



50 THINGS FOR KIDS TO DO

We would love you to enjoy all the playful mystery and magic of the plant world at the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria. You can help us care for the plants and animals, too.

At **Melbourne Gardens** you can discover 10,000 different plants from all over the world and explore all the secret nooks and crannies of the garden, while you...

While you're having fun exploring nature, please take care not to hurt yourself or any other living thing!



Try these activities on for size!

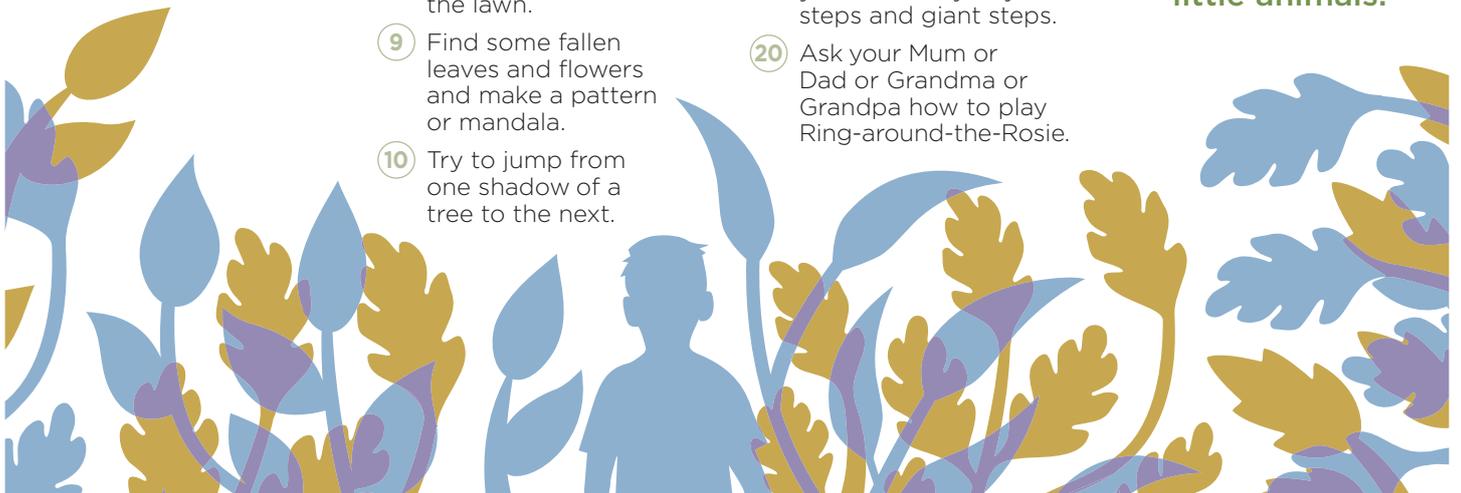
Do them all through the year or take years to do all of them!

Tick them off or colour them in as you complete them.



- ① Lie under a tree and look up into the canopy. Pretend you are a possum running along the branch.
- ② Spot as many eels in the lake as you can. What do you think their names are?
- ③ Watch butterflies in spring and summer. Can you move like a butterfly?
- ④ Find shapes in plants and faces in trees...
- ⑤ Close your eyes and listen to the wind rustle through the trees. What else can you hear?
- ⑥ Play hide and seek behind the big trees on Oak Lawn.
- ⑦ Lie down on the lawn on your tummy, smell the grass and watch out for little creatures walking through their grass jungle.
- ⑧ Investigate the ducks on the lake, mimic their calls and make a little nest for them of fallen leaves on the lawn.
- ⑨ Find some fallen leaves and flowers and make a pattern or mandala.
- ⑩ Try to jump from one shadow of a tree to the next.
- ⑪ Make up your own story about the garden. Imagine what happens here on a moonlit night...
- ⑫ Count how many colours you can see in the leaves in the Tropical Glasshouse.
- ⑬ Find a leaf or petal in the shape of a love heart. What other shapes can you find?
- ⑭ Balance a leaf or twig or stone on your head.
- ⑮ Visit Long Island to look for the bellbirds and listen out for their call.
- ⑯ Count the cacti around Guilfoyle's Volcano.
- ⑰ Look for fallen acorns on Oak Lawn in summer. Do their tiny cases fit on your fingers?
- ⑱ Find a pet rock and set up a rock picnic for it (using stones, leaves and twigs).
- ⑲ Feel the grass under your feet - try tiny steps and giant steps.
- ⑳ Ask your Mum or Dad or Grandma or Grandpa how to play Ring-around-the-Rosie.
- ㉑ Find out how many smells you can discover in the Herb Garden. Rub the leaves gently to release their oils.
- ㉒ Lie on your back and watch the clouds. What shapes can you see?
- ㉓ Play follow the leader, but an insect is your leader!
- ㉔ Practise your cartwheels on the lawn area.
- ㉕ Pretend you are a dinosaur roaming through Fern Gully.

