

Resources Booklet



The Federation of Children's Book Groups
Charity No. 268289

National Non-fiction November 2026



Federation of Children's Book Groups

info@fcbg.org.uk

For the NNFN Book List in full and competition
submission details: www.fcbg.org.uk/nnfn



Reading is an Adventure

This year's theme is 'Reading is an Adventure'. It will encourage children and young people to use non-fiction books in the outside world – not just to read them, but to use the information in a more practical way.

The competition this year will be for children and young people to record their adventure with their book either in a diary entry or a poster for younger children, or for older children they can submit a mini-documentary style video (2 minutes maximum). The book that inspired the adventure must be mentioned in the submission piece. The winning entries will receive a bundle of age-appropriate books and a certificate. Visit our website for submission links and further information.

This resource booklet was created to help you create engaging activities for children and young people to celebrate reading non-fiction. These are suggestions relating to the book list and general activities that could be used at home or in school.

Contact nnfn@fcbg.org.uk for any questions or support with this booklet. If you post about your activities or events that you do for Non-Fiction November, do tag @fcbg_news or feel free to send photos to nnfn@fcbg.org.uk for sharing in our monthly members' newsletter, UpdaTed.

Guide for Activity Ages

These are just recommendations - you are more than welcome to use any activity for any age group!

Any Age - Adaptable for different ages

Younger Children
(KS1 - Aged 3-7)

Middle Grade Activities
(KS2 - Aged 7-11)

Older Children
(KS3/4 - Aged 11-16)



Adventures with Bugs

Read a book about bugs then....

Make your own bingo card

With the bugs you learn about from the book. Take the bingo card to the local park or woody area and try get three in a row!

Make a Bug House or a Bug Sky Scraper!

Search for bugs in your garden, then look them up in the books - make a bug hotel for them to live in! Use sticks, twigs, natural materials inside a shoebox. You can be incredibly creative with this!

Create a Bee Friendly Garden

After reading books like 'Buzz', create a B-Zone at home or in school. Find out about the plants that Bees really like to have around, like lavender and wildflowers. (Prep and plant to see the results come Spring!)

Create a Field Guide to Local Invertebrates

Take children on a nature walk with a notebook, pencil, and magnifying glass or phone camera. Have them document every bug they find — drawing it, noting the location, date, and habitat. Back home, they can research each creature with bug books and compile a professional-looking field guide with scientific names, facts, and photos.

Why not use the companion book to Nature Guide and try Nature Spotter Minibeasts to go on a bug hunt!

ISBN: 9781526698445



Bug Sensory Bin - a fun search and find activity!

Fill a shallow container with rice, dried lentils, or sand. Hide plastic insects or printed bug pictures inside. Children can dig, scoop, and sort the bugs using small cups and spoons. Add a magnifying glass for extra excitement.

Become an artist

Find a bug to draw and do your own interpretation of it in the style of the illustrator of the book that you read. Be inspired by the illustrations of the book or create your own style!

Insect Life Cycle Dioramas

Children create 3D model showing the life cycle of an insect — for example, a butterfly from egg to caterpillar to chrysalis to adult. They can use clay, natural materials, or recycled items to model each stage and create the habitat.

Organise a Bug-Themed Art Exhibition

Children create art inspired by bugs using various mediums — painting, sculpture, collage, or digital art. They can focus on insect anatomy, camouflage patterns, or imaginary bug creatures. The art is displayed with labels explaining the bug species or concepts behind each piece. There are many artists that the children can draw inspiration from.

Build a Bug-Themed Obstacle Course

Children design and build an outdoor obstacle course inspired by bug habitats and behaviors. For example, they can crawl through a “tunnel” like a burrowing beetle, hop across “lily pads” like a dragonfly, or balance on a “twig” like an ant. This combines physical activity with bug knowledge - would be great for larger events hosted with book groups/playgroups!

Adventures with Bugs

Online Resources

The RSPB website has lots of downloadable activity instructions about bugs. Find things like making a potato trap to see what bugs are in your soil, making a bottle bug catcher - the full kit to find and identify bugs in your local area!

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/go-on-a-bug-safari>

Explore the collection of educational resources relating to Insect Week and entomology from the Royal Entomological Society - so many activities for home, schools and library spaces that could be used to inspire children and young people

<https://www.insectweek.org/learning-resources/>

<https://www.royensoc.co.uk/learning-resources-media-pack/>

Recipes!

Bug Cupcakes



<https://www.oetker.co.uk/recipes/r/bug-cupcakes>

Butterfly cakes



https://www.bbc.co.uk/food/recipes/how_to_make_fairy_cakes_45428

Bugs on a Log

Use celery, soft cheese, and raisins to make bugs on a log as a healthy snack!

