



PolliNation Activity Pack

Let your imagination blossom! Here are five creative activities to make flower inspired artwork.

Consider showcasing the artwork at **Royal Docks Originals** 2025 this September. See submission details on last page of this pack.

Inspired by Graphic Rewilding's new mural at Royal Victoria children will:

- Learn about the important role of pollinators, biodiversity and green spaces
- Explore different flowers, colours, shapes and sizes and how they relate to their pollinators
- Express themselves through craft techniques like printing, clay and collage
- Discover the fascinating history of protest in the Royal Docks.

Each project is designed to explore a specific theme and includes guided questions for use during sessions for reflection and discussion.

- Start by setting the scene to introduce the activity.
- Present the inspiring work of **Graphic Rewilding**.
- Play the artist short video.
- Take a moment to explain the story behind their vibrant mural.



Blue Sunset mural by Graphic Rewilding at Royal Victoria. Why not visit the mural with your class to see the flowers chosen by local people.

Take inspiration from local green spaces

Discover flowers and pollinators ahead of, or as part of the creative sessions? Here are some wild spaces you may want to visit:

Canning Town: Keir Hardie Recreation Ground

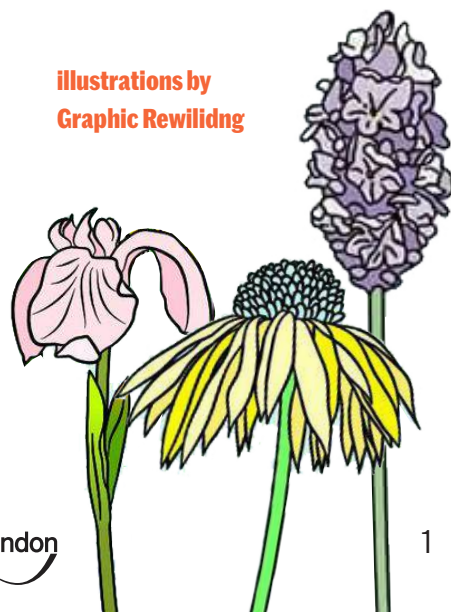
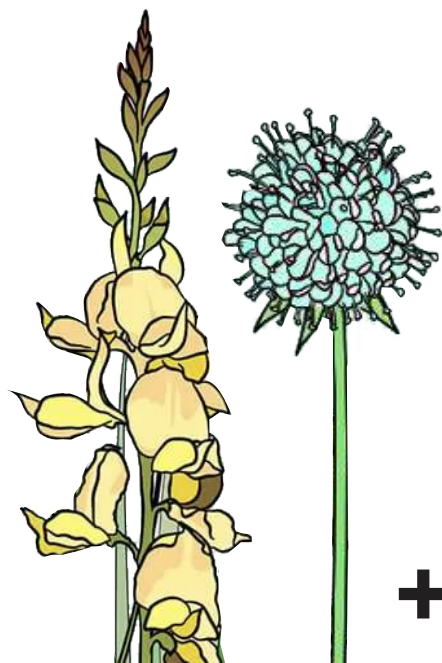
Custom House: Cundy Park, Canning Town Recreation Ground

Gallions Reach and Beckton: Beckton Park, Beckton Woods

North Woolwich: Royal Victoria Gardens

Royal Victoria: Royal Docks Floating Garden

Silvertown: Thames Barrier Park, Lyle Park



illustrations by
Graphic Rewilding

Introducing Royal Docks Originals 2025

A brand-new Autumn festival from London's Cultural Engine, featuring world-class art, spectacular installations and live performances. This festival's theme, 'transformation', celebrates the area's rich past, present and exciting future.

More than 50 events running for 3 weeks from 15 September will see the docks buzzing with activities. We are inviting local schools and our youngest residents to join **Pollination** and to offer their contributions to the festival celebration.

