranges
- String
- Scissors
- Cinnamon sticks (optional)

- Get a grown-up to help you thinly slice an orange and then dry it out in the oven heated to 140°C for 45 minutes. Put a small hole in the middle of the slice while it's drying it out.
- When the slices are fully dry, thread the string through the orange slices, tying a knot between each one.
- If you want, you can tie in cinnamon sticks between each slice.

## PINE CONE GARLAND

### You will need

- Pinecones
- String
- Scissors

- Carefully shake your pinecones outside to get rid of any minibeasts, clean them and let them dry out.
- Cut string into 25cm pieces and wrap one around the base of each pinecone.
- Then cut a longer piece of string for the garland – tie each of your pinecones onto this.

## TWIG STAR DECORATIONS

### You will need

- Twigs (five per star)
- String

- Choose five twigs of equal length.
- Tie the ends of the twigs together with string.
- Tie the end of your final twig to the free end of your first twig, and twist into a star shape.

\*one orange should make one garland

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk ← For more activity ideas