Get creative - change the raisins for small tomatoes to make a caterpillar, apple slices to make a snail with a blueberry for the head. There are so many combinations to have!

Basic Salt Dough Recipe - use this to make your own 3D Bugs from your book!

- Combine 3 cups of plain flour and 1 cup of table salt in a large bowl.
- Pour in 1 cup of cold water slowly while stirring until it forms a dough.
- Knead the mixture with your hands for about 10 minutes until it feels smooth and firm like clay.
- Make your creation!
- Place your finished creation on baking paper and bake in the oven on its lowest setting (around 100°C / 200°F) for 1-1 hour 30 minutes until completely solid.
- Paint with acrylic paints and seal with a clear craft varnish

Inspired by [The Make and Play blog post](#)



Don't forget to enter our competition!
See fcbg.org.uk/nfn for more information

Adventures with Animals

Read a book about animals then....

Write your own animal poem

Be creative with the information from the book that you read that inspired it. Maybe even write from the perspective of the animal and do a 'day in the life'

Create an Animal Profile Card

Give the child a piece of paper divided into four sections. Ask them to pick their favorite animal from the book and draw it in one section. In the other sections, they can write (or dictate to an adult) three facts about the animal, such as what it eats, where it lives, and how big it is.

Feather Detective

Take children outside to collect fallen feathers and examine them with a magnifying glass. Try tearing them apart to see how the barbs hook together, then sort them by color, size, or texture. Use bird books to try to identify who the feathers belong to.

Become a Zoologist

Pick an animal from the non-fiction that you read -research the species and learn more about them. Go into more depth and make a booklet about it. Maybe even present what you find in a TedTalk style presentation!

Create your own animal language

Inspired by animal communication, create your own animal language for an imaginary animal (perhaps a unicorn?). Think about what they would sound like or what they would talk about! Make it into a game where other children have to guess the animal.

"Build Your Own Ecosystem" Collage

Similar to the Nature books on our list, why not make your own ecosystem in a collage. Have magazines, newspapers, or printouts to cut out pictures/prints of plants, animals, and landscapes to arrange your own ecosystem. This could be an imaginary ecosystem or one from your local area.

Make your own Top Trumps cards

With the animals that you learn about. Rate them out of survival instinct, speed, population size, or anything else that you think would work for the animals that you have chosen. You could do a mix of animals or focus on the endangered ones - or even create them based on the animals from 'Rebel Animals at Risk' from the book list.

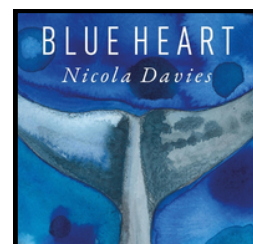
Salt Dough Animal Prints

Use the salt dough recipe (on previous page) to make your own animal footprints to put on display with a museum-style information card with the facts from the book that you read. Brilliant for a class activity!

Natural Architects Challenge

With a focus on how animals help with nature, children could build their own structure inspired by animals from the book that they read. They could make miniature structures out of natural or recycled materials.

Be inspired by the artistry of Blue Heart - make a 3D model of a whale. Use tissue paper, cotton wool, dark blue card, paints, bubble wrap - anything!



Adventures in Nature

Read a book about nature then....

Become Royalty

Make a nature crown out of what nature left behind - fallen leaves, twigs - whatever you can find! Use nature books to learn about what these items used to be.

Become a Storyteller

Organise an event where young people can share stories/information about forests that they read. They can write their own stories inspired by the information or even retell myths and legends about nature from different cultures.

Nature Journal

Encourage children to keep a nature journal where they sketch, write, or photograph their observations of trees, plants, and animals. Use *The Secrets of Trees* and *Under the Starlit Sky* as references for what to look for in their journals.

Go for an Woodland Alphabet Walk

After reading picture books based in nature, go on a woodland walk and play the alphabet game. Find a piece of nature for every letter of the alphabet, encouraging younger children to learn vocabulary and for older children to practice observation skills.

Start your own Rewilding project

This could be done at school, home or with your local group. Read up on how to rewild step by step, make small steps to add new nature to your area. Children can plant seeds, bulbs, visit local green spaces and get involved with your community hubs.

Tree Detective

Use *The Secrets of Trees* and *We the Forest* to create a scavenger hunt where children identify different types of trees, leaves, and forest creatures. Provide a checklist with simple drawings or descriptions to guide their exploration.

Explore the Layers of the Forest

Create a poster of a tree or plant inspired by the layers of the forest. Perhaps make the poster have 'lift the flaps' to really show the layers! Include all of the layers of the undergrowth (including the bugs!)

Build a Mini Forest

Inspired by *The Wild* by Yuval Zommer, children can create their own mini forest using recycled materials like cardboard, paper, and natural items (twigs, leaves). Encourage them to include animals and plants from the books.