Graphic Rewilding

As part of the public art series Graphic Rewilding were selected by a local panel to create a vibrant artwork inspired by the community. Their signature flora-filled mural *Blue Sunset* now blooms across the Pump House wall, next to Royal Victoria DLR, welcoming residents, commuters and visitors with a burst of colour and a nod to the nature that thrives in the local area.

Pollination Activity Pack

Created by local illustrator Matt Ponting this pack inspired by Graphic Rewilding's mural, invites school children to create their own flower-themed artwork for the Royal Docks Originals festival.

All activities are to be undertaken in the summer term, led by teachers and will take between 90 mins and 2 hours to complete.



Graphic Rewilding artwork can be seen around the world.

How to use this activity pack

This pack consists of five activities to help teachers deliver art sessions inspired by the mural and local nature.

1. Video: 1-minute video for children from Graphic Rewilding artist Catherine Borowski which explains why they made the artwork, and the importance of rewilding and green spaces.

2. Creative activities: Teachers can choose from five activities.

3. On completion: Artwork created can be submitted to Royal Docks Originals festival before the end of term.

4. Info & discussion points: A short introduction to the history of the Royal Docks and local nature is included. There are questions for teachers to ask children.



Flowers in art

You will find context slides in each of the presentations relating to the activities, with images to view and print.

Artists have always been inspired by flowers.

Vincent Van Gogh painted one of the most famous artworks in the world, a still-life vase of sunflowers. **Georgia O'Keefe** created huge colourful flowers that make you think you're the size of a pollinator peering into the petals. **David Hockney** paints the blossom in trees on his iPad to record the changing seasons, and **Yinka Ilori** who created the giant chair sculptures outside the Good Hotel at Royal Victoria Docks, uses bright, bold, colourful flower patterns in his designs.



"Jimson Weed/White Flower No. 1" Georgia O'Keefe.

Botanical flowers

for flower painting (page 7)



Watercolour print of grape hyacinth, 1929.

From as early as the 15th century watercolour illustrations have been used to observe nature and as scientific reference - detailing all parts of the plants to help identify them and to show how they change through the seasons.

Wild bees in decline

for poster making (page 9)



A bumblebee enjoying Beckton Meadows.

A third of British wild bees and hoverflies are in decline and almost one in ten species of wild bees face extinction.

By planting specific flowers over the seasons, everyone can help the bees survive and thrive.

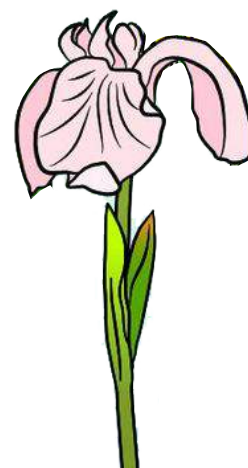
HapaZome prints

for flower printing (page 8)



Hapa Zome plant printing.

One way to use flowers directly is through Hapa Zome (hah-pah zoh-may), an ancient Japanese form of eco-printing that means 'leaf dyeing'.



1. Make clay flowers

Get creative with clay to craft beautiful blooms and celebrate the wonders of nature.

You will need:

- Paper
- Pencil
- Board to work on
- Air dry clay (around 5kg per class, Scola brand stone colour or similar)
- Water pots
- Poster paints (minimum primary colours and black and white)
- Wooden skewer
- Clay tools (e.g. pencil, fork, cocktail sticks, wooden lollipop sticks)

Make it!

1. Drawing: Plan your designs first of paper, by drawing a flower.

2. Prepare the clay: Roll a small ball of clay between your palms for about 10 seconds, to soften it.

3. Make a worm: Place the ball on the board and use your fingers to roll it into a long worm shape making sure it has even thickness all the way along.

4. Divide the clay: Look back at your sketch and count the petals. Divide the clay worm into this number, plus one for the centre of the flower so four petals, you need five pieces of clay.

5. Shape the petals: Use your fingers to shape each clay piece into a petal shape. You could raise the petal ends so they curl up.

