



Sock Garden

1 hour | Summer/Autumn | Outdoor

Did you know that seeds can travel? Some fly in the wind, others travel in the guts of animals that eat them and some hitchhike on animals that pass by. They even latch onto your socks when you walk through a meadow. Let's plant them and see what grows!

Let's gather:

- old pair of socks large enough to put on over your shoes
- magnifying glass (optional)
- paper and pencil
- pot
- finished, finely sifted compost to fill the pot



Let's get started:

- 1 Find an open meadow with lots of grasses and other plants that you can walk through.
- 2 Put a pair of old socks on over your shoes. Make sure your legs and arms are covered to avoid tick bites.
- 3 Walk through the meadow, letting your socks brush against lots of different plants.
- 4 Check your socks for seeds. Once you have quite a few seeds stuck to your socks, take the socks off carefully, leaving the seeds attached. Head home. To stay safe, ask an adult to check for any ticks.
- 5 Look closely at your seeds, using a magnifying glass if you have one. Can you see how they attached to your socks? Are they sticky? Do they have small hooks?
- 6 Draw pictures of some of the seeds before planting them so that you can remember what they looked like.
- 7 Fill a pot with compost about 2 in (5 cm) from the top of the pot, leaving room for the sock.
- 8 Lay the sock on top of the compost and cover with another 1.5 in (4 cm) of compost.
- 9 Water the seeds and see what grows.

Let the plants grow until they produce their own seeds, then see if you can match your seed pictures to the plants that grow!