A Guide to Plants for Little Withlings is filled to the brim with activities and creative things to make and do. Making 'potions', growing your own plants - browse through the book to find out more!

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Adventures with People

Read a book about inspirational people then...

Design your own Legendary Character

Create a witch or wizard inspired by the book's stories. Draw their portrait, write a short backstory, and describe their magical powers or abilities.

Scroll Spell Craft

Make a scroll using tea-stained paper, then write a "spell" or mythical incantation on it. Roll it up and tie it with ribbon for an authentic look.

Ocean Activities

Fill a clear plastic bottle with water, blue food coloring, glitter (for "sand"), and small plastic sea creatures. Seal the lid tightly and shake to create an ocean scene, or even make your own mermaid crown using shiny materials and scavenged sea shells! - inspired by 'Mermaid of the Deep'

Be the Change

For the ultimate challenge - start your own local campaign to inspire real-world-action. Teenagers could gather their friends for a local park or beach clean-up, make positive changes at school like recycling bins. You could be inspired by 'Superheros' and make a journal of Future Dreams.

Storytime Activities

Read a book about an adventurer and ask the children to act out the adventure afterwards and involve it with playtime. Make your own adventure map based on the inspirational people you read about.

Creative Diary Entry

Write as if you were one of the inspirational people from the book that you read. Describe a day in the life or one of their adventures.

Legendary Retelling

Pick one witch or wizard from the book and retell their story in your own words. Focus on the cultural origins and unique elements of their legend. Perhaps research a local myth or legend in the style of 'The Great Book of Legendary Witches and Wizards'

Hold an Earth Hero Day

Inspired by 'Earth Heroes', hold an Earth Hero day where you dress up as an environmental hero. Maybe complete mini challenges to help the environment like a litter pick around school, bringing awareness to recycling.

Positive Change Posters

Use recycled materials to make a positive change poster. Use magazines and newspapers for text, and the images from old encyclopedias/magazines. If in a school - make a display along with the books that inspired you.

What would YOU do if you lived long ago?

This could be a creative writing or drawing prompt inspired by 'Footprints'. Make a poster, design your own prehistoric tools, or even design your own cave painting. Maybe even use chalks on a wall to make your design reality! Make handprints on a long paper to display, or even build your own cave dwelling

Adventure Journal

Keep a shared journal to record small adventures (e.g., a bike ride, trying a new food, solving a problem). Include drawings, photos, or stickers. Make your own personal adventure journal with travel tickets or collect interesting things from your day and make a scrapbook.



Adventures in Places

Project: Mission Space

Research a real or fictional space mission (e.g., a mission to Europa, a lunar base, or a Mars colony). Write a proposal outlining the goals, challenges, and technology needed. Maybe run it as a competition in secondary schools for the science team to judge!

Map your own adventure

Be like Martha and map your own adventure with doodles and labels. Ask children to share them with each other to see what kind of adventures that they get up to!

Make your own Science Display

Before going to a science museum, why not use 'The Wonder of Life on Earth' to make your own evolution timeline to show how life has changed over time. You could also make a poster about the different time periods mentioned in the book.

Shipwreck Escape Room

Create an escape room with shipwreck-themed puzzles (e.g., decode a message in a bottle, solve a math problem to open a treasure chest, match artifacts to their shipwreck). Work in teams to solve the puzzles and "escape" the room. Perfect for a school library setting - maybe use books relating to shipwrecks as clues or for children to use the information in to books to solve the puzzles.



The Young Explorers Series are adventures in themselves! Follow the route around the destination for a fun adventure. Maybe make your own whistle-stop tour of your local area in the same style to share with others!

Plan a trip to an area of conservation

Be inspired by 'Wilding' and visit a local conservation or wilding project. Be inspired to make your own wilding area at home or in school.

Make your own Cosmic Cruise

Make your own model of a spaceship for your own cosmic cruise! Design your own space rooms by either drawing them or making a 3D model.

Visit your nearest historic dockyard

This is the perfect follow up to reading 'The Shipwreck Atlas'. Visit the local dockyard or seaside museum to learn about the nautical history of the place you live in. Find out the local legends near you!

Shipwreck Diorama

Use a shoebox or cardboard tray to create a mini shipwreck scene. Paint the box blue for the ocean, add sand (glued-down paper or real sand), and include toy ships, divers, or sea creatures. Label parts of the shipwreck (e.g., "mast," "treasure chest," "coral"). See the next page for a materials list and guide.

Don't forget to enter our competition!

Create a poster, diary entry or a short 2 minute video of the 'adventure' that you took with your non-fiction book.

See fcbg.org.uk/nnfn for more information and submission details.