6. Make the flower centre: Take the leftover clay and roll it into a ball. Flatten it slightly to form the circle for the centre of your flower. Use a pencil or clay tools to add detail to the clay like lines on the petals and little dots on the flower centre.

7. Make a hole: Through the centre with a wooden skewer. Make sure you can see through to the other side as the hole will be needed to display the flowers.



Step 5: Clay flower with details made using a wooden cocktail stick.



Step 6: Clay flower with details made using a wooden cocktail stick.

Top Tip

If your clay becomes dry and mini cracks appear while you're working with it, apply a little water with your finger or a brush and smooth over until the cracks disappear.

Make clay flowers

8. Assemble the flower: Arrange your petals in a circle around the centre (make sure they all touch) and gently press down on the centre, so it all sticks together. It's important there are no gaps.

Go all around the flower with your fingers and use slip (watered down clay made by dipping your brush in water) to help glue the petals on securely. You could add more details with tools if you like.

9. Drying: Leave your flower to dry overnight. You can make as many flowers as you like in the same way.

10. Painting: Use poster paint, to paint the back and front of your flower. The paint will dry quickly on clay and so you will be able to paint a second coat after a few minutes. Voilà - your flower is complete!



Step 10. Painted clay flowers.

Top Tip

For some paint colours like red, you may need to paint your flower white, leave it to dry then paint red it so it stands out better.



2. Create fabric flowers

Turn fabric scraps into fabulous flowers – a fun, sustainable craft project and a great way to reuse old clothes.

You will need:

- Scrap fabrics in different colours and patterns
- Glue
- Paper
- Pencil
- Pen for marking cut marks
- Scissors

Make it!

1. Sketch your flower: Draw a flower and a leaf on paper inspired by the flowers you've seen on the presentation, add petals and other flower parts.

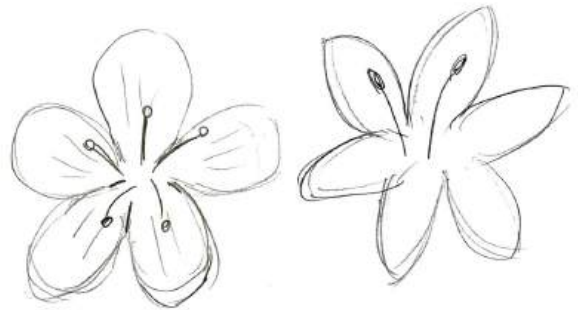
2. Choose your fabrics: Draw the different parts of your flower onto different fabrics.

3. Cut them out: Use your drawing to help guide you.

4. Stick your flower together: Glue all the pieces together to make your fabric flower.

Top Tip

Use old, clean clothes to make flowers – clothes that no longer fit, or have holes are perfect!



Step 1: Flower sketching



Step 2: Picking out fabric



Step 3: Stick it down!

3. Watercolour flowers

Create watercolor paintings, inspired by the adventurous spirit of explorers who documented plants from around the world.

You will need:

- Clipboards
- White paper
- Pencils
- Watercolour paints
- Hand towels/tissue
- Water pots and brushes
- Location with flowers to explore
- Black felts or thin marker pen

Make it!

1. Find a flower: On your walk look out for flowers. Stop and sketch ones you like – use your clipboard to draw. Pay attention to the number of petals and details, like patterns and bumps or thorns on the stem.

2. Sketch a leaf: Once you've drawn a flower, try drawing a leaf on the same page, perhaps next to the flower.

3. Make notes: Write down any interesting observations like which parts of the flower are light and dark coloured, how open it is, or even if there's a bug inside.

4. Painting: Back in the classroom, paint your flower. Match the colours to the notes you made.

5. Details: When it's dry go over any lines and details with a pen.



Step 1: An annotated drawing before watercolour added.



Step 5: Watercolours applied with pen lines.