Please don't pick any parts of the plants, climb the trees or tread on the garden beds and remember to use your eyes not your fingers when observing little animals.





ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS VICTORIA

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At **Cranbourne Gardens** you can discover the bushland and the amazing Australian Garden, with over 170,000 Australian plants, while you...

And when you go home you can play in your garden or the local park or the natural world beyond!

- 1 Climb to the top of the Climbing Web at the Woodland Picnic Area.
- 2 Spin a Rain Wheel fast and slow in the Dry River Bed.
- 3 Create your own Stick Sculpture.
- 4 Pretend you are a dinosaur in the Gondwana Garden.
- 5 Make an animal burrow in the Desert Discovery Camp.
- 6 Create your own story about the garden.
- 7 See if you can find a Southern Brown Bandicoot hiding in the garden.
- 8 Find the Red Watering Cans.
- 9 Talk to a Garden Ambassador at the Garden Shed and ask them about Australian plants.
- 10 Paddle barefoot in the Rockpool Waterway – between the flags.
- 11 Find the tallest tree in the Australian Garden.
- 12 Follow the maze in the Squiggly Gum Garden.
- 13 Hug a tree with smooth bark. Press your cheek against the bark.
- 14 Make bush music on the Sonic Tree Trunks in the Forest Garden.
- 15 Draw the Gynea Lily in flower.
- 16 Make a Magic Wand from a stick you found in the bushland.
- 17 Measure yourself on the flood marker in the Dry River Bed.
- 18 Race leaves down the Rockpool Waterway.
- 19 Make a seed-pod collection (only collect from the ground).
- 20 Dance in the Angophora Fingers with a friend.
- 21 Play shadow puppets in the sun on the rocks in the Weird and Wonderful Garden.
- 22 Hunt for animal poo, burrows and diggings in the bushland.
- 23 Hunt for footprints at the Desert Discovery Camp.
- 24 Sniff out the best smell in the Peppermint Garden.
- 25 Look for a blue flower.
- 1 Go into the garden at night and look for nocturnal animals and insects.
- 2 Find a dark, shady spot. What does it feel and smell like?
- 3 Collect different types of seed-pods.
- 4 Create a headpiece with bits and pieces from nature (staple them onto a paper headband).
- 5 Find a seed and plant it – watch it grow.
- 6 Make a living wigwam from beans growing up canes.
- 7 Pretend to be a seed and grow from the Earth.
- 8 Copy the sound of birds you can hear.
- 9 Make a mini waterfall into a pond.
- 10 Follow an ant trail. See where they are going and what they are doing.
- 11 Press some leaves or flowers between the pages of a book, then make greeting cards with them after they have dried.
- 12 Investigate when flowers open and close – take pictures!
- 13 Make a daisy chain.
- 14 Watch for the phases of the Moon. Why not draw each phase with the day's date?
- 15 Lie on your back on the lawn and stargaze. Spot a constellation.
- 16 Create your own rain-dance.
- 17 Build your own musical bush instrument using leaves, sticks and seed-pods.
- 18 Catch rain on your tongue.
- 19 Ride your bike along the pathways of your nearest reserve.
- 20 Make little houses from leaves and twigs for a creature or fairy.
- 21 Dance in the rain on a warm day.
- 22 Have a Sunflower growing competition.
- 23 Go on a mini-beast safari, try and see how many you can find. Remember to use your eyes and not your fingers and never trap them.
- 24 Design your own racecourse or obstacle circuit, and race your friends and family.
- 25 Make a rock tower.



**KIDS
IN NATURE
NETWORK**
reconnecting kids to nature

VICTORIA
State
Government

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