Make your own Wilding Zone: Simple Bird Feeder



Activity: Create a bird feeder using a pinecone, peanut butter, and birdseed to attract birds and observe wildlife. Perfect for younger children (ages 5–8), but can be adapted for all ages!

Time Needed: 15–20 minutes

Materials Needed:

- Pinecone (or a toilet paper roll, small plastic cup, or cardboard tube)
- Peanut butter (or sunflower seed butter for nut-free options)
- Birdseed (mixed seeds work best)
- String, yarn, or twine (for hanging)
- Butter knife or popsicle stick (for spreading)
- Plate or tray (to catch mess)

Steps

1. Tie a string to the pinecone (so you can hang it later).
2. Spread peanut butter/sunflower butter all over the pinecone with your knife.
3. Roll the pinecone in birdseed until it's covered.
4. Hang it outside on a tree branch or hook.
5. Watch the birds eat! 🐦

Share any of your creations with nfn@fcbg.org.uk You might see them in UpdaTed!

Materials list for Shipwreck Model

Base for your shipwreck (choose one):

- A shallow cardboard box lid (e.g., shoebox lid)
- A wooden board or foam tray
- A baking tray or plastic container

Shipwreck pieces (pick what you have):

- Cardboard (for the ship's hull, masts, and deck)
- Toothpicks or skewers (for masts, ropes, or broken parts)
- Tin foil (for metal parts like cannons or anchors)
- Ice lolly sticks (for planks, railings, or broken pieces)
- Twine or string (for ropes, rigging, or seaweed)
- Hot glue gun or strong glue (or tape for younger kids)
- Paint and a brush
- Sand, gravel, or small pebbles (for the ocean floor)
- Blue cellophane or tissue paper (for water)
- Small toys or figures (optional: for divers, sea creatures, or treasure)

Cut out the ship pieces from the cardboard, be incredibly creative with the 'trimmings' - break up the ship or cut holes in the hull. Use the lolly sticks as planks, the string to make rigging - then go wild on the paints and use the pebbles/sand for the sea floor of the model!

Adventures at Home

All of the books on the 'Adventures at Home' section of the list have so many amazing activities ready made for your adventures at home.

- How to Do Everything - so many different activities that can be done in an afternoon, brilliant for a rainy day. Highlights; Make a compass, build a mini catapult, create a secret code, make a solar oven, even whistle with grass!
- Magical Miniature Worlds - make your own terrarium! From prehistoric worlds, to aliens, then adventure into a fairy garden. These will take a while to make and require dedication if using live plants.
- Handbook of Forgotten Skills Outdoors - every single page is an outdoor adventure. Make a water filter, learn how to pitch a tent, track animals, create natural rope, learn how to navigate, whittle a wooden tool - the list is endless!
- How to Grow a Garden - has a guide to plants on every page with a how-to guide to help a child grow their own. You will need a basic gardening kit - hand spade, a dibber (garden tool for planting), nursery pots, compost, and most importantly seeds!
- 50 Fantastic Ideas for Mud Kitchens - one for the adults to help create adventures for their young children. This book has many step-by-step instructions on how to create a brilliant playspace for young children.

**If you post on social media your creations -
make sure to use #nnfn2026 and
@fcbg_news so that we can share it, or
email it into nnfn@fcbg.org.uk**



General Activities for NNFN Celebration

This page contains activities that are generic and can be applied to any non-fiction book, as well as any book/theme from the book list.

Book Tasting

Gather a variety of non-fiction books on a table and have each child quickly pick one. Set a timer for two minutes, then swap books. Repeat this process for a few rounds, allowing children to browse different titles, and finally ask each participant to choose the book that appealed to them most and share why they made their choice.

Make your own Non-fiction book

Ask the children to complete a research project using only non-fiction books, not the internet. They can make a booklet or a poster to display. You can hold this as an afternoon activity with the Book Groups, bring non-fiction from your local library to help.

You could make the information booklet in the shape of the topic that you are learning about eg. make it look like a castle for information about a castle. An accordion book - continuous paper, folded like an accordion. Children can track their journey of information as each paper folds in - use tape or glue to make it as long as you need it to be. There are many different ways of making a book - do look this up on papercraft websites.

Design your own adventure

Works best in a school setting - make different workstations with a drawing/writing/creative making prompt and a non-fiction book. Children will then rotate around the room, learning from different books and collecting their own 'adventure sheets' to 'escape' the room. The child would have to collect all 4 (or however many you decide!) activities in order to complete the challenge.

Host a Non-fiction Book Swap

Children bring their favourite non-fiction books to share with friends or classmates. They can write a short recommendation on a card or sticky note, explaining why they liked the book. This promotes sharing and helps children discover new topics through peer recommendations.

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