Top Tip

Tissues are very useful in watercolour painting. Use them to blot away areas of paint if they look too dark to create lighter areas.

4. Plant printing

Try a fun and colourful Japanese inspired printing technique called Hapa Zome to create unique fabric designs.

You will need:

- Plain calico/canvas fabric (cut into pieces e.g. 30cm by 30cm)
- Wooden mallet or rolling pin
- Thick white card (over 100gsm)
- Chopping board or other hard base
- Flowers (either foraged or bought)

Make it!

1. Choose your flowers and leaves: Lay out all the plants on the table for everyone to share and choose some you like.

2. Layout the pattern: Arrange your flowers and leaves on half of the fabric. Then cover the plants with the other half by folding the fabric so that they are all covered.

3. Printing: Use a rolling pin or mallet to tap on the folded fabric, you'll start to see colours come through. **Be careful not to hit your fingers - ask an adult to help you!**

4. The big reveal: Open the fabric and remove the flowers and leaves. You'll be left with your print. Leave it to dry.



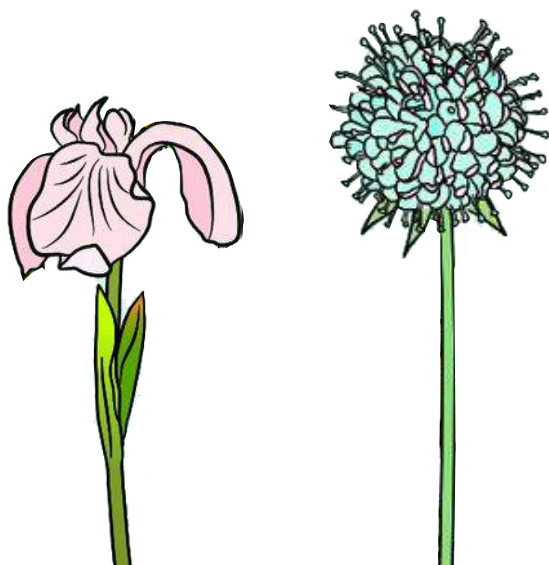
Step 2: Notice the wooden base which allows the print to show when hit with mallet. (Credit: Debbie McKenzie)



Step 4: The resulting print. (Credit: Debbie McKenzie)

Top Safety Tip

If you're going outside to forage flowers, do a recce of the green space first to check there are no hazards like poisonous plants and flowers. A phone app like "Seek" can help identify plants by scanning them with your camera in the app on your phone.



5. Design a pollinator poster

People in the Royal Docks have a history of using posters and banners to share their protest messages.

Create a bold and brilliant Pollinator Poster that shares your message about why nature and insect pollinators matter to you. Mix collage and your own drawings to craft a design that's fun, eye-catching and colourful.

You will need:

- A4 coloured card
- Coloured paper
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Collage papers – pages from gardening, nature and/or lifestyle magazines, newspapers, leaflets etc
- Felt tip pens

Make it!

1. Choose a colour: Pick sheet of A4 card to make your poster on.

2. Image research: Look through the magazines and printed papers and cut out images that you like. You'll need at least 10 images to work with.

3. Words: Go through your papers again, this time look for words and letters. What phrases can you make that would be useful for your poster?

4. Layout: Start arranging the images and words on your poster. Try different layouts until you're happy with how it looks. If you have gaps, try filling them with shapes cut from the papers, or with cut out flowers, or use felt pens to draw on pictures like insects or flowers.

5. Sticking: When you're happy with your poster, which will now have words, images, shapes and perhaps your own drawings, stick it all down with a glue stick and leave it to dry.



Step 3: Cut and select plenty of words from headlines.



Step 4: Add images in the spaces around your message.

Top Tip

If you're finding it difficult to find words, try combining letters together from different words to make the phrase, word or sentence you want.

Choose your talking points

Looking at flowers in detail

Why are flowers so colourful?

Bright colours, unusual shapes, and sizes help flowers attract insect pollinators like bees and butterflies. They act like signs saying 'come here!' to insects. Flowers that are dull or tiny are often pollinated by the wind instead.

How many petals are on a flower?

The number of petals can tell us what kind of flower it is. Here are a few examples:

- Lily: 3 petals
- Buttercup: 5 petals
- Delphinium: 8 petals
- Daisy: 34 or even 55 petals!

Can you count the petals on a flower the next time you see one?



"Touched by your kindness" Yinka Ilori, Screenprint.

When do flowers bloom?

Flowers bloom at different times of the year to match when their pollinators are around.

- Some, like the early bumblebee, appear as early as February.
- Others wait until later in spring.
- Some flowers, like daisies, open their petals during the day and close them at night—that's why they're called "day's-eyes"!

Why are insects important to flowers?

Insects help flowers grow by moving pollen from one flower to another. Do you know how they do this? This process—called pollination—helps flowers make seeds and fruit. Without bees, butterflies, moths and other insects, many plants wouldn't survive!

How do you feel when you look at a flower?

Does it make you feel happy, calm, curious, inspired? What colours or shapes do you like best?

If you discovered a brand new flower, what would you name it?

Use your imagination! Would it be named after a colour, an animal, or a feeling?

Parks and pollinators

Let's talk about your last visit to a green space like a park or garden:

- What do you remember seeing, hearing or smelling?
- In small groups, think of five words that describe green spaces.
- Then share your words with the class!

Why do people visit parks?

For fun, for exercise, for quiet, to see nature—what do you think?

What flowers would YOU plant in the Royal Docks—and why?

Think about colours, shapes, scent, and how they might help bees and butterflies.



Submit artworks to Royal Docks Originals

Let's celebrate and share the artwork creations made from the PolliNation Activity Pack!

Submit artwork to help pollinate Royal Docks Originals 2025 festival with your pupils creations.

Showcasing working with festival partners we will select and exhibit artworks in different spaces, or scan them to be displayed.

Some of the artworks may be profiled online through our website or on social media. We will ask prior permission for this.

How to Submit Artwork

- Let us know which activities you are undertaking with your pupils.
- Tell us about the artworks you would like to showcase at the festival and when they will be ready.
- We will arrange with you, the best way to receive these (see below).

Deliver to:

C/o Anila Ladwa - Creative Producer
City Hall
Kamal Chunchie Way
London E16 1ZE

For collection contact:

Anila at anila.ladwa@royaldocks.london

For scanned artwork email:

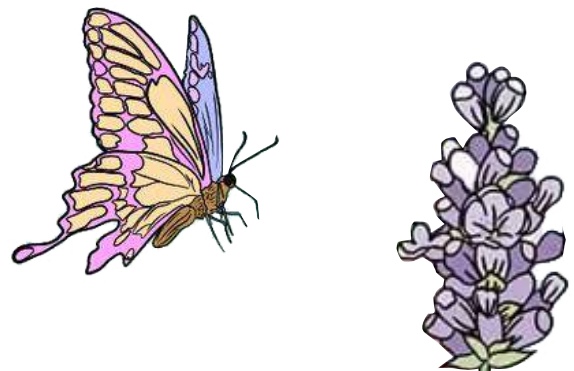
anila.ladwa@royaldocks.london



The Graphic Rewilding mural 'Blue Sunset' can be seen on the side of the Pumpphouse next to Royal Victoria (DLR).
Address: 30 Seagull Lane, Royal Docks, London, E16 1YP.

Visit the Mural at Royal Victoria DLR:

Children under 11 travel free on the DLR after 9:30am on weekdays, and all day weekends, accompanied by a fare-paying adult.



For more information about Graphic Rewilding visit graphicrewilding.com.

Design by Matt Ponting, Doodling Around doodlingaround.co.uk.

Royal Docks Team royaldocks.london.

